

Readers' Guide To...

Best bars in Europe

From hotel rooftops to a former garage, here's your pick of the best nightspots on the Continent. To read more tips and post your own, go to guardian.co.uk/beenthere

France

La Caravelle bar, Marseille La Caravelle is on the first floor of Hotel Belle Vue, and is probably the best place to enjoy a drink in Marseille. Not only does it have a wonderful atmosphere, but your drinks come with free tapas. Amazing views of the Vieux Port and the Basilique Notre Dame de la Garde.
34 quai du Port (04 91 90 36 64).
BryceEdwards

Les 3 Brasseurs, Lille Microbrewery opposite Lille Flanders station. The food here's OK (pub grub – go for the Flammekuche pizza), but the real draw is the beer, brewed on site. Try the tasting menu: four house beers in little sampling glasses. Also sells beer to take home.
22 place de la Gare, 59000 Lille (03 20 06 4625, les3brasseurs.com).
babybat

The Panoramic Bar, Hôtel Concorde La Fayette, Paris This bar is on the 33rd floor of the hotel and overlooks the Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel Tower. Fantastic views.
3 place du Général Koenig; metro: Porte Maillot (concorde-lafayette.com).
Nicolajc

Bodega Bodega, Toulouse By day, a tapas restaurant; by night, a bar/club. A lively mix of French and Spanish influences in music, food and drink.
1 rue Gabriel Peri; nearest station: Gare Matabiau (05 61 63 03 63).
AlStal

Spain

Stop Bar, Madrid Traditional tapas bar in a funny old corner shop. They serve good ham and gulas (little eels). It's on the edge of the red-light district and run by a very camp couple. They serve drinks, bitch with customers and chase out drunks and undesirables while neatly arranging your ham and goat's cheese tapas. We felt welcomed and entertained.
Calle Hortaleza, Chueca.
ambersoni

Las Coloniales, Seville One of the best and cheapest places to eat in Seville. On arrival you write your name and the number in your party on a small blackboard and your name is called when a table is free. It's located on the edge of the leafy (for Seville) Plaza Cristo de Burgos, which means you have somewhere shady to sit while you wait. Two people can have a decent meal with a couple of drinks for little over €10. One of the best things on the menu is the quail eggs and chorizo on fried bread, which is like a sausage and egg sarnie in the sun.
Plaza Cristo de Burgos, 19.
timtoohor

Taberno Maceira, Madrid Close to the Paseo del Prado there are narrow streets with lots of bars and tapas bars. This one is fab; octopus is definitely the best thing to choose. We also had razor clams and green chillies. The service was really friendly and the wine was cheap and good. A great place to chill out.
Calle Jesus, Centro.
ambersoni

Betlem, Barcelona A fantastic traditional deli. I had a delicious breakfast of smoked herring, pepper and onion bocadillo (baguette), and the classic cured ham and tomato bocadillo. They make it at the counter and bring it through to you in a back room, where vintage Catalan gentlemen are already on the cava (at 9.30am).
Calle Girona, 70 (93 2655105).
spainfan

Danzatoria Tibidabo, Barcelona A beautiful house on a hillside converted into a bar/disco with lovely garden and terrace. Great on a summer's night. The clientele consists of "beautiful people", but it's really good fun.
Avenida Tibidabo, 61.
natg

Italy

Enoteca Antica, Rome Only in Rome could service barely above curt and drinks for less than €10 cause an enthusiastic stir. But Enoteca Antica

offers both, and much more besides. Not least there's the location: a stone's throw from the Spanish Steps, in an old wine cavern so atmospheric you can smell the Chianti in the air.
Via della Croce, 76/b (06 6790896).
ChrisOC

Freni E Frizioni, Rome A bar housed in a former garage – hence the name (Brakes and Clutches). Just across the bridge into Trastevere this small bar spills out into a little square, with candles burning and throngs of good-looking people perched on the wall surrounding the square. Cocktails are a speciality and the mojitos were amazing.
Via del Politeama 4-6, Trastevere (06 5833 4210).
FredT

Germany

Lemke, Berlin If the list of "stylish-yet-chic wine bars" listed by my fellow sandal-wearing media types here scares you as much as it does me, go to Lemke. It's a brew pub. It has beer. It has food. It has everything except DJs, cocktails and anything that could be described as "charming or eclectic". There is even a beer garden.
Dirckenstrasse (brauerei-lemke.de).
Alex

Klo Bar, Berlin The most bizarre drinking experience ever. Red wine in blood transfusion packs, electric shocks from tables, rotating bar stools, a tarantula in a glass case, a flasher at the entrance... and not too expensive either. Has to be seen to be believed.
Leibnitzstrasse 57 (030 32701466, klo.de).
hammers

Gaststätte Plümecke, Hanover A classic German pub, with traditional (not stylish) interior where you can find people of all classes and professions. You will get local beer (Herrenhäuser pils) and delicious pub classics such as currywurst, french fries (probably the best in town) or Frikadeller (meatballs).
Vossstrasse 39; U-Bahn: Lister Platz, Torben



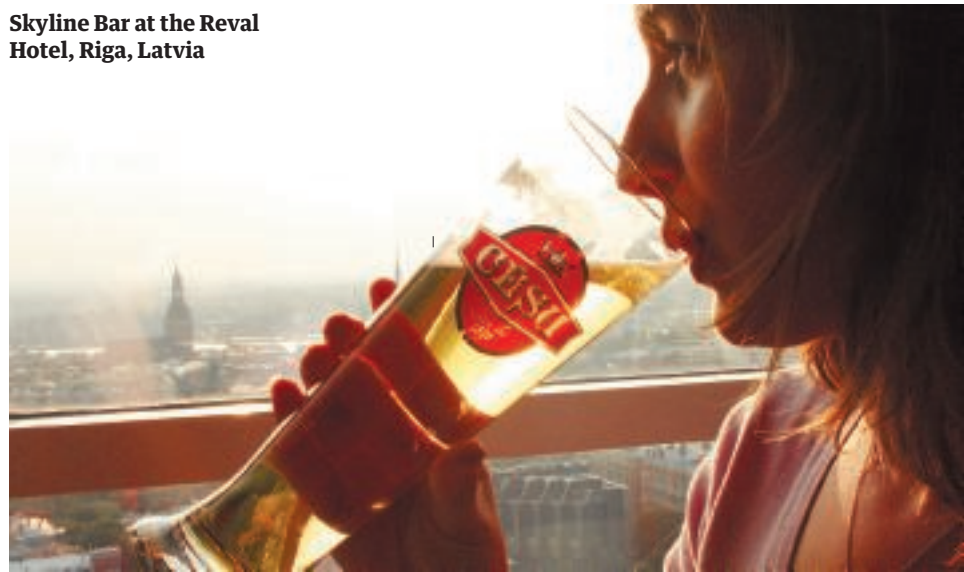
View from the panoramic bar at Hotel Concorde La Fayette, Paris



Bar Brettos in The Plaka, Athens



Enoteca Antica, Rome



Skyline Bar at the Reval Hotel, Riga, Latvia



Carpe Diem, Hvar, Croatia

only too happy to recommend beers for you; I tried a number of trappist ales. It's on the west side of the square, away from the tourist-heavy north wise, and popular with locals.
Markt 16 (craenburg.be).
CLM76

Het Waterhuis aan de Bierkant, Ghent Great place for beer lovers, serving unusual/local beers. But it's just a great bar to visit anyway, with a lively atmosphere, friendly staff, a large outdoor seating area and a wonderful location on the waterside. The unique Gavandum dry-hopping beer was beer of the month when I visited – if they're still serving it, it is not to be missed.
Groentenmarkt 9 (09 225 06 80, waterhuisaande Bierkant.be).
CLM76 6

Kulminator, Antwerp Serves more than 400 beers, some over 20 years old. The five-year-old bottle of Gueuze de Neve I bought here was the most delicious beer I've ever tasted (and I've tasted quite a few).
Vlemingckveld 32 (03 232 45 38).
beermad

In de Olofspoort Proeflokaal, Amsterdam A jenever (gin) tasting house with a huge range of flavoured gins (including liquorice and a salty one) and bitters.

Nieuwe Brugsteeg 13 (020 624 3918).
Capers

Croatia

Carpe Diem, Hvar Trendy bar on the harbour front and the place to be seen on the island. Gets busy, so pick your time carefully. Great cocktails, music and a beautiful setting.
carpe-diem-hvar.com.
sarabg

Caffe Bar Talir, Dubrovnik Artists' hang-out where the walls are covered with pictures of rowdy nights gone by, as well as some Croatian C-listers and Goran Ivanisevic. Drinks are well priced and everyone spills outside to sit on the steep steps leading up towards the town walls. Caffe Bar Talir prides itself on the fact that it remained open throughout the 1991 siege of the city.
Caffe Bar Talir (020 323 293).
Konrad

Cafe Nabeel, Split Tucked away in Split's old town, Cafe Nabeel is a curious but brilliant little local hangout. The kitchen rustles up hefty pies, best shared, and you can also fill up on toast. An unmissable local oddity.

Head down Zadaraka, off Narodni Trg central square in Split's old town.
meatbeast

Austria

Augustiner Brau, Salzburg The brew house next to the Augustiner Abbey on Lindhofstrasse. A traditional beer hall (garden in summer) with terrific beer brewed by the monks.
Lindhofstrasse 7 (augustinerbier.at).
LittleEngelander

Czech Republic

Kolkovna, Prague Beautiful art nouveau bar with traditional, hearty, Czech food. Try the moravsky hrabec, a dish of diced pork and onions with potato dumplings and sauerkraut. Sells beer by the litre. Wonderful!
V Kolkovne 8; metro: Staromestska.
FatGeordie

Portugal

The castle on the hill, Lisbon A Moorish castle with a beautiful view.

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It's only a euro for a superbock beer and it has regular live music. It looks over Lisbon on one side and the sea to the other, it's outstanding.
Tram 15 – a nice scenic route – or if you have the legs for it, a nice steep walk.
marshmallowmonkey

Pavilhão Chinês A dizzying jewel-box of a bar, the walls lined with shelf after shelf of toys, models, statues, paintings, knick-knacks and junk. There's a warren of rooms, with pool played in the back. A good cocktail list to help you try and maintain focus. If you're into minimalism, give it a very wide berth.
Rua Dom Pedro V, 89; metro: Restauradores (21 342 47 29).
mattalys

Greece

Brettos Bar and Distillery, Athens Beautiful old, low-lit bar, which makes its own ouzo and liqueurs on the premises. Even if you don't want to have a drink, pop your head round the door and have a look – stunning.
Kydatheneon St, The Plaka.
bigdavejonny

Galaxy Bar, Athens On the Hilton Hotel's top floor, this is one of the hippest and most elegant bars in Athens. A huge variety of cocktails and tasty finger food in Wallpaper*-like surroundings. Bonus: a stunning view of the Acropolis.
Hilton Hotel.
AthenianGirl

Sweden

Mosebacke, Stockholm A great restaurant-cum-bar-cum-gig venue overlooking the island of Gamla Stan and beyond. We visited on a Friday night and dined in a cosy alcove with a buzzy atmosphere and saw a Swedish blues band. The venue also plays host to comedians and magicians.
Mosebacketorg 3 (mosebacke.se).
beardy1

Finland

U Kaleva Named after the former Finnish president, U Kaleva is a bar my friend and I stumbled upon on our first trip to Helsinki. I wondered out loud what the red drink was they were all sipping. "I don't know the name in English," someone said. "Just ask the barman for the red drink everyone is drinking." A blonde ice-maiden asked my friend "Why have you come to Finland? We are such uncomfortable people." We found the Finns anything but reticent, as we discussed poetry, Arsenal's performance that day, the unmerited prevalence of the Swedish language and the prevailing merits of a range of strange vodkas (including liquorice).

Kalevankatu 3 (09 680 1372, ukaleva.net).
sallybowles

Poland

The Golden Tap, Krakow Wonderful cellar bar which serves a happily mind-numbing array of extraordinary vodkas (Bison grass, anyone?) and fried garlic which comes sizzling to your table as a whole head.
Florianska.
Salisburyfestival

Polyester, Warsaw 1970s decor and young customers, but there's no discrimination against over-40s. Seats are rather low, which makes getting up out of them a bit of an effort, but that might have been caused by the half litre of Zywiec and the shot of Wyborowa.
SusanWalkerCikirciki

Lithuania and Latvia

Television Tower, Vilnius A blot on the landscape from anywhere in the city, you can't miss the TV tower's horrible 1970s architecture. Take a trip up it however and you'll find the Milky Way, a slowly revolving bar that offers fantastic panoramic views of the city and surroundings. Enter by a creepy tunnel that puts you in mind of a James Bond film, pay the surly lift attendant a small fee, and you are transported 21 floors upwards at great speed into a different world.
Saustio 13-ostas 10 (252 53 38, Irtc.lt).
JonF

Reval Hotel Skyline Bar, Riga On the 16th floor of what must be the tallest hotel in the centre of Riga is a bar where the beautiful people hang out. The Skyline bar gives you a great view out over the old town. When there is snow outside, which appears to be most of the year, it makes for a great backdrop to a few cocktails.
Elizabetes str 55 (revalhotels.com).
martinashplant

Russia

Chinese Pilot Bar, Moscow Fun, cozy bar with great live music (usually rock with a jazzy twist) in a funky neighbourhood called Kitai Gorod. There are three mini bars in the small cellar space, one of which is actually an airplane wing, hence the name.
Proyezd Lubjansky 25; nearest metro: Kitai Gorod.
cbodt

Cynic bar, St Petersburg Legendary underground bar popular with local students and sections of the expat community. It can be rowdy, but it's friendly. The food is surprisingly good, but most people come for the booze.
4 Pereulok Antonenko; metro Semnaya Ploshchad/Sadovaya.
gritpype

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Fichtekränzi apple wine tavern, Frankfurt Get traditional German food at this apfelwein kneipe (apple wine tavern). Great food, great apple wine (better than Somerset cider) and a great atmosphere.
Wallstrasse 5 (069 612 778).
MartinOGorman
Kopernikus restaurant/beer garden, Nuremberg One of the best restaurant/beer gardens I've ever been to and is located in the old city wall, partly in the tower, partly in the walk along the battlements. Sit under old trees and enjoy local and Polish fare which is excellently cooked, and beer which is excellently brewed. Or sit on one of the romantic candlelit tables on the battlements with your sweetheart, looking at the medieval castle skyline.
Hintere Insel Schütt 34; U-Bahn: Woerdrer Wiese (0911 242 77 40, restaurant-kopernikus.de).
RosieDMinneApple
Denmark
Bo-Bi Bar, Copenhagen One of the oldest bars in Copenhagen (it opened in 1917). Dim lighting, red wallpaper and jazz on the stereo. The clientele is a mix of old regulars and young people.
Klarøboderne 14 (33 12 55 43).
Harlev
Belgium and Holland
Cafe Craenburg, Bruges A bar and brasserie with helpful waiters who are

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