



*That's the Spirit!*

# HOW TO DRINK ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

AND WE REALLY MEAN *ANYWHERE*:  
IN REMOTE CHINESE CAVES, LONDON'S HOTTEST  
COCKTAILS BARS, TASMANIAN WATERING  
HOLES, EVEN 40,000 FEET IN THE AIR.  
FOLLOW THESE 19 RULES TO FINDING THE  
BEST BUZZ OUT THERE.

HOW TO DRINK ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD



**More Online**  
Take our quiz at [afar.com/nextdrink](http://afar.com/nextdrink) and match your taste buds to the global drinks on the next nine pages.

## 01. AIRPLANE DRINKS NEED NOT BE SAD

by AISLYN GREENE

### 1 NAPA IN THE CLOUDS

Not in the mood for a white or a red? For its new premium Mint service, **JetBlue** tapped wine pro Jon Bonné to handpick California wines, including the **2014 Lioco Indica Rosé**—a delicate, tart, and refreshing alternative to the usual chard and cab options.

### 2 HEY, BARTENDER

Nothing against a flight-attendant pour, but behind the horseshoe of **Emirates'** first- and business-class **Onboard Lounge**, real-life bartenders stir Manhattans, fill tumblers with Chivas, and refresh flutes of bubbly. The scene is worth every cent of the upgrade.

### 3 WHAT A PERK

Before takeoff, **Etihad** serves passengers tiny cups of **Arabic coffee, flavored with rose-water and cardamom**, along with sweet dates to chase the bitterness away. Bonus style points for the glossy brass pitcher—called a *dallah*—they use to pour refills.

► Now that airlines have slowly begun raising the bar on drink menus, it's beginning to feel more like the old days, when flying was, well, fun. Here, **three exceptionally tasty ways to enjoy a long haul.**



## 03. DON'T WAKE UP WITHOUT YOUR BEST HANGOVER FRIEND

The morning after a late night out in Vancouver last year, I was, let's say, feeling very mortal. I booked a treatment at the **Shangri-La's** spa, where they offered a packet of this magic. An "instant honeyed ginger drink," sold at many traditional Chinese markets, **it's like Kool-Aid for hangovers.** It stings your throat, calms your belly, and (*ahh...*) clears your head. —ANDREW RICHALE

## Tea Is Good, Baijiu Is Better

**02.** ► I never totally got afternoon tea. I love the idea, but the formality rubs me the wrong way. Then, **one day, I swapped in moonshine for tea**, Chinese rice farmers for my usual crowd, and suddenly, I was converted.

The sound of laughter and an open door beckoned me into what turned out to be someone's personal cave in the village of Puzhehei, near China's border with Vietnam. Inside, I faced six rice farmers on stools, all staring at me with interest. The stalagmite-lined cave housed dozens of covered clay jugs filled with alcohol, a disco ball, and a karaoke machine wedged into the rock wall. Before I knew it, a shot of homemade *baijiu* (rice liquor) was pushed my way. I'd arrived just in time for their daily ritual of afternoon moonshine.

The rules are clear, even if you don't speak the language: Every time someone yells "*gan bei!*" (dry cup), you raise your glass, clink, drink, and grimace. Everyone drinks or no one drinks. I found this out the hard way when I tried to pace myself and sit out the sixth gan bei.

I loved it. Instead of polite conversation, there was lots of shouting. Instead of scones, a bowl of fried crayfish. We played games and slowly built up the heap of crayfish shells at our feet. And, of course, it all ended with microphones in hand and Tom Jones tunes reverberating off the ancient cave walls.

—WILL BLEAKLEY

PREVIOUS PAGE: ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREW JOYCE; TOP LEFT: HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES; GINGER PACKETS AND WHISKEY: JEFFREY CROSS; BOTTLES: COURTESY OF KAVAN WHISKY; LARK DISTILLERY; CARAMEL LÄCHE





**04.** ▶ You've heard of tequila and mezcal. But Mexico's agave plant yields much more than these usual suspects. Next time you're south of the border, try these lesser-known stars. —DAVINA BAUM

Name	Made In	Tastes Like	One to Try
<b>BACANORA</b> »	<b>Sonora</b> , just over the border from Arizona	<b>Earthy herbs, with a little smoke.</b> Why? Distillers pit-roast the hearts of <i>agave pacifica</i> , a spiky plant that takes five years to mature.	» Cielo Rojo Bacanora
<b>RAICILLA</b> »	<b>Southwestern Jalisco</b> near Puerto Vallarta	<b>Flowers.</b> Raicilla is surprisingly light considering that it's made from the roots of the same agave as mezcal.	» Raicilla La Venenosa
<b>PULQUE</b> »	<b>Hidalgo</b> , the state north of Mexico City	<b>An alcoholic milk shake.</b> Some are even flavored with fruit. Found only in Mexico, it gets its foamy thickness from fermented agave sap.	» Any at Mexico City's Plaza Garibaldi



## 05. THE WORLD'S GREATEST WHISKEY ISN'T ALWAYS IRISH

by DANIELLE WALSH

▶ Andrew Abrahamson of L.A.'s Seven Grand Whiskey Bar, one of our favorite places to sip the good stuff, shares **three regions that are challenging the old guard.**



### 1 TAIWAN

"Made by Taiwan's first privately owned distillery, **Kavalan Soloist Sherry** is aged in Spanish sherry barrels. It picks up those qualities—dried fruits, chocolate, and nuts." \$135, [kavalanwhisky.com](http://kavalanwhisky.com)

← Kavalan recently won World's Best at the Oscars of whiskey!



### 2 TASMANIA

"**Lark Cask Strength** speaks to the power of terroir. The drink is made off the coast of Australia, and, with an odd funk that recalls seashells and humid jungle, you can absolutely tell." \$150, [larkdistillery.com.au](http://larkdistillery.com.au)



### 3 SCOTLAND

"That Scotland makes good whiskey isn't news. That **Craigellachie 13 Year**, a grassy booze that hits every corner of your tongue, is now sold in the U.S.? Now that's news." \$54, [craigellachie.com](http://craigellachie.com)





HOW TO DRINK ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

Sometimes the Best Drink Is Closest to Bed

**07.** ► AFAR editors are no strangers to the hotel bar. These **five from around the world** are our absolute favorites.

**1 THE TOP OF THE STANDARD**

**The Standard, New York**  
With a floor-to-ceiling view of the city, this lounge ("The Boom Boom Room") is the grandest bar in a town that prides itself on doing things big. Go before 10 p.m., when it closes to the public.

**2 BATHERS BAR**

**The Siam, Bangkok**  
Bathers Bar, at an AFAR Collection hotel, centers around a black-and-white-striped infinity pool. From chaise lounges, watch the boats chug along the Chao Phraya River.

**3 J BAR**

**Hotel Jerome, Aspen**  
Hoisting a beer at this saloon could have you rubbing elbows with a billionaire or a ski bum. Here, they're both just souls looking for a good drink.

**1 ON THE ROCKS**

**Eden Rock, St. Bart's**  
There's no better spot in the Caribbean to watch the sun set (with a mai tai in hand) than this patio bar, cantilevered over the sea.

**3 THE DEER CLUB**

**D.O.M., Rome**  
Dark and moody, it surrounds you with enough glamorous Italians to make you feel like an extra in a Fellini film. —LISA TROTTIER

**More Online**

Once we got going on our favorite hotel bars, we couldn't stop. Go to [afar.com/hotelbars](http://afar.com/hotelbars) for our 10 domestic faves.

Top of the Standard

## 06. WHEN IN VEGAS...

by **ANDREW RICHDALE**

► Whether you find yourself in the U.S. Capital of Drinking a Lot for a work convention or a getaway with friends, follow these guidelines and you'll **make new memories instead of losing a few.**

**1 PACE YOURSELF**

Rather than diving right into the hard stuff, sip one of the 35 craft beers on tap at the new **SLS hotel's Umami Burger beer garden**. Pair it with an Umami pork belly sausage, served only at these bar stools.

**2 DON'T SETTLE FOR A VODKA SODA**

**Vesper Bar at The Cosmopolitan**, an AFAR Collection hotel, is our favorite spot for a serious Old Fashioned—or Elderfashioned, the house's riff, which gets a dose of St. Germain.

**3 AND, OF COURSE, NEVER DRINK AT THE TABLES**

But when you're feeling lucky, try the recently opened **Cromwell**, a boutique casino that's less frenetic than most, even though it's in the heart of the Strip.