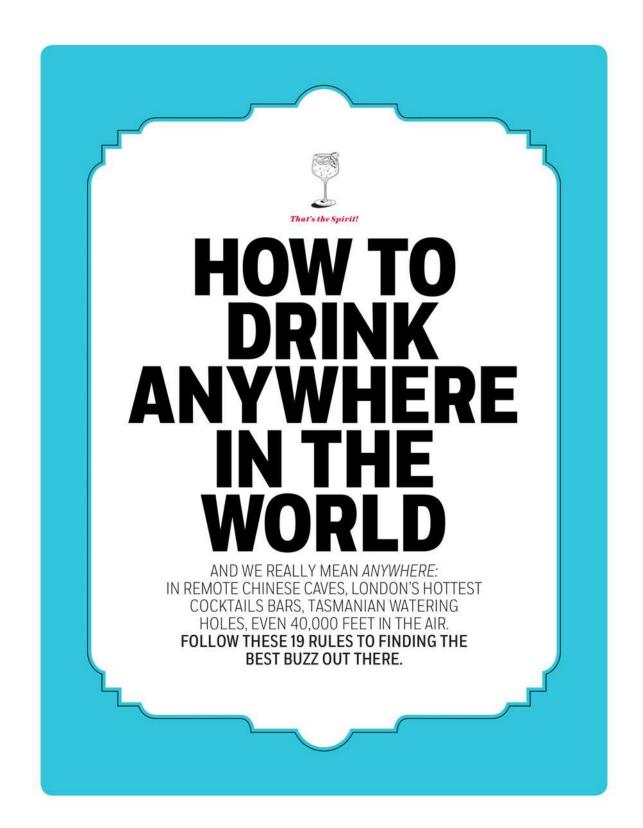


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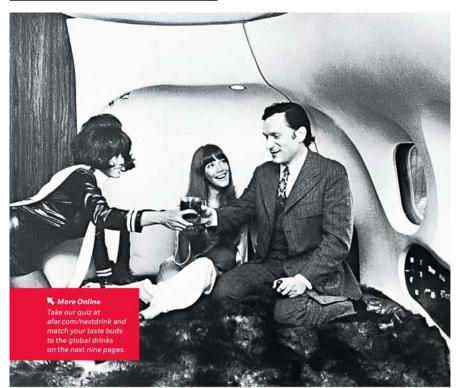




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#### HOW TO DRINK ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD



## **01. AIRPLANE DRINKS NEED NOT BE SAD** by AISLYN GREENE

I 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 Roséa delicate, tart, and refreshing alternative to the usual chard and cab options.

## **2 HEY, BARTENDER**

Nothing against a flightattendant pour, but behind the horseshoe of Emirates' firstand 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.

#### 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.

Now that airlines have slowly begun raising

**3 WHAT A PERK** 

Before takeoff, Etihad serves passengers tiny cups of Arabic coffee, flavored with rosewater 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.



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

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 RICHDALE

Good, Baijiu Is Better 02. got afternoon I never totally 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

**Tea Is** 

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.

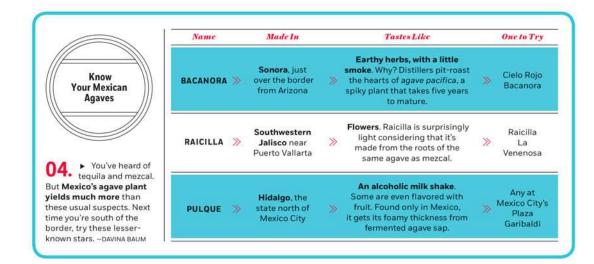
I loved it. Instead of polite conversation, there was lots of shouting. Instead of scones, a bowl of fried crayfish. We played games and slowly built up the heap of crayfish shells at our feet. And, of course, it all ended with microphones in hand and Tom Jones tunes reverberating off the ancient cave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

PREVOUS PAGE ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREW JOYCE TOP LEFT HULTON ARCHVE/GETTY IMAGES. SIGNEER PACIESTS AND WHSRY: JEFFERY CHOSS: BOTTLES: COURTESY OF AXMALAN WHSRY, LARK DISTLERY, CRAGELACHE

68 AFAR MAY 2015

# AFAR

N°and issue date: May 2015 Circulation: --- Frequency: Monthly Pag: 70 Website: www.afar.com





## 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.



I 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, kavalan whisky.com



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



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

MAY 2015 AFAR 69



N°and issue date: May 2015 Circulation: ---Pag: 70

Frequency: Monthly Website: www.afar.com



## 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.

70 AFAR MAY 2015

I 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

of the Standard

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.

#### SAND. 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.

## Sometimes the **Best Drink Is Closest to Bed**

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

# I THE TOP OF THE

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

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

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.

#### I 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

## **5 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

PIOTR REDLINSKI/NEW YORK TIMES/