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# Virtuoso Traveler

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013

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to our favorite  
hotel bars

## Tasteful Travels

44

TRIPS  
THAT  
SERVE UP  
LOCAL  
FLAVOR

← **BALI**  
**ARGENTINA**  
**TUSCANY**  
**NAPA VALLEY**  
**NEW ZEALAND**  
**AND BEYOND**

▶▶ Learn more about this traditional Rijsttafel dinner from Four Seasons Resort Bali at Sayan on page 4.

# Bar Code

FROM ROOFTOP AERIES IN RUSSIA TO POOLSIDE NIGHTCLUBS IN RIO, IT'S TIME WE RAISE A TOAST TO A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE HOTEL WATERING HOLES.

**Hotel bars.** Their party is perpetual. Enter a great one and you'll do more than imbibe — you'll drink in the sum total of the hotel's character, distilled like a handcrafted spirit. Such havens star as the keepers of a hostelry's heart and soul. They can amuse, cosset, and restore. Hatch plans, fall in love, or conclude a business deal with a clink over cocktails. Or simply sink into a stool and nibble a salty snack. *Cin cin* — what are you waiting for?

*By Becca Hensley*



**From left:** Mint condition at Le Meurice's Bar 228 in Paris; and mixing it up at The Ritz-Carlton, Moscow's O2 Lounge.

# Madrid, an endless history of art



Clockwise from left: Dromoland Castle at dusk, the estate's cozy Cocktail Bar, and Rosewood Mayakoba's in-room tequila amenity.

## Cocktail Bar

### DROMOLAND CASTLE

It's a fitting way to end a day of falconry. Unofficially, people call the Cocktail Bar at Dromoland Castle in Ireland's County Clare "the kennel" because of the pack of porcelain Staffordshire canines that bedecks the walls. A baron's former library, this cozy octagonal-shaped nook serves up its own artisan pale ale and has an outstanding collection of single-malt whiskeys. While you sip, muse over the history of the O'Brien clan, who ruled the environs for centuries. Or, join some Irish balladeers in an impromptu round of song.

**Hotel CHECK IN:** A real castle, replete with turrets, crenellations, mysterious passageways, and an expanse of land near Shannon tantamount to an empire, Dromoland exudes the regal spirit. Tuck into a two-tiered tower room with views of the 1,000-year-old estate. Tea in china pots and scones with clotted cream rule this 100-room resort, where guests shoot skeet, golf, or indulge in an Irish seaweed treatment at the spa. Take advantage of the famed

falconry program, where the hawks are so well trained they can deliver rings at a wedding ceremony. Virtuoso guests receive a room upgrade upon arrival, if available; breakfast daily for two; and a \$100 food-and-beverage credit. *From \$285 per room, per night.*

## Agave Azul

### ROSEWOOD MAYAKOBA

At this sexy bar on Mexico's Riviera Maya, a tequilier (think agave sommelier) will lead you through a tequila tasting — not to mention a menu full of thirst-quenching, artful concoctions (highly recommended: the savory rosemary margarita). Or, choose something from the tequila library, then read the label — as you would a good book — while nibbling ceviche or small pan-Asian plates that pair nicely with the smooth burn of a wisely chosen *reposado*.

**Hotel CHECK IN:** Like a Mexican Venice, Rosewood Mayakoba sits on a series of canals and uses water taxis to transport



Hungry? Agave Azul's ceviche sampler includes grouper, leche de tigre, shrimp aguachile, and tuna poke.

guests throughout the property. Enwrapped by a mangrove jungle, the 128-room resort boasts a mile-long beach, an 18-hole Greg Norman golf course, an in-room tequila welcome, and a spa that occupies its own island. Virtuoso guests receive an upgrade upon arrival, if available; daily breakfast for two; and a \$100 spa credit. *From \$475 per room, per night.*



### IN THE BEGINNING...

there were three major museums: the Prado, the Thyssen-Bornemisza and the Reina Sofia. They were later joined by other well-known cultural spaces like CaixaForum and La Casa Encendida. And the latest addition has been CentroCentro, a new space devoted to culture located at Cibeles Palace. We are talking about Madrid's Art Walk, which has continued to grow, with its nearly two kilometers becoming a unique world destination.

Madrid is second to none in looking after its matchless artistic heritage. In Madrid you will never quench your thirst for Culture. There is always something new to be discovered or an event to enjoy. If you want to confirm that the capital of Spain never stops innovating, visit Matadero Madrid, a lively and avant-garde space devoted entirely to creation.

### MORE THAN ART

In Madrid, visiting museums offers other added attractions because you can walk from one to another in a few minutes and they are all near shopping areas and restaurants offering all types of cuisine. And if you prefer, you can also have lunch at some of them, like the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum. On top of that, the CentroCentro viewpoint offers some of the best views of Madrid.



### SECRET ROUTE

Madrid also has other small museums that not everyone knows about and which you shouldn't miss. Follow this route and become a discoverer of artistic treasures:

- Sorolla Museum: located at the former house of the painter from Valencia, it also boasts its major works and the objects that were part of his life.
- Lázaro Galdiano Museum: works from Goya, El Greco, El Bosco, Murillo or Zurbarán are part of the collection of this museum located in Serrano, one of the most glamorous streets in Madrid.
- Museum of Romanticism: return to the 19th century going round the rooms of this house museum, which recreates the most romantic settings through works of art.
- Cerralbo Museum: at this house museum you will discover the life and collection of the marquis of Cerralbo and feel like a true aristocrat.

## Faré Hoa Beach Bar

FOUR SEASONS RESORT  
BORA BORA

Sometimes nature doesn't really need embellishment. The Faré Hoa Beach Bar could be a bench beneath a palm tree for all you'll care once you catch a glimpse of the scenery. Set beside the resort's pool and overlooking a limpid lagoon, this small, thatched-roof watering hole can't compete with its location. Instead, it provides an unaffected spot to gaze at colossal Mount Otemanu and survey the overwater bungalows that called you here in the first place. Combine the vista with the scent of jasmine and the chirping of exotic birds, and you may find yourself unwilling to leave the water. No worries: The bar's "amphibious server" will swim your cocktail out to you.

**Hotel CHECK IN:** Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora occupies its own *motu* in leeward French Polynesia. A storybook world of Tahitian dancers, fragrant flowers, and outrigger canoes, its spa, restaurants, and 100 bungalows hover like magic carpets above the lagoon.

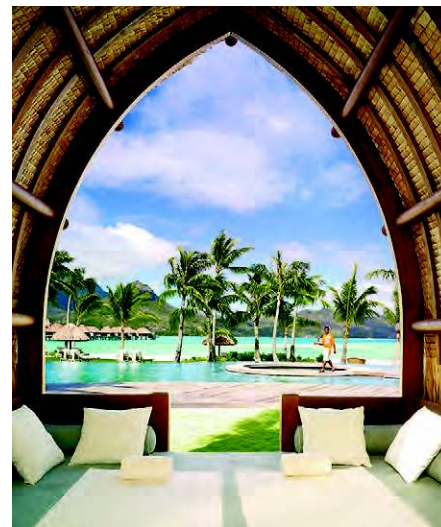
Dive from your suite into the sea — or stare down at swimming creatures through a glass-bottomed panel in your living room. Virtuoso guests receive an upgrade upon arrival, if available; breakfast daily for two; and a \$100 spa credit. *From \$972 per bungalow, per night.*

## Blu Bar on 36

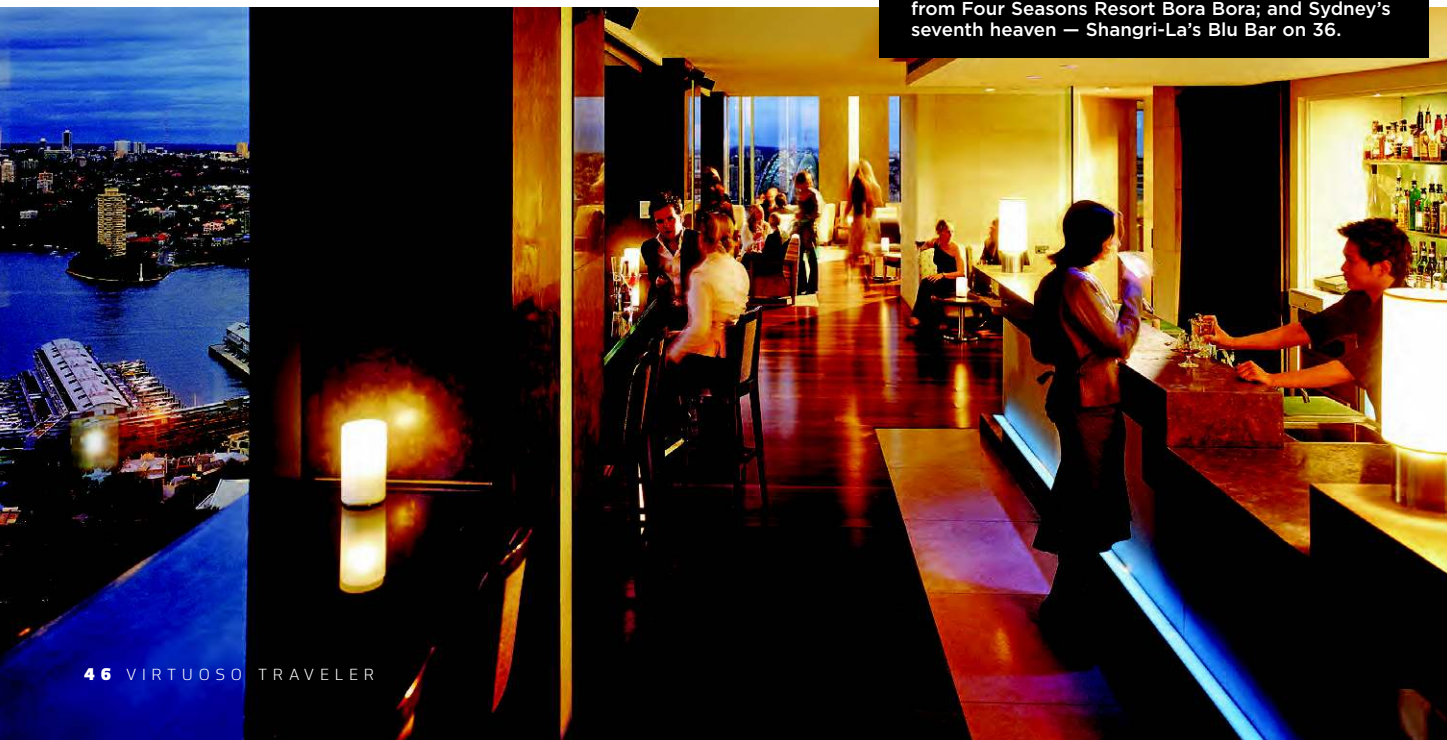
SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, SYDNEY

Waiting for your ship to come in? Do it at this lofty hangout on the Shangri-La's 36th floor. Views of Sydney Harbour, its iconic bridge, and the Opera House complement trendy cocktails and oodles of bubbly. In the mood for matrimony? This famous spot for proposals aids and abets with a she-won't-say-no Diamond Martini.

**Hotel CHECK IN:** One of Sydney's most stylish stays, the buzzing Shangri-La vaunts an Asian-contemporary vibe. The 563-room hotel treats Virtuoso guests to an upgrade at time of booking, if available; daily breakfast for two; and a \$100 food-and-beverage credit. *From \$212 per room, per night.*



From top: The catch of the day and cool views from Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora; and Sydney's seventh heaven — Shangri-La's Blu Bar on 36.



# Austria. Moments of Bliss

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Mozart. Strauss. Haydn. Wagner. Klimt. Austria long set the pace for music, art, and design. A century later, that dynamism is happening again. Throughout the country, old legends mingle seamlessly with a new creativity. This includes an incredible wine scene and a sophisticated culinary movement: farmers, chefs and winemakers are deepening their historic connections to all things seasonal and local. Culinary specialties are being reinvented to reflect the modern preference for light, fresh dishes using local produce. Restaurants, farmers markets, wine bars and unique culinary experiences await the adventurous travelers to Austria. See for yourself!

✉ For booking your dream trip to Austria, please contact your Virtuoso Travel Advisor

📄 To plan your unique vacation visit [austria.info/bliss](http://austria.info/bliss)

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### 1\_Epicurean delights

New centers of epicurean delights, referred to as Grätzels, have revolutionized Viennese Cuisine. At "Vestibul", "Steirereck" or "Plachutta" gourmet menus features new and playful interpretations of Viennese classics. A new hotspot has sprung up near the Danube Canal, including "Motto am Fluss", a 1950s-style restaurant with a large sun deck, sits next to the floating "Badeschiff" restaurant. At the coffeehouses excellent coffee, immaculate service and divine cakes and pastries preserve a Viennese tradition. [www.vienna.info/en/shopping-wining-dining](http://www.vienna.info/en/shopping-wining-dining)



### 2\_Vienna wine bars

Austrian wine has catapulted to become the darling of the international wine world. For Austria's trendy wine scene, visit the wine bars of Vienna. Sip and swirl your wine at "Pub Klemo", and rub elbows with winemakers while enjoying a classy Austrian wine and pasta. "Wein & Co." is famed for pairing dishes with the perfect wines. The names of Austrian grape varieties may not easily dance off your tongue, but the well-trained staff is happy to help. [www.vienna.info/wine](http://www.vienna.info/wine)



### 3\_Beer experience

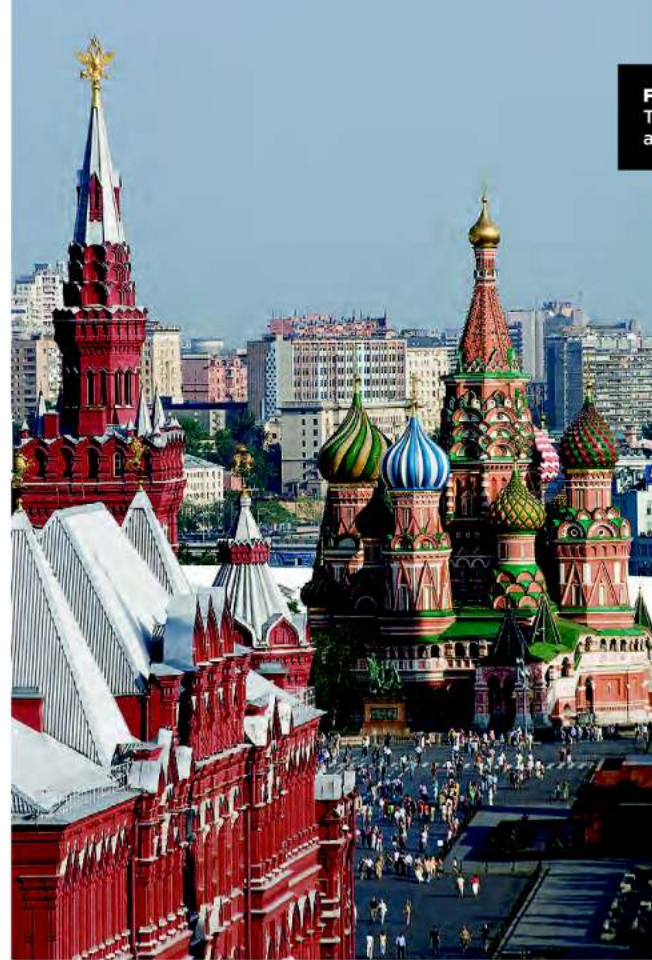
Shady beer gardens, traditional coffeehouses, posh gourmet restaurants and trendy bars invite epicures to wine and dine in Salzburg. The rich diversity of restaurants caters to the palate of gourmets, people with a sweet tooth and night owls alike. Unique experiences include "Carpe Diem Finest Fingerfood," where the food is served in cones, and "Ikarus—Hangar 7" featuring the world's finest chefs. Extraordinary breweries, including the Stiegl Brewery founded in 1492, invite guests to a convivial atmosphere. [www.salzburg.info/en](http://www.salzburg.info/en)

## O2 Lounge

THE RITZ-CARLTON, MOSCOW

At dusk, the Muscovite sky turns Bolshoi-ballerina-tutu-pink. Soak it in at the O2 Lounge, a rooftop, alfresco extravaganza that pulses with the party spirit all year long. In winter, belly up to an ice bar, but in more temperate weather, settle into scarlet-hued, egg-shaped chairs that pay homage to Fabergé. Wherever you sit, take in Moscow's most touted vistas: Red Square, the Kremlin, and a bevy of onion-domed churches that glint in the fading light. Glass, steel, and leather keep things mod, as do the stylish patrons, many of whom nosh on California rolls at the theatrical sushi bar. Order a bottle of Champagne and your bartender may pop the cork with a dramatic swipe of a sabre — the ceremonial way. Note: Don't try this at home.

**Hotel CHECK IN:** On Tverskaya Street, Moscow's most famous thoroughfare, the 334-room Ritz-Carlton is steps from Red Square and is as elaborate as a palace. French mirrors adorn the gilt-laden lobby; twinkling Swarovski crystals illuminate the spa's swimming pool; and marble and cherry wood outfit guestrooms, which include a bulletproof Presidential Suite. VIP airport service eases stressful transfers. Virtuoso guests receive an upgrade upon arrival, if available; breakfast daily for two; and one complimentary afternoon tea per stay. *From \$592 per room, per night.*



From right: The O2 Lounge from The Ritz-Carlton, Moscow provides a modern perch over Red Square.



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La Fayette

## Bar do Copa

COPACABANA PALACE

Step through a glittering birdcage and into a futuristic fantasyland of see-and-be-seen nightclub action that flanks Copacabana Palace's storied swimming pool. As voluptuous as Rio itself, the nightlife here is fueled by a DJ and hedonistic cocktails flecked with gold and dotted with caviar.

**Hotel CHECK IN:** Arguably South America's most famous hotel, the 241-room Copacabana Palace rises above the legendary beach that shares its moniker. Virtuoso guests enjoy an upgrade upon arrival, if available; daily breakfast for two; and a \$100 spa credit. *From \$390 per room, per night.*

## The St. Regis Bar

THE ST. REGIS ATLANTA

Kitted out like a British gentlemen's club from Victorian times, this masculine space sports dark wood walls, brown leather chairs, and a mural over the bar of a phoenix rising from the ashes. Nurse a West Paces Mary, a Southern version of a Bloody Mary with okra juice and a green tomato.

**Hotel CHECK IN:** In Buckhead, the business-friendly, swanky St. Regis greets visitors with an abundant dose of Southern hospitality. The 151-room hotel also treats Virtuoso guests to an upgrade upon arrival, if available; daily breakfast for two; and a \$100-food-and-beverage credit. *From \$400 per room, per night.*



**From top:** Everything is illuminated at Copacabana Palace's Bar do Copa, the phoenix rises at The St. Regis Bar in Atlanta, and a Cocktail Starcky (a nod to designer Philippe Starck) calls from Le Meurice's Bar 228.



## Bar 228

LE MEURICE

Even when designer Philippe Starck refashioned Paris' Le Meurice in 2007 with an Alice-down-the-rabbit-hole modernity, he maintained Bar 228's original atmosphere as a tribute to the city's Belle Epoque times. With Lavalley frescoes, a ceiling painted to depict the night sky, antique crystal decanters, and leather armchairs, the intimate lounge offers a superb selection of cognac, Dom Pérignon by the glass, and custom cocktails named for fabled guests.

**Hotel CHECK IN:** Set like a gem on rue de Rivoli between the Louvre and place de la Concorde, the 160-room Le Meurice is a little black dress of a hotel, mixing chic boutique with Louis



Three-decade-tenured bartender William Oliveri helms Bar 228. A confidante to all who enter his domain, he has made custom cocktails for the likes of Richard Burton and Salvador Dalí.

XVI splendor. Celebrated chef Alain Ducasse, Spa Valmont, and 360-degree views of Paris' rooftops from the Belle Etoile Suite define the City of Light. Virtuoso guests receive an upgrade upon arrival, if available; breakfast daily for two; and a \$115 food-and-beverage credit. *From \$1,115 per room, per night.*



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**Virtuoso Amenity:** daily breakfast for two, \$75 resort credit (once per stay), complimentary one-category room upgrade in select categories based on availability, daily newspaper & local calls, complimentary Internet, welcome amenity and complimentary admission to Bishop Museum, Honolulu Museum of Arts and Iolani Palace.

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From top: Madeline murals embellish Bemelmans Bar at The Carlyle; and slings and shakers line up at the Long Bar.

## Bemelmans Bar

THE CARLYLE

As full at happy hour with New Yorkers as with tourists, this compact, Upper East Side tavern would have a speakeasy feel, but for the fanciful murals that embellish its walls. Drink here to renderings by Ludwig Bemelmans, best known as the creator of the *Madeline* storybooks. Said to have been painted to repay his bar debt, the artworks show the books' characters taking on the terrain of Central Park. And then there are the stellar cocktails.

**Hotel CHECK IN:** A refuge among the residential urbanity off Madison Avenue, The Carlyle defines old-school, New York City grandeur. Steps from Central Park, the 188-room hotel is often haunted by the likes of Woody Allen and his band. White-gloved elevator operators and doormen with bowler hats complete the picture. Virtuoso guests receive an upgrade upon arrival, if available; daily breakfast for two; and a \$100 spa credit. Stays in 2014 also garner a complimentary cover charge for two at the bar. *From \$720 per room, per night.*

## Long Bar

RAFFLES SINGAPORE

This British colonial-era gin joint once drew adventurers like Ernest Hemingway and plantation proprietors in need of a Singapore Sling. According to local lore, the now-legendary libation was created here in 1910 by bartender Ngiam Tong Boon to please a lady. Turned out men liked it, too — and soon the recipe became so precious, Boon had to lock it away at night. Nowadays, more than 2,000 Slings get slung daily amid an ambiance that harks back to a Malayan rubber plantation of yore.

**Hotel CHECK IN:** Built in 1887, the 103-room Raffles Singapore recalls the romance of Far East exotica with period furnishings, liveried Sikh doormen, oriental rugs, and teakwood touches. Virtuoso guests receive an upgrade upon arrival, if available; and daily breakfast for two. *From \$544 per room, per night.* **VT**

Seeking a new Sling? Crafted by the **Long Bar** in 2012 to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Raffles Singapore, the "1887" features the hotel's limited-edition Billecart-Salmon Brut Réserve Champagne.



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