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London cocktail bars: ten of the best


The Cocktail Lovers select ten of London's best cocktail bars, for those searching for something a bit different.

By **The Cocktail Lovers**

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There's a cocktail bar for every mood in **London** but with so much choice deciding where to go can be confusing. Whether you're looking for somewhere to impress a date, experiment with gastro-mixology or to drink in the views, take your pick from our selection of London's best cocktail-sipping experiences below.

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Best for history buffs: Rules


If you like history, you'll adore **Rules**. Established by Thomas Rule in 1798 it's one of those places that every historical figure seems to have frequented. Charles Dickens, H.G Wells, Charlie Chaplin, Clark Gable, Joan Collins, you name them – they've all popped in for the traditional British dishes served in the ground floor restaurant, while the upstairs bar is a former private room where Edward VII used to entertain his mistress Lillie Langtry.

If you like your bars light and streamlined, forget it, Rules is of the swirly patterned carpet, dark wood and red upholstery brigade. And that's part of its appeal. Perch at one of the dainty tables dotted around the room (bagsy the table by the fireplace as the autumn nights start drawing in) or better still, try to get one of the few stools at the bar and watch as the Rules crew mix up one of their exceptional classic cocktails.

Top tip: You can order food off the menu but if you don't, no worries, you'll be offered a plate of delicious Stilton to accompany your drinks.

Top tittle: Ask bar manager Chris Lacey to make you a Sazerac – it's his favourite drink and one he excels at.

Average price: £12.95.

Address: 35 Maiden Lane, WC2E 7LB. T:  020 7836 5314.

Open: Mon-Sat noon-11.30pm; Sun noon-10.30pm.