

## PT Picks - World's Top Ten Rooftop Bars

Douglass De Pecol reveals the glory that is the rooftop bar.



The top: It's the universal "place to be," regardless of age, creed or gender—barring fear of heights, of course.

The top is a feeling, a state of mind. We all want to be at the top, to escape to a place that offers us a supreme perspective and inspires us to ponder the immensities of life. And what better place to harness those primal glories than a rooftop bar, the perfect vantage point for life's three most important C's: contemplation, conversation and, last but not least, celebration!

### Radio Rooftop Bar – ME London

London, England

A city as old as modern civilization itself, London is historical, hip and everything in between. Radio Rooftop Bar serves up a prime vantage point to take in the London night, mixologist's elixir in hand, and gaze out over iconic views of London Bridge, Somerset House, South Bank, Saint Paul's Cathedral, London Eye, Houses of Parliament and more.

### Lantern – The Fullerton Bay Hotel

Singapore

In the midst of the darkness, red lanterns swing from an unseen pier, while the awesome dirge of the sea churns in the distance. This Singaporean bar derived its name from the very lanterns that were once used to guide the city-state's first immigrants. Now, things are a little cushier, to be sure: Guests can relax with the luxury of electricity, cold cocktails and a sublime spot for drinking in the panorama of the Marina Bay and the sizzling Singapore skyline.

### Galaxy Bar – Hilton Athens Hotel

Athens, Greece

Located on the 13th floor of the Hilton Athens, Galaxy Bar proffers a sprawling view of the ancient city. Settle into the refined atmosphere, order something cosmopolitan and cast your eyes upon Mount Lycabettus and the Acropolis, Mount Hymettus and the sea at Piraeus. Spend a night with the muses, gazing out over the Mediterranean—you never know which stars might cross one another!

### Top of the Strand – The Strand Hotel NYC

New York, New York

No matter the season, this Big Apple gem will give you front-row seats to the performance that is New York City itself. A retractable glass roof ensures a cool breeze in summer and much-needed coziness in winter. Designed by Lydia Marks, set decorator for *Sex and the City*, Top of the Strand delivers on its promise of "the high life," where guests can toast a night on the town with skybox seats to the greatest show on earth.

### Three Sixty – Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark

St. Louis, Missouri

Welcome to Three Sixty bar, a sprawling 6,000-square-foot space, 400 feet above downtown St. Louie, keenly positioned above Busch Stadium, offering unobstructed views. If you're a baseball fan, you can't beat this rooftop bar. More than just the stadium vista, guests can also view the famed Gateway Arch, the Mississippi River and the surrounding Midwestern plains.

### Sky Bar – Lebua

Bangkok, Thailand

With only the stars above and the phantasmagorical Bangkok skyline below, Sky Bar isn't your average drinking lounge. A whopping 820 feet in the air, this establishment is both literally and symbolically elevating Bangkok's cocktail culture. The building's façade might be recognized from the movie *Hangover II*—in fact, Sky Bar created for the cast a special cocktail, appropriately named the "Hangoverini."

### A'YA Lounge – Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at Sultanahmet

Istanbul, Turkey

Experience this neo-Ottoman-style rooftop with prime views of the ancient city, the palatial Blue Mosque and the imperial Hagia Sophia. Sit back, relax and enjoy, as you view the Old World and the new, the East and the West, all in one single frame of fabulousness.

### AER Lounge – Four Seasons Hotel Mumbai

Mumbai, India

India is not traditionally inclined to rooftop bars, which is what makes AER Lounge so special. All year round, even in monsoon season, this bar is open. We suggest a visit between 5:30 and 8 p.m., for the protracted Sunset Happy Hour. Guests can enjoy two-for-one cocktails and champagne while viewing a glorious sunset and preparing for a festive evening in the exotic city of Mumbai.

### OZONE – The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong

Hong Kong, China

Bar none, this the place to have a drink at the top of the world. OZONE was designed as an "Edenic experiment" that will offer an uplifting experience for anyone with elevation on their mind. Incorporating expensive marble, cutting-edge lighting arrangements and futuristic furnishings, the result is a highly imaginative space in the sky. So, come enjoy a few cocktails, you're at the world's highest bar, atop the world's highest hotel. How could you have anything but high spirits?

### Moon Bar – Banyan Tree Bangkok

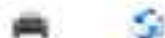
Bangkok, Thailand

If there were a world capital for rooftop bars, the winner would have to be Bangkok, with Moon Bar at Banyan Tree Hotel a shining paragon. Take an elevator to the sixtieth floor, then climb up one flight of stairs to the narrow rooftop, where the separate restaurant and bar are connected by a breathtaking sky bridge. The most striking feature of Moon Bar is its unobstructed platform, with nothing but the naked sky above and 360 degrees of cityscape all around.

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Posted On: 01 March 2015



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