



Bar Raval features an otherworldly interior

## Bars and Lounges

Where to sip the city's most unforgettable cocktails, beer, spirits and wine **BY SHAZIA KHAN**

### Civil Liberties

Adventurous imbibers will love the concept of this cool Bloorcourt spot: there's no menu, and no sign. Instead, look for the door with a pineapple topper, waltz in and strike up a chat with the barkeep to have a customized

tipple prepared to your tastes and mood. 878 Bloor St. W., [civillibertiesbar.com](http://civillibertiesbar.com)

### SpiritHouse

In a neighbourhood known for long lineups, SpiritHouse is a

hidden gem. The Prohibition-style room (operated by the Toronto Institute of Bartending) usually has plenty of space for those in search of the perfect old fashioned or five-spiced Bloody Caesar. Ask about the "secret" menu of barrel-aged spirits. 487 Adelaide St. W., [spirithousetoronto.com](http://spirithousetoronto.com)

### Grey Gardens

Jen Agg's new wine bar builds on her reputation for casual perfection—the airy Kensington ambiance seems effortless, but meticulously crafted plates and a highly curated list of private-order wines and ciders scream otherwise. 199 Augusta Ave., [greygardens.ca](http://greygardens.ca)

### The One Eighty

The One Eighty sits atop the 51-storey Manulife Centre and offers a plush, leather-clad environment to

match the dramatic vista it overlooks—long touted as one of the best views in the city. High-end cocktails, like the sour cherry Negroni, are the specialty here. 55 Bloor St. W., [the51stfloor.com](http://the51stfloor.com)

### Birreria Volo

This is where Toronto's craft-beer elite go to splurge. Barrel-aged, sour and Belgian styles are emphasized on the 26 taps, while the cellar is a treasure trove of exclusive imports sourced from all over the U.S. and Europe. 612 College St., [birrieriavolo.com](http://birrieriavolo.com)

### Bar Raval

This Spanish tapas hub has cracked the list of Canada's 100 Best Restaurants two years running, thanks to spectacular pintxos and award-winning architecture. Still, it's first and foremost a bar—home to dozens

of fine sheries and imaginative cocktails like the Doctor's Order with death wish syrup and lemon. 505 College St., [thisisbaraval.com](http://thisisbaraval.com)

### Reposado Bar and Lounge

Tequila buffs have congregated here for nearly a decade to take in live jazz and the most extensive agave-derived selection in the city—well over 130 bottles, from crisp blancos to top-shelf añejos. Order a vertical or horizontal flight to start your journey. 136 Ossington Ave., [repsadobar.com](http://repsadobar.com)

### Thompson Hotel

Of all the city's luxury hotels, this is the most attractive prospect for a boozy evening. The chic, mod-coloured lobby bar draws beautiful and well-connected crowds nightly, but even better is the roof lounge—if you can gain access, poolside cabanas and panoramic views are your reward. 550 Wellington St. W., [thompsonhotels.com](http://thompsonhotels.com)

### Cloak Bar

Sneak down to the basement of Marben, lift the curtain and you'll find yourself in a clandestine haven for Colonial-inspired libations. Bring a group for the decanters and punch bowls, which serve at least four, and sample bites of oysters and charcuterie while you sip away. 488 Wellington St. W., [thecloakbar.com](http://thecloakbar.com)

### Bar Begonia

Chef Anthony Rose has already conquered barbecue, Middle Eastern, diner and deli fare; his latest experiment looks to do the same with Parisian flavours. Bar Begonia serves seasonal aperitifs, French wines and draft Negronis alongside unfussy bistro plates in a casual atmosphere. 252 Dupont St., [barbegonia.com](http://barbegonia.com)

### Midfield Wine Bar and Tavern

A Dundas West institution, Midfield wets oenophile whistles via a diverse, worldly wine list—and a Coravin means that almost

anything is available by the glass. The menu is sparse (as wine bar menus should be), but the morsels are thoughtful complements to the beverages. 1434 Dundas St. W., [midfieldwine.com](http://midfieldwine.com)

### BarChef

Many Torontonians credit Frankie Solarik with kick-starting the city's cocktail rebirth. Under low lighting, his bar wizards take molecular mixology to new frontiers, devising complex, multi-sensory experiences in a glass, such as the famed vanilla-and-hickory-smoked Manhattan, rumoured to be a favourite of Drake's. 472 Queen St. W., [barcheftoronto.com](http://barcheftoronto.com)

### Cibo Wine Bar

Cibo's King West flagship location has long been the place to hit for handmade pasta, a glass of vino and perhaps a celebrity sighting (it's a popular stop with TIFF guests). There are now three locations citywide, each housing 1,500-plus bottles of predominantly Italian origin. 522 King St. W.; 2472 Yonge St.; 133 Yorkville Ave., [cibowinebar.com](http://cibowinebar.com)



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