



Aqua Spirit

Five rooftop bars perfect for the summer

Once again summer has slipped through the cloudy London skies and surprised us with a gift of double-digit temperatures. With this past winter appearing to drag as long as the Brexit negotiations, both dreary affairs with no clear end in sight, the swift shift in seasons serves as an abrupt reminder of our unpreparedness to celebrate it properly. Suddenly it's the start of July and you realise that you're about as far along in your holiday planning as you are in your summer beach body progress. For that, my only comment is swimsuit season is always a struggle and Mykonos is supposed to be lovely. If you've been slacking in scouting a sunny spot for drinks, however, your struggle ends here. Fortunately, London is bursting with bars that take advantage of the breathtaking views the city has to offer. Here is a selection of just a few that are suited for anything from an awkward first date to a massive meetup with your uni mates.

Alto by San Carlo

Located on top of the stylish Selfridges building, Alto by San Carlo has a selection of creative cocktails accompanied by stunning rooftop views. Accessed via the lift on the ground floor's fragrance section, upon entering you are greeted by a leafy walkway intertwined with florescent fairy lights. Passing through the adjacent dining section, which also provides the perfect pairing of Italian small plates, one reaches the open-air terrace with both classic tables and comfy couches. If that isn't enough, the foliage-filled walls provide the perfect backdrop for your next Instagram post. If the overwhelming array of options leaves you feeling indecisive, go ahead and try one of their signatures – the Alto Fizz. This gin-based beverage has a mix of lemonade and raspberries, making it a superb summer refresher. What sets this drink apart, however, is the twist of egg whites with a splash of elderflower. This combination creates the perfect concoction to satisfy your summer drink needs. Although this spot is great for any sized gathering, it is recommended to call ahead of time for groups.

Tube station: Bond Street

Coq d'Argent

For the feel of a Parisian summer fantasy, look no further than the enchanting open-air terrace of Coq d'Argent in the City. Surrounded by flowy wisteria florals, the chic décor consisting of creamy marble countertops and fluffy ivory lounge chairs creates a modern and minimalist aesthetic. Extending beyond this seating section, the area opens to a vast and vibrant rooftop garden. To complement the breezy and breathtaking landscape, order one of the summer cocktails such as the Fraise Mûre. With the blast of a strawberry and cranberry fusion, this vodka-based beverage epitomises the essence of summer. Absorb the airy atmosphere, taste all of the invigorating ingredients and allow yourself to be momentarily whisked away to the South of France. Since everything tastes better with a side of French cuisine, reserve a table online to add an additional dining experience to your afternoon cocktail.

Tube station: Bank

Radio Rooftop



Radio Rooftop

Accessed through the lobby of the ME London Hotel, Radio Rooftop provides a sophisticated, yet comfortable and intimate, place to enjoy the summer season. This atmosphere is introduced from the start with a walk through the glossy black marble-walled entrance hall, lit by a single fluorescent decorative vase. Guests arrive at the lift already immersed in the intended experience. The ample amount of lounge seating surrounded by the London skyline creates a relaxed and inviting environment to unwind. Perhaps nothing pairs with this setting better than the venue's signature cocktail: the Radio Garden. While it's rich emerald colour and artisanal accents are enticing, the smooth and striking taste cannot be overlooked. Consisting of a Hendrick's and elderflower liqueur base, this delectable drink's inclusion of basil and cucumber creates a cool and revitalising sensation with each sip. With its ambience and Covent Garden location, Radio Rooftop is the ideal spot for anything from casual after-work drinks to more significant celebratory events. While reservations are not required, you can always save yourself some stress by booking a table or one of the coveted cabana spots beforehand.

Tube station: Temple or Covent Garden

Alto by San Carlo

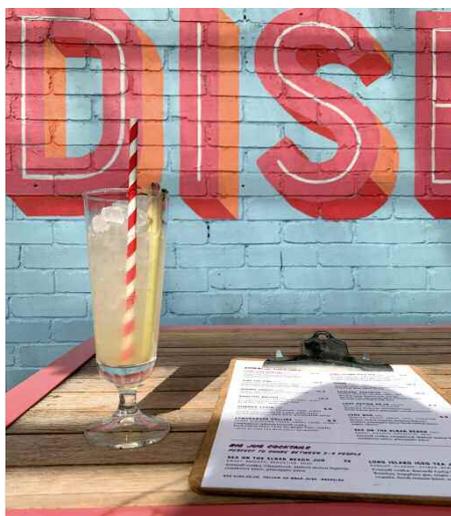


Bar Elba

Situated just above everyone's favourite fluorescent pink cocktail bar, Tonight Josephine, Waterloo's Bar Elba is the perfect precursor to a wild night out. Decorated with multi-coloured lights and palm trees, this spacious rooftop creates the casual and carefree atmosphere that's key to having a good time. The pastel benches and surf shack-styled bar give a taste of the tropics – a welcome treat for any London local. With an extensive menu, including both a classic Long Island Iced tea, as well as more unconventional creations like their Hidden Julep, there is something to satisfy any taste. If you're really looking to immerse yourself into the tropical atmosphere, order the Lemongrass Collins. This innovative blend of lemon juice mixed with ginger beer, Licor 43, lemongrass-infused vodka and a hint of vanilla is the ultimate antidote to revive you after a long week at work. For those needing an extra kick, ask for the fiery option that's peppered with chili. It even comes with a lemongrass straw, just in case the bar's biodegradable ones still don't cut it. Even though the establishment is unveiling a new extension this summer, it doesn't hurt to reserve one of the bright-coloured benches ahead of time. Before making the journey out to this eclectic establishment, make note that it's one of the handful of London venues that require patrons to be over 21.

Tube station: Waterloo

Bar Elba



Aqua Spirit

Nestled near bustling Oxford Circus, Aqua Spirit takes you away from the chaos and into an intimate open-aired oasis. Seated quietly above the Regent Street frenzy means enjoying creatively crafted cocktails alongside the central London skyline. For those in the mood for something sweet, relish the fruity fusion of the Bittersweet. A vodka and Aperol mix, the Bittersweet integrates the sugary taste of grapefruit and apricot liqueur with a sour hint of lime. Layered with the tangy bitter tint of Amer Picon, this beverage adds a distinctive twist to the traditional fruity cocktail. For those looking for an attractive addition to their Instagram story, order A Day In The Country. Best suited for gin-lovers, this drink similarly combines bitter and sweet flavors with the inclusion of Aperol, Punt E Mes and bergamot, mixed peach liqueur. Topped with an adorable decorative dragonfly, A Day In The Country is perhaps one of the cutest cocktails around. Being less than a three-minute walk from some of London's hottest nightclubs, such as Toy Room and Cirque le Soir, Aqua Spirit is a prime spot to start an unforgettable night out.

Tube station: Oxford Circus

Coq d'Argent



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