Best Bars in New Orleans

Drinking in New Orleans is a sport, a way of life. One would ask how? The hot and steamy weather? Maybe. But we've been known as a drinking City since the 18th century. As one writer put it, the party hasn't actually ever started in New Orleans because the bars never close. (A number of the bars listed below are open 24/7.)

New Orleans is noted for inventing several world renowned drinks – the Sazerac (late 1830s)(Sazerac Bar at the Roosevelt Hotel), Hurricane (1940s) (Pat O'Brien's), Brandy Milk Punch (1862) (Brennan's, Commander's or any Brennan restaurant), Absinthe Frappé (1874) (Galatoire's or Arnaud's French 75), Ramos Gin Fizz (1888) (Arnaud's French 75), Café Brulot (1890s) (Arnaud's, Galatoire's or Antoine's), just to name a few. Even though the Pimm's Cup (Napoleon House) was invented in London, we claim it for ourselves on this side of the pond.

Another real bonus to drinking in New Orleans is our lack of an open container law. People visiting are often shocked by this but, hey... it does encourage repeat visitors. Yep, stroll outside with a plastic cup full of your favorite libation and relax. This works particularly well at Jazz Fest, French Quarter Fest, Creole Tomato Fest, Gumbo Fest, Poboy Fest, Fried Chicken Fest, King Cake Fest.....you get the picture.

And then there are the unspoken rules of drinking during Mardi Gras which translate very well for any time – from Thrillist: (1) Don't flash for beads, (2) Do start your day with a frozen Irish Coffee, (3) Don't forget to eat, (4) Do dine and drink off the beaten path, (5) Don't stuff 12 people into one hotel room, (6) Don't be in the wrong place at the wrong time, and, finally (7) Do stay hydrated.

Enjoy!

Best Bar for Private Client Discussion – do you want a nice place with adequate seating, no gum under the tables, and privacy for conversation?

- Windsor Court Polo Lounge (Downtown)
 300 Gravier
- Bar Marilou (Downtown) 544 Carondelet
- Eliza Jane (Downtown) 315 Magazine
- Poydras & Peters, Loew's Hotel (the former Swizzle Stick Lounge)(Downtown) 300 Poydras

Best Bar for After Work/Happy Hour – are you looking for something with a little personality? not stuffy? serves decent and possibly good wine, drinks, maybe a snack or two and not for the King's Ransom?

- Barrel Proof (Lower Garden District) 1201
 Magazine
- Pizza Domenica (Uptown) 4933 Magazine
- Luke (Downtown) 333 St. Charles
- Lucy's Retired Surfer Bar & Grill (Warehouse) 701 Tchoupitoulas
- Meril (Warehouse) 424 Girod

Best Bar Closest to the Office – need a drink immediately? No worries! These are all within 2 blocks of the office!

- Trenasse (Downtown) 444 St. Charles
- Q&C Hotel Bar (Downtown) 344 Camp
- Eliza Jane (Downtown) 315 Magazine
- ACE Hotel Bar (Downtown) 600 Carondelet
- Bar Marilou (Downtown) 544 Carondelet
- Copper Vine (Downtown) 1001 Poydras

Best Bar for Food – do you want something yummy while you sip a favorite drink?

- Napoleon House (French Quarter)
- Hermes Bar at Antoine's (French Quarter)
 725 St. Louis
- Bakery Bar (Warehouse) 1179
 Annunciation
- Mr. B's (French Quarter) 201 Royal

Best Elegant Bar Ambience – are your parents coming to visit? Do you want to show someone that New Orleans isn't just a dumping ground for drunk tourists?

- French 75 Bar at Arnaud's (French Quarter)
 815 Bienville
- Eliza Jane (Downtown) 315 Magazine
- Windsor Court Polo Lounge (Downtown)
 300 Gravier
- The Sazerac, Roosevelt (Downtown) 130 Roosevelt Way
- Bar Marilou (Downtown) 544 Carondelet
- The Elysian Bar (Bywater) 2317 Burgundy
- Poydras & Peters (Warehouse) 300 Poydras
- Galatoire's 33 Bar and Steak (French Quarter) 215 Bourbon

Best Hotel Bar – let's meet somewhere neat!

- The Carousel, Monteleone Hotel (French Quarter) 214 Royal
- The Eliza Jane (Downtown) 315 Magazine
- Bar Marilou, Maison de la Luz (Downtown)
 544 Carondelet
- The Sazerac, Roosevelt Hotel (Downtown) 130 Roosevelt Way
- The Ace Hotel (Downtown) 600 Carondelet
- The Elysian Bar, Hotel Peter & Paul (Bywater) 2317 Burgundy

Best Bar with Outside Seating – It's Spring and you're looking for that fabulous courtyard/ outside patio to have a drink with friends – we got you

- Bacchanal (Marigny) 600 Poland
- Bayou Beer Garden (Mid-City) 326 N. Jeff Davis
- Bayou Wine Garden (Mid-City)315 N.
 Rendon
- The Elysian Bar (Bywater) 2317 Burgundy
- The Country Club (Bywater)634 Louisa
- Pat O'Briens (French Quarter) 718 St. Peter
- Tchoup Yard (Uptown, LGD) 405 Third
- Chloe Hotel (Uptown) St. Charles Avenue
- The Columns (Uptown) St. Charles Avenue
- Wrong Iron (Mid-City) 3532 Toulouse St.

Best Bar for A WhoDat Nation Game Day!

- Mid City Yacht Club (Mid-City) 440 S. Patrick
- The Rusty Nail (Warehouse) 1100 Constance
- Finn McCool's Irish Pub (Mid-City) 3701
 Banks
- Bruno's Tavern (University) 7538 Maple
- Beachcorner Bar & Grill (Mid-City) 4905
 Canal
- Walk-On's Bistreaux (Downtown) 1009 Poydras
- Bayou Beer Garden (Mid-City) 326 N. Jeff Davis

Best Rooftop Bar – Do you want to show friends how the City looks lit at night? It's beeeeutiful.

- Hot Tin at the Pontchartrain Hotel (Uptown) 2031 St. Charles
- NOPSI Hotel Rooftop Bar (Downtown) 317 Baronne
- The Carousel Bar Rooftop, Monteleone Hotel (French Quarter) 214 Royal
- Alto Bar, Ace Hotel (Downtown) 600 Carondelet

Bars Famous for fancy pants drinks (aka Craft Cocktails)!

- Cane and Table (French Quarter) 1113
 Decatur
- Bar Marilou (Downtown) 544 Carondelet
- Bar Tonique (French Quarter) 820 N.
 Rampart
- Cure (Uptown) 4905 Freret

Best Bar with Music – too many to count

- Snug Harbor (Marigny) 626 Frenchman
- Bacchanal (Marigny) 600 Poland
- Tipitina's (French Quarter) 225 Decatur
- Davenport Lounge, Ritz Carlton Hotel (French Quarter) 921 Canal
- Vintage Rock Club (Downtown) 1007 Poydras
- Maple Leaf Bar (Riverbend) 8316 Oak
- Palm Court Jazz Café (French Quarter) 1204
 Decatur
- Chickie Wah Wah (Mid-City) 2828 Canal
- The Parish House, House of Blues (French Quarter) 229 Decatur
- Kermit's Treme Mother-in-Law Lounge (Central City) 1500 N. Claiborne

Best Dive Bars – are you looking for something quirky, eclectic, oozing with charm and just shy of tawdry?

- Mimi's in the Marigny (Marigny) 2601 Royal
- Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop (French Quarter)
 941 Bourbon Street
- 3 Brothers Lounge (Uptown) 4520 Magazine
- Napoleon House (French Quarter) 500 Chartres

Neighborhood Corner Bars - where everyone knows your name

- St. Joe's (Uptown) 5535 Magazine
- Crown and Anchor English Pub (Algiers) 200
 Pelican
- Markey's Bar (Marigny) 640 Louisa
- The Columns
- Robert's Bar & Liquor Store (University) 3125 Calhoun
- Snake & Jake's Christmas Club Lounge (Riverbend) 7612 Oak
- Bruno's (University) 7538 Maple
- The Rusty Nail (Warehouse) 1100 Constance
- Swirl (Mid-City) Ponce de Leon St.

Best Bars for Wine – want wine by the case or by the tap?

- Swirl (Esplanade Ridge) 3143 Ponce de Leon (bring your dog!)
- The Delachaise (Uptown) 3442 St. Charles
- SoBou (French Quarter) 310 Chartres (taps)
- W.I.N.O. (Warehouse) 610 Tchoupitoulas
- Copper Vine (Downtown) 1001 Poydras (taps)
- Bacchanal (Marigny) 600 Poland
- Oak Wine Bar (University) 8118 Oak
- Bayou Wine Garden (Mid-City) 315 N. Rendon (taps)
- St. Germain (Marigny) 3054 St. Claude

Best Bars for Beer – either locally brewed or that has a million taps

- The Bulldog (2 locations) 3236 Magazine Street, 5135 Canal
- Bayou Beer Garden (Mid-City) 326 N.
 Jefferson Davis

- NOLA Brewery & Tap Room (Uptown) 3001 Tchoupitoulas
- Urban South Brewery (Uptown) 1645
 Tchoupitoulas
- Port Orleans Brewing Co. (Uptown) 4124
 Tchoupitoulas
- Wrong Iron in the Greenway (Mid-City) 3532 Toulouse

Gross Bars that People Are Morbidly Attracted To, Where Your Shoes Stick to the Floor, and Where Falling Down Would Be a Mistake

- Old Absinthe House (French Quarter) 240
 Bourbon
- Cooter Brown's (University) 509 S.
 Carrollton
- F&M Patio (Uptown) 4841 Tchoupitoulas
- Ms. Mae's (Uptown) 4336 Magazine
- Milan Lounge (Uptown) 1312 Milan
- Fat Harry's (Uptown) 4330 St. Charles
- The Boot (University) 1039 Broadway
- The Alibi (French Quarter) 811 Iberville
- The little bar on gravier (Downtown) 510
 Gravier
- Cat's Meow (French Quarter) 701 Bourbon

"But I only drink margaritas, mi amigo!"

- El Gato Negro (multiple locations)
- The Velvet Cactus (Lakefront) 6300 Argonne
- Johnny Sanchez (Downtown) 930 Poydras
- Felipe's (multiple locations)
- Zocalo (Metairie) 2051 Metairie Rd.
- Del Fuego (Uptown) 4518 Magazine

Bars for an All-Nighter – which can be followed by a greasy hamburger at Camellia Grill)

- The Dungeon (French Quarter) 738 Toulouse
- F&M Patio (Uptown) 4841 Tchoupitoulas
- Tropical Isle (French Quarter) 600 Bourbon
- Cosimo's (French Quarter) 1201 Burgundy
- Kermit's Treme Mother-in-Law Lounge (Central City) 1500 N. Claiborne

Best Bars on a Parade Route – who says you need to be on the neutral ground?

- The Columns Hotel (Uptown) 3811 St. Charles
- Fat Harry's (Uptown) 3442 St. Charles
- Delachaise
- Superior Grill (Uptown) 3636 St. Charles
- Igor's (Uptown) 2133 St. Charles
- Avenue Pub (Uptown) 1732 St. Charles
- Lula Distillery (Uptown) 1532 St. Charles
- Josephine Estelle (Downtown) 600 Carondelet
- The Chloe (Uptown) St. Charles Ave.