Bars in Lisbon

Cobbled, red-tiled Lisbon is home to an ever-thriving bar scene: from rooftop bars to underground speakeasies, this list navigates the Portuguese capital’s best spots to have a couple of drinks.

A Ginjinha
(Largo de São Domingos 8)
Hipsters, old men in flat caps, office workers and tourists all meet at this microscopic ginjinha (cherry liqueur) bar.

BA Wine Bar do Bairro Alto
(Rua da Rosa 107)
Bairro Alto’s best wine bar has welcoming staff who will offer you three fantastic tasting choices based on your wine proclivities, and great artisan cheese as well.

Chapitó
(chapito.org; Costa do Castelo 7)
There are far-reaching views from this bar at an alternative theatre/circus school occupying a former female prison. It’s a top choice for sundowners or late-night drinks overlooking the city below.

Cinco Lounge
(cincolounge.com; Rua Ruben António Leitão 17)
Award-winning London-born mixologist Dave Palethorpe works his magic in a funky, candlelit setting. Come here to converse, sip legendary cocktails or join a mixing workshop. Cash only.

Dois Corvos
(doiscorvos.pt; Rua Capitão Leitão 94)
An anchor of the artsy Marvila neighbourhood, this informal taproom packs in craft enthusiasts downing hoppy IPA and strong barrel-aged brews.

Foxtrot
(barfoxtrot.com; Tv Santa Teresa 28)
A cuckoo-clock doorbell announces new arrivals to this dark, decadent sliver of Art-Nouveau glamour. Foxtrot keeps the mood mellow with jazzy beats and excruciatingly attentive mixology on tracing-paper menus.

Hotel Mundial Rooftop Bar
(hotel-mundial.pt; Praça Martim Moniz 2, Hotel Mundial)
Grab a table at sundown on the Hotel Mundial’s roof terrace for a sweeping view of Lisbon and its hilltop castle. The backlit bar, white sofas and ambient sounds set the stage for evening drinks and sharing plates.

Majong
(faceboook.com/majong.bar; Rua da Atalaia 3)
Long-time favourite Majong has cabbage-shape lights, deep-red walls and school chairs. Mojitos and beers flow as DJs spin minimalist techno and house.

Memmo Alfama
(memmoalfama.com; Tv das Merceirias 27)
Alfama unfolds like origami from the stylishly decked roof terrace of the Memmo Alfama hotel. It’s a perfect sundowner place, with dreamy vistas over the rooftops, spires and down to the Rio Tejo.

Park
(Calçada do Combro 58)
If only all multistorey car parks were like this. Take the elevator to the 5th floor, and head up to the top, which has been transformed into one of Lisbon’s hippest bars, with views reaching down to the Rio Tejo and over the bellflowers of Igreja de Santa Catarina.

Pensão Amor
(pensaoamor.pt; Rua do Alecrim 19)
Set inside a former brothel, this cheeky bar pays homage to its passion-filled past with wall murals, a library of erotic works, and a small stage where you can sometimes catch burlesque shows.

Red Frog
(faceboook.com/redfrogspeakeasy; Rua do Salitre 5A)
In true speakeasy fashion, Red Frog is accessed via a ‘Press for Cocktails’ doorbell. Enter a sophisticated world of craft cocktails and appropriate glassware, dress and behaviour. The seasonal cocktail menu is perfectly balanced and the dark and classy room, plus the secret one, are perfect accompaniments.

Wine Bar do Castelo
(Rua Bartolomeu de Gusmão 13)
Located near the entrance to the Castelo de São Jorge, this laid-back wine bar serves more than 150 Portuguese wines by the glass, along with smoked meats, cheeses, olives and other snacks. Nuno, the multilingual owner, is a welcoming host and a fount of knowledge about all things wine-related.

Good to know

You’ll often hear ‘fados’ performed in bars – traditional Lisbonite songs sung by one performer accompanied by a 12-string Portuguese guitarra. When two fadistas perform, they’ll engage in desgarrada, improvisational one-upmanship where the singers play off one another. Bar Adega Machado is a good place to visit to hear your first fado (adegamachado.pt/en).
Sleeping

Dom Sancho I
Best for central location
(domsancho.com)
In a grand 18th-century edifice overlooking the leafy Avenida Liberdade, you’ll find small but comfortably furnished rooms.

Largo Residencias
Best for bohemians
(largoresidencias.com)
This artsy multifloored guest house has rooms with feature beds custom-made from reclaimed wood.

Hotel 1908
Best for living in an art gallery
(1908lisboahotel.com)
This phenomenally restored 1908 Art-Nouveau bed-down is filled with enormous public art installations.

Lisbon Calling
Best for backpackers
(lisboncalling.net)
A fashionable backpacker favourite with original frescos, azulejo tiles and hardwood floors that are always impeccably clean.

Memmo Alfama
Best for an inventive conversion
(memmoalfama.com)
This is a conversion of a shoe-polish factory and former bakery, with minimalist rooms and staff as sleek as the décor.

Pensão São João da Praça
Best for proximity to the cathedral
(lisboncalling.net)
So close to the Sé de Lisboa you can almost touch the cathedral’s gargoyles, this guesthouse has a pick-and-mix of sunny rooms.

FURTHER READING
Pick up our Portugal guide (£16.99), which has a chapter on Lisbon, or our more concise Pocket Lisbon guide (£7.99).