When it comes to good times, Rio de Janeiro lives up to its nickname: ‘Cidade Maravilhosa’ (Marvellous City). Here’s our pick of the best places to get a drink in Brazil’s second most populous city.

Bar Astor

(barastor.com.br; Av Vieira Souto 110)
One of the best bars in São Paulo has branched out to become a mainstay of post-beach revelry on the Ipanema shorefront. This gorgeous Art Deco bar does fine caipirinhas, as well as Astor’s own creative cocktails: try a Tiki Brasil, featuring mango, rangpur and brazil nut syrup, plus caipinha (sugarcane spirit).

Bar do Oswaldo

(facebook.com/bardooswaldo; Estrada do Joá 3896)
Going strong since 1946, this classic Barra neighbourhood bar serves some of Rio’s best batidas (icy cocktails of caipinha and fruit juice). At weekends there’s often live music. The bar has an easy-going vibe, with lots of outdoor seating and a menu of Brazilian favourites such as feijoada.

Brewteco

(brewteco.com.br; Dias Ferreira 420)
Pillar of a growing microbrew-loving community, Brewteco has nearly two dozen taps featuring unique craft beers, nearly all from Rio. Among rotating selections, you’ll find plenty of variety: wheat beers, IPAs, American IPAs, Belgian-style Tripels, and even Russian Imperial stout.

Canastra

(Jangadeiros 42, Ipanema)
Canastra has become one of the top nightlife destinations in Ipanema. Most nights, the crowd spills out onto the streets. There’s also a hidden bar downstairs – an artfully decorated speakeasy where you can escape the chattering crowds. The big night is Tuesday, when fresh oysters arrive from Santa Catarina.

Clássico Beach Club

(classicobeachclub.com/urca)
Atop Sugarloaf Mountain, the handsomely designed Clássico Beach Club serves excellent cocktails, which go down nicely with satisfying appetisers (ceviche, panko-crusted squid, codfish balls), not to mention the fabulous views at your feet.

Explorer Bar

(explorerbar.com; Almirante Alexandrino 399)
A gorgeous multi-level garden with fairy lights is the centrepiece of this charming bar. Beautifully conceived cocktails showcase exotic flavours such as orange, tamarind, ginger foam and grated nutmeg. The food menu features an eclectic mix of globally influenced dishes.

Hocus Pocus DNA

(facebook.com/HocusPocusDNA; Dezenove de Fevereiro 186)
Helping to lead Rio’s craft-beer revolution, Hocus Pocus brewery opened this beer hall in 2016 in order to provide its fans with easy access to its brews. There are more than a dozen on draft here, and the buzzing, barnlike setting is perfect for whiling away the city evenings.

Palaphita Kitch

(palaphitakitch.com.br; Av Epitácio Pessoa)
A great spot for a sundowner, Palaphita Kitch is an open-air, thatched-roof wonderland with bamboo furniture, flickering tiki torches and a peaceful lakeside setting. It’s a popular spot with couples, who come for the view and creative but pricey cocktails: the caipirinhas are a hit.

Vaca Atolada

(Gomes Freire 533)
For an authentic samba experience, head to this simple, brightly lit tile-covered eating and drinking den. You’ll find a samba de roda (table with samba-playing musicians) and a local crowd that squeezes up and joins in with the songs and dance (when space allows). This is old-school Lapa neighbourhood: friendly, ungentrified and full of life.

WineHouse

(winehouserio.com; Paulo Barreto 25)
WineHouse is a stylish but unpretentious wine bar, a welcome break from Rio’s trad, expensive wine-drinking scene. A blackboard lists a dozen or so wines available by the glass and always includes a few Brazilian wines. The menu features light bites and an excellent selection of charcuterie. Arrive before 8pm on weekdays for happy-hour prices.

The Monday and Friday night street parties at Pedra do Sal are a major draw to lovers of samba. The lively samba da mesa features a handful of changing players who belt out well-known songs to joyful crowds surrounding the tiny plaza. The atmospheric but run-down setting is rich in history – in fact, samba was born in the Bahian community that once flourished here. It’s best to take a taxi to get here.
**Sleeping**

**Maze Inn**
Best for a unique stay
(themazerio.com)
Set in the Tavares Bastos favela, the Maze Inn is a fantastic place for those looking for an alternative view of Rio. The rooms are decorated with original artworks by English owner Bob Nadkarni, and the veranda offers stunning views of the bay and Sugarloaf Mountain. Don’t miss the jazz parties on the first Friday of the month, or the Sunday curry feasts.

**Casa Beleza**
Best for romantics
(casabeleza.com)
This lovely property dates back to the 1930s and was once the residence of the governor of Rio. Tropical gardens overlook the picturesque pool, and you can sometimes spot toucans and monkeys in the surrounding foliage. It’s a small and peaceful operation, with just four guest rooms and one gracefully set villa (complete with a rooftop deck offering panoramic views).

**Hotel Emiliano**
Best for slick digs
(emiliano.com.br)
Rio’s loveliest new hotel sits on a prime spot fronting Copacabana’s southern shore. The rooms have a modernist aesthetic, with jacaranda wood furniture, artful lighting and tropical photographs by the artist Leonardo Finotti. The small rooftop pool and bar (for guests only) is a fabulous retreat, and the ground-floor restaurant serves outstanding cuisine.

**FURTHER READING**
Pick up our Rio de Janeiro city guide (£14.99; eBook £10.49). You can also pick up tips in the free Rio content on our Guides app, available from app stores.