



MANHATTAN IN SINGAPORE TOPS 2018 LIST FOR ASIA'S 50 BEST BARS AT INAUGURAL AWARDS

3 May 2018, Singapore - The 2018 list of Asia's 50 Best Bars was announced at Capitol Theatre, Singapore, at its first ever awards ceremony. Now in its third year, the 2018 edition includes eight new entries, with Singapore and China tied at a high of 12 bars each on the list.

Manhattan in Singapore claims the No.1 spot for its second consecutive year, retaining its titles of the **Best Bar in Asia, sponsored by Perrier**, and **The Best Bar in Singapore, sponsored by Perrier**. With its very own rickhouse filled with housemade barrel-aged spirits and bitters, and a store room stocked with jars of pickled, dried and brined ingredients for their dynamic cocktail menu, this glamorous location has once again proven its unparalleled quality and expertise in the bar world.

Singapore is also represented by **Atlas** (rising eight places to No.4), **Tippling Club** (No.7), **Native** (rising 12 places to No.8), **28 HongKong Street** (No.12), **Operation Dagger** (No.19), **Gibson** (No.22), **Employees Only** (No.23), **D.bespoke** (No.32), **Nutmeg & Clove** (No.33), **Jigger & Pony** (No.42) and **The Other Room** (No.50).

Native's Head Bartender, Vijay Mudaliar, is also nominated by the bartenders of Asia's 50 Best Bars 2018 as the recipient of the **Altos Bartenders' Bartender** award, for his impact and contribution to the sector over the previous year. Mudaliar takes pride in offering only regionally-sourced components in all aspects of his bar - the spirits and ingredients used in the cocktails, and even the barware, bar interior, uniforms and music.





Individual Country Awards:

China

Shanghai's **Speak Low** (No.3) retains its three-time title of **The Best Bar in China**, sponsored by **Michter's Distillery** and also earns the **Heering Legend of the List Award**, a title that celebrates a bar that has consistently proven its long term excellence over the history of the list. The bar, led by Shingo Gokan, presents three levels of varying bar and cocktail concepts, featuring Asian-style cocktails, Japanese ingredients and elevated classics. Coupled with the experienced team behind the bar, **Speak Low** provides the ultimate speakeasy experience.

The Old Man in Hong Kong makes its debut on the list at No.5, earning the **Highest New Entry Award**, sponsored by **Torres Brandy**. As a tribute to celebrated novelist and known cocktail aficionado, Ernest Hemingway, **The Old Man** serves up tipples inspired by the writer's favourite cocktails, elevated with surprising Asian twists.

China also claims another 10 bars on the list, including Hong Kong bars **Lobster Bar & Grill** (No.10), **Stockton** (No.11), **Quinary** (No.15), **Zuma** (No.18), **8 ½ Otto e Mezzo Bombana** (No.24), **The Pontiac** (No.31), and Shanghai bars **Sober Company** (No.14) and **Union Trading Company** (No.28).

Beijing is represented by **Janes & Hooch** (No.30) while Macau-based **The Ritz Carlton Bar & Lounge** is a newcomer to the list, landing at No.48.





Japan

High Five (No.6) in Tokyo is named **The Best Bar in Japan**, sponsored by **Cocktail Kingdom** for a third successive year. The other seven bars from Japan on the list are Tokyo-based **Trench** (rising 12 places to No.16), **Bar Benfiddich** (No.20), **Bar Orchard Ginza** (No.37), **Star Bar** (No.43), and **Lamp Bar** (No.45) in Nara, as well as two newcomers, **Gen Yamamoto** (No.34) and **Mixology Salon** (No.40).

Korea

Rising 15 places, **Le Chamber** (No.17) in Seoul is awarded dual titles of **The Best Bar in Korea**, sponsored by **The London Essence Company**, and the **Highest Climber Award**, sponsored by **The London Essence Company**. Other bars in Seoul on the list include **Charles H** (No.21), **Alice Cheongdam** (No.26) and **Keepers'** (No.47).

Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia

The Curator Coffee & Cocktails (No.25) in Manila retains the title of **The Best Bar in Philippines**, sponsored by **Peroni** for the second year, while **Potato Head Beach Club** (No.36) in Bali rises seven places to earn **The Best Bar in Indonesia**, sponsored by **Seedlip**, as well as the first **Ketel One Sustainable Bar Award** in Asia. Indonesia also celebrates the re-entry of Jakarta-based bars **Loewy** (No.39) and **Union Brasserie, Bakery & Bar** (No.41).

Malaysia is represented by two new entries from Kuala Lumpur: **Junglebird** (No.38) awarded **The Best Bar in Malaysia**, sponsored by **Nikka Whiskey**, and **Coley** (No.46).





Taiwan

Rising three places to No.2, **Indulge Experimental Bistro** in Taipei claims the title of **The Best Bar in Taiwan**, sponsored by **Mancino Vermouth**, while **TCRC** in Tainan re-enters the list at No.35.

Thailand

Moving up four places to No.9, **The Bamboo Bar at Mandarin Oriental Bangkok** keeps the honour of **The Best Bar in Thailand**, sponsored by **Cognac Hennessy**. Other winning bars in Bangkok include **Backstage** (No.13), **Vesper** (No.27), **Teens of Thailand** (No.44), as well as two first-time entries: **Smalls** (No.29) and **Ku Bar** (No.49).

Special Award

Home to a compilation of vintage, craft and whisky cocktails set in contemporary old-world charm, Bangkok's **Rabbit Hole** is the recipient of the **Campari One To Watch Award** for the 2018 list, presented to a rising-star bar selected by the organisers of Asia's 50 Best Bars as having the potential to break into the elite list in the future.

William Drew, Group Editor of Asia's 50 Best Bars, says: "As the centre of the burgeoning food and drink world in Asia, Singapore was naturally chosen to hold the first ever Asia's 50 Best Bars awards ceremony to celebrate bartending talents and cocktail innovation in the region. We are honoured to recognise the 50 bars on the 2018 list, along with its individual award winners, who continue to inspire us and the industry."





How the Asia's 50 Best Bars list is compiled

The list is created from the votes of the Asia's 50 Best Bars Academy, an influential group of almost 200 leaders in the bar sector across Asia, each selected for his or her expert opinion of the drinking scene. The panel comprises drinks journalists, bartenders and owners, and well-travelled cocktail aficionados. Members list seven choices each in order of preference, based on their best bar experiences over the last 18 months. A minimum of three of the votes must go to bars located outside his or her country of residence. There is no pre-determined checklist of criteria but there are strict voting rules. For more details on Asia's 50 Best Bars voting process, visit <https://www.worlds50bestbars.com/asia/voting.php>

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Notes to the Editor:

Asia's 50 Best Bars

The 50 Best story started in 2002 with the launch of The World's 50 Best Restaurants list, which has since grown into the most important international dining guide in the world and a hugely influential voice in gastronomy. In 2009, The World's 50 Best Bars list was created, with an annual awards ceremony launched in 2012. Asia's 50 Best Bars was added to the portfolio in 2016. The 50 Best brand now champions a global community of bartenders and chefs, cocktail aficionados and gourmets, who travel the globe to explore and experience the only worldwide ranking for premium drinking and dining. 50 Best is owned and organised by William Reed Business Media, which oversees the voting systems and respective lists.

Host Destination: Singapore

Brimming with a harmonious blend of culture, cuisine, arts and architecture, Singapore is a dynamic cosmopolitan city that is rich in contrast and colour, embodying the finest of both East and West. Located in Southeast Asia, Singapore has a land area of about 710 square kilometres, making her one of the smallest countries in the world and the smallest in the region – hence the moniker “The Little Red Dot”. Although small in size, Singapore commands an enormous presence in the world today with its free trade economy and highly efficient workforce. Also, her strategic location in the region has enabled her to become a central sea port along major shipping routes.





Other Partners:

Perrier - Official sparkling water partner and sponsor of 'Best Bar in Asia Award' and 'The Best Bar in Singapore Award'

Seedlip - Official premium non-alcoholic spirit partner and sponsor of 'The Best Bar in Indonesia Award'

Nikka Whisky - Official whisky of the world partner and sponsor of 'The Best Bar in Malaysia Award'

Campari - Official bitters partner and sponsor of the 'Campari One To Watch Award'

Michter's Distillery - Official American whiskey partner and sponsor of 'The Best Bar in China Award'

Olmecca Altos - Official tequila partner and sponsor of the 'Altos Bartenders' Bartender Award'

Ketel One Vodka - Official vodka partner and sponsor of the 'Ketel One Sustainable Bar Award'

Torres Brandy - Official premium brandy partner and sponsor of the 'Highest New Entry Award'

Heering Cherry Liqueur - Official liqueur partner and sponsor of the 'Heering Legend of the List Award'

Cognac Hennessy - Official cognac partner and sponsor of 'The Best Bar in Thailand Award'

The London Essence Company - Official mixes partner and sponsor of the 'Highest Climber Award' and 'The Best Bar in Korea Award'

Mancino Vermouth - Official vermouth partner and sponsor of 'The Best Bar in Taiwan Award'

Peroni - Official beer partner and sponsor of 'The Best Bar in Philippines Award'

Cocktail Kingdom - Official barware partner and sponsor of 'The Best Bar in Japan Award'





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