

# 19 Hotel Bars Worth a Visit in San Francisco

Some have the best views, some the best cocktails

by [Jay C. Barmann](#) | Feb 28, 2018, 3:43pm PST

As America's latest epoch of cocktail sophistication enters its 20th year (give or take), it stands to reason that hotels across the country have upped their bar game in order to keep up with the times. Nowhere is that more in evidence than in San Francisco where many hotel bars have had major makeovers in the last few years, and where cocktail consultants are in high demand.

Along with the bevy of destination- and date-worthy hotel bars that already dotted the city, this year's influx of newcomers (many of which are on this list) clearly means that the term "hotel bar" can't be used in the derogative ever again. Hotels are where it's at in this city — sometimes for the cocktails alone, and sometimes just for the view.

## 1 The Bar at Hotel Kabuki

After a \$31 million remodel, Hotel Kabuki now stands as the coolest large hotel outside the Union Square/Nob Hill environs. Its bar, which is now integrated with the lobby with cozy lounge seating, overlooks the revamped Japanese garden courtyard at the center of the hotel, and it's an airy, welcoming, and modern space full of Douglas fir beams and glass. The drink menu from head bartender Stephanie Wheeler includes over a dozen Japanese whiskeys as well as a trio of "luxury" concoctions made with the finer stuff, like

the Tanketsuru (\$23, made with Nikka Tantetsuru Pure Malt whiskey, Giffard creme de cassis, and bamboo ash sea salt). Other good options include a trio of two-person tea cocktails, highballs like the mule variation called the Ginger Squared. Coming soon will be formal Japanese tea service via a wheeled cart, if you're not looking for booze before bed.



A tea-based cocktail at Hotel Kabuki | Aubrie Pick

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