



— 150 —
BARs

**YOU NEED
TO VISIT BEFORE
— YOU DIE —**

By Jurgen Lijcops

Lannoo

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MOUNT GAY RUM
BARBADOS

MOUNT GAY RUM
BARBADOS
1703
OLD GAY SELECTION

PERFECTED BY TRADITION

MARTINI

Clement

AGE 10

TREN VIEUX RHUM

VILLENEUVE

Rhum J.

XO

Introduction

by Jurgen Lijcops

Everybody who knows me also knows that my first passion is wine. Until a few years ago, it was also the only thread running through my work. Then along came Bar Burbure, an Antwerp cocktail bar that wants to be different from all others, and things took a new turn.

Before then, few people knew about my second passion: anything related to spirits. Not just spirits themselves, but everything surrounding and springing from them. For instance, cocktails and the bars that make and serve them. Also, the unique settings that are often offered by these bars and that make you enjoy your drinks even more.

Stepping into a bar is always a unique experience. You often feel the vibe at once, one that says that everything is okay and it is going to be a magical evening. This vibe is created by the people who work there, who attract other people with that same vibe, who, in turn, enhance the vibe of the place.

I am proud to have had the opportunity to write this guide. Each and every bar I have selected has a story to tell, which is certainly not always about the drinks. Often, this story is told by the owners and the staff, or by the location.

In this book, I am going to take you on a journey around the world. We will be travelling to the US and South America, Europe, the United Kingdom, Asia, and all the way to Australia. Enjoy it.

And ... cheers!



— 01 — THE ROOFTOP

MEXICO

Cabo San Lucas
The Cape Hotel, Calle 12 entre 5 Avenida y 10 S/N,
Centro, 77710 Playa del Carmen, Q.R.

**HOTEL
BAR**

◆ TO VISIT BEFORE YOU DIE BECAUSE

This place has a unique holiday atmosphere. Combine this with the atmosphere of a rooftop bar and what do you get? A fun time!



The Rooftop sits atop a fantastic hotel in Mexico and is a bar of many talents. You can relax on one of many lounge beds, swim up to the bar in the pool, and sip fresh, refreshing drinks.

The gigantic terrace – almost 3,000 square metres – offers an incredible panoramic ocean view. In the evening it transforms into a popular open-air discotheque. Need we say more? This is about as close to paradise as you can get.

— 02 —

THE AVIARY

UNITED
STATES

Chicago
955 West Fulton Market,
Chicago, IL 60607

COCKTAIL
BAR

- ◆ TO VISIT BEFORE YOU DIE BECAUSE
They serve three-, five- and seven-course cocktail- and food-tasting menus that are to die for.



The Aviary is a three-star bar and treats its guests accordingly. No second-rate imitations here, but fabulous cocktails prepared in a state-of-the-art kitchen. The Aviary is universally acclaimed for its

innovation and molecular preparations. Its famous Rooibos cocktail is made by shaking rooibos tea with cinnamon, cardamom, saffron, vanilla, ground almonds, mint, verbena and lavender.

— 03 —

UNTITLED SUPPER CLUB

UNITED
STATES

Chicago

111 West Kinzie Street,
Chicago, IL 60654

COCKTAIL
BAR

- ◆ TO VISIT BEFORE YOU DIE BECAUSE
The whiskey list is super-impressive.



This bar looks a bit like a maze. Walk around and discover something new around every corner. The biggest space has live music and entertainment five nights a week. Next door you have a restaurant – five-times Michelin Bib Gourmand – headed by chef Ryan Pugh, a Champagne Room, Whiskey Room and

several other bars. Untitled Supper Club boasts one of the largest selections of American whiskeys and has special lockers for regular clients to store their bottles in. The menu lists about 15 knockout cocktails ranging from classics to contemporary mixes.

— 04 —

BORDEL

UNITED
STATES

Chicago
1721 West Division Street,
Chicago, IL 60622

COCKTAIL
BAR

◆ TO VISIT BEFORE YOU DIE BECAUSE

In this place, you really, truly think you are the Great Gatsby.



Bordel is an experience in and of itself. As you might imagine, it conjures up images of a shady brothel, no doubt partly due to the red velvet and erotic posters lining the interior.

Have a classic cocktail while you enjoy the live flamenco performances. This sexy venue, with its equally sexy drinks, is the ideal place to get you in the mood.

— 05 —

EL FLORIDITA

CUBA

Havana

Obispo No.557 esq. a
Monserrate , Habana Vieja X5172, Havana

COCKTAIL
BAR

◆ TO VISIT BEFORE YOU DIE BECAUSE

When you have a daiquiri here, you are not just drinking a good cocktail, you are drinking pure nostalgia!



This legendary bar (more than 200 years old), located in the older part of Havana, lies at the end of Obispo Street, across Monserrate Street, known for the National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana. El Floridita is said to be the birthplace of the daiquiri and was a regular haunt of Ernest Hemingway. He would drink his mojitos in La Bodeguita and his daiquiris in El Floridita. As Hemingway had diabetes, he would ask for sugar-free daiquiris. The recipe was named after him and is still

popular among visitors. If you are going to have just one drink, make it a daiquiri. As for the bar's interior, the long counter is without doubt its most striking feature. Take a seat and let Cuban hospitality surprise you. The bar has a nice atmosphere but its patrons are almost exclusively tourists. Who knows, you might come across Naomi Campbell, Matt Dillon or Paco Rabanne. Besides cocktails, the bar also serves (rather pricy) fish dishes.

— 06 —

SLOPPY JOE'S BAR

CUBA

Havana

Calle Zulueta 252 /
E Animas y Virtudes, Havana 10100

COCKTAIL
BAR

◆ TO VISIT BEFORE YOU DIE BECAUSE

The 'Sloppy Joe' cocktail – brandy, port and Cointreau with a delicious touch of pineapple – is a cocktail to truly savour.



This bar, founded in 1917 by Spaniard José Abeal, was a hotspot for American tourists for decades. Its avant-garde clientele, long bar and illustrious patrons such as Ernest Hemingway and Spencer Tracy rightly earned it a reputation as one of the most iconic bars of the 20th century. During the Prohibition era, celebrities flooded the bar as enthusiastically as alcohol flowed out of its taps and bottles. However, Sloppy Joe's was closed down in 1965. Over time the building became more and more dilapidated, but after almost half a century in ruins, it

has now been restored to its former glory in an extensive refurbishment undertaken by the office of the Historian of Havana, headed by Eusebio Leal. Period photographs and accounts were used to restore the bar as faithfully as possible. The spectacular, 18-metre-long mahogany bar top proved to be the greatest challenge. Sloppy Joe's unique windows, too, were painstakingly restored. Thanks to these efforts, since 2013 Sloppy Joe's has become one of the most renowned venues in the cocktail business once again.

— 07 —

THE CHANDELIER LOUNGE

UNITED
STATES

Las Vegas

The Cosmopolitan Hotel, 3708 South Las Vegas
Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89109

HOTEL
BAR

◆ TO VISIT BEFORE YOU DIE BECAUSE

The combination of the bar's unique interior and perfect cocktails is not to be missed.

The Chandelier Lounge, just like the general ambience in Las Vegas, is larger than life. The bar sits in the centre of the casino, right underneath a giant chandelier composed of two million crystal beads. In fact, the bar itself looks like a chandelier. All of this creates an atmosphere you will remember for ever – if you do not drink too many cocktails, of course. Drinks are served on one of the bar's three floors, each of which has its own, characteristic menu. The signature cocktails include the Whiskey Business – a new twist on the classic Old Fashioned that mixes Knob Creek bourbon with bitters, Amaro Meletti and a home-made syrup – and the Finishing School, which pays tribute to *Alice in Wonderland* with Ciroc Red Berry vodka, strawberry-rhubarb syrup, citrus, ginger beer and plum bitters.





— 08 —

GALLERY BAR

UNITED
STATES

Los Angeles

Biltmore Hotel, 506 Grand Avenue,
Los Angeles, CA 90071

HOTEL
BAR

◆ TO VISIT BEFORE YOU DIE BECAUSE

This bar lives within the legendary Biltmore Hotel, designed by partners Leonard Schultze and S. Fullerton Weaver, probably two of the 20th century's most important hotel architects.



An elegant hotel bar cum cognac room, the Gallery Bar has a grandeur, with its chandeliers, leather banquettes and wooden furnishing, that is reminiscent of an old library. The granite bar is the perfect place to sip an old-school Martini. This venue sits within the legendary Biltmore Hotel, designed by Schultze & Weaver, probably the 20th century's most

renowned hotel architectural practice, responsible for, among other projects, the Waldorf Astoria in New York. The Gallery Bar is an ode to the end of the Prohibition era and the return of publicly served cocktails and other alcoholic drinks. Do try its signature Biltmore 1923, which includes Botanist gin, Cointreau, Lillet Blanc and absinthe.

— 09 —

THE SPARE ROOM

UNITED
STATES

Los Angeles
7000 Hollywood Boulevard,
Los Angeles, CA 90028

HOTEL
BAR

◆ TO VISIT BEFORE YOU DIE BECAUSE

Where else can you throw some balls and sip a delicious coconut-infused vodka at the same time?



A bowling alley and hip cocktail lounge all in one? Only in Hollywood ... Brad Pitt and Alexander Skarsgard have been seen bowling at the Spare Room, and it's for a reason. The place has the finest bowling lanes you've ever seen – they are said to date back to the 1800s – and bowling shoes by George Esquivel. Not that everything in the Spare Room is about knocking down pins. To the contrary. The bowling alley is really more like a decor, an excuse for you to end up where you are supposed to end up: the bar. The bar rose to fame with founding father Aidan Demarest's world-renowned punch bowls, and now it has rising star Yael Vengroff shaking things up at the bar. This young woman is worthy of our admiration not only for making Beverage Director at one of the world's best cocktail bars, but even more so for the 20 or so playfully surprising cocktails she mixes, including the stunning Bikini Kill and its coconut-oil-infused vodka, passion fruit, Campari, velvet falernum, honey and lime. As for recreational activities, bowling is but one of the various games they have lined up for you here. Is playing *Monopoly* or *Scrabble* from one of the Spare Room's velvet lounge chairs hip enough for you or what?