

# The bars to haunt

The *YLJ* wouldn't be complete without the inclusion of our cheeky bar reviews. In this edition, we're covering bars where you can enjoy tasty beverages on a summer evening after work or a sunny Sunday afternoon.



TRANSIT COCKTAIL LOUNGE

## Transit Cocktail Lounge

Level 2, Federation Square, Melbourne  
[www.transitcocktailounge.com.au](http://www.transitcocktailounge.com.au)

Transit is located on level three, above Transport at Federation Square. It really is one of the best spots in Melbourne, and a rather well kept secret.

You reach Transit by taking the lift (or stairs) to the top floor. The views from the Transit balcony look directly at the Arts Centre spire and down the Yarra in each direction – it's one of the best bar views in town.

There are plenty of places to sit, whether on a comfy leather couch inside, or at a table out on the balcony. Drinks are reasonably priced and there is often a live band playing on Friday and Saturday nights. Transit is a classy place to enjoy a summer afternoon or evening.

## THE BOATBUILDERS YARD



## The Boatbuilders Yard

23 South Wharf promenade, South Wharf  
 (next to the Polly Woodside)  
[www.theboatbuildersyard.com](http://www.theboatbuildersyard.com)

This rather sprawling bar is 80 per cent outdoors, with wooden tables, deckchairs, and two open air bars. But don't fret – there's plenty of shelter in case Melbourne's temperamental weather takes a turn. The riverside location perfectly matches the casual layout of the place, with views out to sea, back up the river, and across to the historic Polly Woodside sailing ship.

The beer selection is fantastic, with quite a few craft beers you won't find on tap anywhere else in Melbourne. Prices are at the higher end, but the relaxed atmosphere easily compensates. There is also a full gastro-pub menu with some truly delicious options. On busier days they also run an old-fashioned barbecue to supplement their usual pub menu fare.

The Boatbuilders Yard has a delightfully fun and laid-back feel, which makes it easy to spend an entire afternoon there relaxing with friends or colleagues.

## Siglo Bar

Level 2, 161 Spring St, Melbourne  
 (above the Melbourne Supper Club)

This French-themed rooftop wine bar has a distinctly old-world feel. Alongside the Princess Theatre and overlooking Parliament House, the location and decor give the feeling that Siglo has been around for a long time, though it's only been open a couple of years.

You enter by climbing the stairs through the Melbourne Supper Club to level two. Once upstairs, a waiter shows you to your table and takes your order. It's all very sophisticated, so you're advised to visit with a small group of people you're already familiar with, as there isn't necessarily a lot of interaction with the other patrons.

The wine and spirits lists are extensive, and a selection of delicious bar snacks is available to complement your chosen tippie. Prices are on the expensive side, but the attentive table service and general ambience more than make up for this. Siglo will certainly charm at any time of the day or evening. ■

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