



Tasting nights at Southern Belle

# Get Mashed

Searching for Shanghai's finest **bourbon bars**

Bourbon is seen by many as less of a connoisseur's drink than scotch, but that's changing. Only a couple of the big brands are imported in bulk, so we scoured the city for bars that keep a few crates of something special tucked away.

First stop was Southern Belle (p. 43), a restaurant and bar soaked in Southern culture and bourbon lore (they even put bourbon in their barbecue sauce). Owners organize monthly tasting events that offer novices a selection of bourbons and an aficionado to guide your appreciation of the different tastes and textures.

Southern Belle's selection ranges from 86-proof, honey-colored Jim Beam Black (¥35), which washes down your throat with a warm smoothness and finishes off with a caramel taste, to 97-proof Blanton's Single Barrel Silver (¥75), characterized by a strong, spicy smell and a finish that starts sweet and ends with spicy oak and tobacco. If your pockets are deep enough, try the exquisite 125-proof Booker's (¥120), a mélange of sugar, oak and charcoal flavors that make it one of the best high-proof bourbons out there.

A short stagger away is Constellation One (p. 32) another bourbon hotspot which gathers a crowd of laid-back cocktail lovers

to its cozy Japanese setting. Constellation has more than 20 bourbons, ranging from ¥50 for familiar brands to ¥100 for its Woodford Reserve. The Reserve has a charcoal and woody nose with a long, dry and floral finish. The Winter Rye, master bartender Kin's favorite, is a must try, whereas the 12-year, 86-proof

**Southern Belle even puts bourbon in its barbecue sauce**

1W. Harper has a spicier taste and a rough finish, coupled with hints of oak and vanilla.

If you're after a more exclusive nip, Monkey Lounge (p. 33) is hidden just around the corner. Don't expect too much variety, though—the secretive bar serves three or four labels, depending on what they've recently brought in, with Jim Beam Black always available (¥60).

W.C. Fields remarked, "How well I remember my first encounter with The Devil's Brew. I happened to stumble across a case of bourbon—and went right on stumbling for several days thereafter!"

With three of the city's best bourbon bars within a few blocks of each other, Shanghai's mash-heads can do some stumbling of their own. ■ **Serge Ajamian**

## NEWS & GOSSIP

### New Buds

**Bar Rouge's** new venture **Game\*Bling** has opened (softly) on Hankou Lu and will have its grand opening before the end of March. Ditto for **Lotus**, which occupies the space that used to be **Bling** in Ludi Park. The team behind the high-end launch has been bringing decent DJs to Shanghai for the past few years, so expect high-caliber bookings. **Muse** is about to get a run for its money. Other international acts confirmed for spring: **DJ Vadim**, one of the most important hip-hop producers to emerge in the past five years, will play for **FREE the WAX** with wife **MC Yarah Bravo** on March 12. Junglist **L.T.J. Bukem** will play **The Shelter** with the **Sweatshop** crew the following evening. **Secret Machines** come to **MAO Live-house** on March 20 and **Peaches** will do the same in April. Meanwhile, the first bars are now open at **Da Tong Mill**, the insanely gaudy subterranean space at the People's Square end of Julu Lu. Dozens of bars are set to open, one shaped like an airplane, many transplanted from **Tongren Lu**, plus a couple of big dice-and-laser clubs and a food court that looks lifted from **Disneyland**. Shanghai will soon have a glorious new hub of degeneracy.



Nick Knight writes for



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## Parties

**THURSDAY, FEB. 25**

### Teenage Kicks

Sacco is back with his new monthly jam at **The Shelter**. It's a high school disco gone bad, with the hits you thought you would never hear again (and maybe didn't want to). Special guests TBD. ¥10. 9pm

**The Shelter** 6457-0400  
the-shelter-shanghai@gmail.com

### Digital Love

This friendly bar off Hengshan Lu reopens after a week-long refurb with a night hosted by S.T.D. featuring a clutch of DJs and VJs dropping punked-out electro and dirty house. 9pm

**Not Me** 6455-0260, [www.not-me.com](http://www.not-me.com)

**FRIDAY, FEB. 26**

### It Must Be Hip-Hop

Lupe, the resident DJ at **Zouk** in Kuala Lumpur, comes to this high-end, high-rise nightspot. Grind to hip-hop and R&B from the man who recently played alongside Kanye West and DJ Cash Money. ¥100 for guys after 10:30pm, free for girls all night. 9pm

**Sin** 6257-7779, [www.sinshanghai.com](http://www.sinshanghai.com)

### Shanghai by Bus feat. Boj Lucki

Proper ragga-jungle sounds from **Boj Lucki** (part of the **MIR Crew** from Sweden) comes to spin with the **Uprooted Sunshine Soundsystem** for a night of jungle, reggae, dancehall, dubstep and dub. Since starting one of the biggest DnB nights in Scandinavia called **REKYL** back in 2000, **Boj Lucki** has played a major role in the scene.

playing alongside Goldie, L.T.J. Bukem, Fabio & Crowder, DJ Hype, Krust, Zinc and the Ragga Twins. ¥50. 9pm  
**The Shelter** 6457-0400  
the-shelter-shanghai@gmail.com

**SATURDAY, FEB. 27**

### First Anniversary of Ai Community

This is a luxurious night at one of the Bund's swankiest venues, and it's all for a good cause. Local charity organization **Ai Community** is throwing its first anniversary party and using all profits to sponsor university tuition for underprivileged students. Check out live music by Celso & Diego and Chen Bin, a fashion show by Enesae Chan and enjoy free-flow cocktails. Dress code: Discreet luxury. ¥150. 9pm-Midnight  
**LAN Club** 137-6121-0366, <http://www.lanclub.com> Shanghai danceparty

### Disco Inferno

The founder of the **Playground Sound Radio Show** on [www.udancecn.com](http://www.udancecn.com), Polish native DJ **Razor** has lived, played and promoted parties in London, Ibiza and the Netherlands. Working with Polish music legends **Peter Von Coil**, **Das Erste Dancer** and **Discobart**, his style is pure deep tech eclectic disco and he plays this Bund spot with increasing frequency. 10pm  
**The Glamour Bar** 5250-8888  
[www.theglamourbar.com](http://www.theglamourbar.com)

### Sunglasses at Night

**High Society (Wig Party, New Years Eve @ Dada)** presents a joyous evening of electrofied silliness and bad fashion. Wear the worst sunglasses you can find and party like a superstar celebrity whore. Winter break is over and spring is just around the corner, so bring out

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