

## TOP ASIAN HOTELS



SELECT HOTEL

home  
 travel poll vote  
 editor's rant  
 destination  
 asian spas  
 business travel  
 shopping  
 stuff-to-go  
 asia travel deals  
 weather  
 letters  
 advertising  
 sitemap

YAHOO!  
BABEL FISH

Choose a language to translate this page!



Select to language

Sign up for our Newsletter

Sign up for our free monthly news and lucky draw alerts

search



stories/ index

editor's rant

No sex, we're British

regular sections

Letters

Stuff-To-Go/ Gadgets &amp;

Digital Camera Reviews

Sitemap

Top Asian Hotels

Asia Travel Deals

Weather in Asia

features

Travel Poll 2009

Asia Medical Tourism

Asian Casino Hotels

Asian Resort Weddings

Child-friendly Resorts

Concierge travails

Duty Free In-Flight

Fear of Flying

Pod Hotels Guide

Rocketman, jet packs

Second Life Travels

Small Meetings in Asia

Solo Travel &amp; Women

Travel Health Risks

Tsunami Update

Underwater Hotels

Web Search Tips

What Hotel Guests Steal

airlines

## Shanghai nightlife and cool bars

Everything you need to know about Shanghai bars, discos, cool clubs, jazz venues and trendy eateries from The Bund to Pudong.

by Amy Fabris-Shi

With photography by Charlie Xia

See also [Shanghai shopping](#) | [Shanghai business hotels](#) | [Beijing business hotels](#) | [Beijing nightlife](#) | [Guilin guide](#) | [Sanya resorts](#) | [Hong Kong guide](#) | [Tokyo fun guide](#) | [Seoul business hotels](#) | [Inner Mongolia guide](#) | [Qingdao fun guide](#) | [Tashkent guide](#) | [Almaty hotels](#) | [Bishkek guide](#) | [Kuala Lumpur Nightlife](#)

GRIMY COMMERCIAL hub by day, Shanghai transforms after dark into a sparkling seductress. This is a party town from way back. Yesterday's opium halls and Somerset Maughams are today's private members clubs and Giorgio Armanis. Shanghai has returned to its rightful place as one of the world's great sin cities – and one gets the feeling that the party has only just begun. Welcome to Shanghai by night.

## The Bund and the beautiful

After a half-century of neglect, Shanghai's iconic Bund waterfront is being dug up and transformed into a luxurious after hours destination. Shanghai nightlife mavens can trawl posh restaurants, cocktail lounges, jazz clubs, boutique hotels, day spas and the fashion flagships dotted between old banking headquarters along the main stretch of Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu, as well as in the atmospheric backstreets. More dilapidated heritage gems are set to be gussied up by top global brands in the years to come. The thoroughfare itself is undergoing renovation for the 2010 World Expo that will see traffic diverted underground and new landscaping along the famed riverbank.

[Send us your Feedback / Letter to the Editor](#) [Share This Page](#)

It's a far cry from a decade ago when restaurateur Michelle Garnaut opened Shanghai's first independent international restaurant in the old Nissin Shipping Building on the waterfront. Back then, the Bund was a long shot – but **M on the Bund** proved to be a very popular pioneer. This eminently stylish institution is still one of the Bund's best, serving contemporary European fare such as its signature slow-baked, salt-encased leg of lamb, accompanied by an excellent seasonal wine list. Downstairs, the pink-tinged **Glamour Bar** has a sophisticated 1930s vibe and excellent straight-up martinis. It also plays host to a diverse collection of artists, panel discussions, musical recitals and an annual writers' festival (tel: [86-21] 6350-9988, 7/F, 20 Guangdong Lu).

Five years after **M, Three on the Bund** opened right across the alley (tel: 6323-3355, [www.threeonthebund.com](http://www.threeonthebund.com), 3 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu). The Michael Graves-designed beauty is home to some of the city's top tables, an Armani flagship boutique and the first Evian spa outside France. This building is where the local cognoscenti start or, perhaps end, their Shanghai nightlife carouse, casually tousled yet immaculately chic. On the top floor, **New Heights** (tel: 6321-0909) serves Western food with a nod to Southeast Asia. It's the most casual and affordable option and boasts the best view in the house from the wraparound terrace.

On the fourth floor, **Jean Georges** (tel: 6321-7733) is the three-star Michelin chef's only signature restaurant outside New York. Inspired by old Shanghai grandeur, the moody lounge is filled with pony-hair club chairs and eel-skin benches leading through to a luxurious burnished copper and cobalt blue dining room. If you're not dining on an expense account, try the Nougatine experience nightly from 6-11pm. Seated at white-clothed tables in the more relaxed bar area, you can sample a selection of JG favourites starting at just Rmb58. We recommend the black truffle and fontina pizza. This is Shanghai dining at its best.

The Gothic castle at 6 Bund (6 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu) is also home to several upscale restaurants and a couple of fun lounges. Our pick is **Japanese Sun with Aqua** on the second floor (tel: 6339-2779), which is remarkably good value for the Bund. Its adjoining Aquarium Bar has a cool underwater vibe, curtained beds – and sharks. The bijou **Dolce & Gabbana Martini Bar** (tel: 6323-2277) between the men's and women's D&G boutiques on the ground floor is a fashionable spot for a restorative espresso or 'tini between shopping.

Change font size A A

 Music by  
 Vijay Verghese

Get Flash



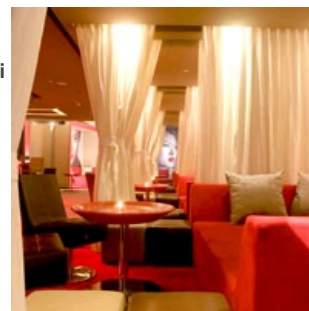
Barbarossa: chic/ photo: Barbarossa



Bund cool, Aqua: photo: Aqua

Airbus vs Boeing  
 Airline Fuel Surcharges  
 Airline Poll 2005  
 Business Class Seats  
 Business Class Review  
 Economy Class Seats  
 First Class Seats  
 Frequent Flier Programs  
 Small Asian Airlines  
**cruises**  
 Cruises in Asia  
**dives**  
 Best Asia dives  
**golf**  
 Best Asian golf  
**australia**  
 Australia Spas  
 Cairns Guide  
 Melbourne Guide  
 Sydney Hotel Guide  
**bhutan**  
 Bhutan Guide  
**brunei**  
 Brunei Travel Guide  
**cambodia**  
 Angkor Guide  
 Phnom Penh Guide  
**central asia**  
 Almaty Hotels  
 Bishkek Travel Guide  
 Tashkent Travel Guide  
**china**  
 Beijing Business Hotels  
 Beijing Nightlife  
 Guilin Hotels &  
 Yangshuo Guide  
 Inner Mongolia Guide  
 Qingdao Guide  
 Sanya Resorts Review  
 Shanghai Hotels  
 Shanghai Nightlife  
 Shanghai Shopping  
**europe / americas**  
 Barcelona Guide  
**hongkong**  
 Hong Kong Guide  
 Hong Kong Shopping  
 Hong Kong Hotels  
**india**  
 Andaman Islands  
 Bangalore hotels  
 Delhi Business Hotels  
 Goa Resorts Guide  
 Gulmarg Skiing Guide  
 India Spas Review  
 Himachal Guide  
 Kerala Resorts Guide  
 Ladakh Guide  
 Mumbai Business Hotels  
 Rajasthan Palaces  
**indonesia**  
 Bali Guide  
 Bali Resorts Review  
 Bali Spas Review  
 Jakarta Business Hotels  
**japan**  
 Hokkaido Guide  
 Tokyo Business Hotels  
**korea**  
 Seoul Guide & Hotels  
**laos**  
 Luang Prabang Guide  
 Vientiane Guide  
**macau**  
 Macau Casino Hotels  
**malaysia**  
 Kuala Lumpur Hotels  
 Kuala Lumpur Nightlife  
 Kuala Lumpur Shopping  
 Langkawi Resorts  
 Malaysia Spas  
 Penang Guide & Spas  
 Sabah Guide  
 Tioman Island Guide  
**maldives**  
 Maldives Resorts  
**myanmar**  
 Yangon Guide  
**nepal**  
 Kathmandu Guide  
 Nepal Treks  
**new zealand**

**Bund 18** (tel: 6323-7066, [www.bund18.com](http://www.bund18.com), 18 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu), in the powder-grey neoclassical former Macquarie Bank Tower, features Hong Kong chef To Chi Hoi's trendy Cantonese cuisine at **Tai Wan Lou** (tel: 6339-1188) on the fifth floor. **One floor up, Mir and Mrs Bund** (tel: 6323-9898) is a show-stopping Shanghai restaurant. Taking a break from the molecular cuisine that made his name at **Shangri-La's Jade on 36**, French chefs Paul Pairet returns to his roots offering modern French bistro fare – some rustic, some glammed-up – with over 200 dishes meant for sharing. It is open for dinner nightly and continues as a supperclub until 4am five nights a week. Be sure to book a window seat and save room for the excellent desserts.

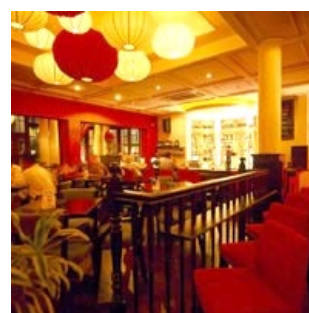


Bar Rouge: Sino sirens/ photo: Bar Rouge

Bund 18's top-floor **Bar Rouge** (tel: 6339-1199) is party – and promiscuity – central. Designed by Imaad Rahmouni, a protege of Starck, the bar features 33 hand-blown Venetian chandeliers, Sino sirens splashed across the walls and a scenic terrace. Between show-off bottle juggling and setting fire to the bar, the bartenders may deign to make you one of their signature ginger melon martinis. Downstairs, **Lounge 18** (tel: 6323-8399) attracts a similar crowd.

**M1NT Club's** venues in Hong Kong, Cannes and Shanghai are owned by shareholding members and come with an exclusive members-only door policy. The macho **Shanghai club** sprawls across a 2,000sqm, 24th-floor penthouse, offering 360-degree views from behind the Bund. It also features a 17-metre shark tank, raunchy pop art murals and shareholders-only hot tubs on the rooftop terrace. A good concierge should be able to get you in. (tel: 6391-3191, 24/F, 318 Fuzhou Lu)

**LAN Club** (tel: 6323-8029, 102 Guangdong Lu), which occupies an entire four-storey neoclassical mansion near the Westin hotel, is another highly ambitious mega-venue offering Chinese, French and seafood restaurants, multiple lounges and a small nightclub. Down the road, at the glorious intersection of Fuzhou and Jiangxi Lu, **Hamilton House** (tel: 6321-0586, 137 Fuzhou Lu) is a trendy French brasserie and cocktail lounge in a soaring 1934 Art Deco mansion. Their marmalade-laced Breakfast Martini is a good choice – at any time of the day.



Sasha's: colonial vibes

Just past the Bund, in the historic Hongkou district formerly home to the Japanese concession and Jewish Ghetto, **Chinatown** (tel: 6258-2078, 471 Zhapu Lu) brilliantly references Shanghai's 1930s "Sin City" days. The burlesque club transforms a heritage Shinto shrine with theatre boxes, hard-hitting cocktails and high-kicking show girls. Open Wednesdays to Saturdays, it's a bit off the beaten track but there is no cover charge and shows feature New York crooner Frank Brae, Shanghai acrobats and a six-strong chorus line. Good fun.

### Highs and lows in Pudong

Pudong has perked up considerably and some of the Shanghai nightlife throb has moved here. It is steadily becoming a viable option for a good night out. Park Hyatt's **100 Century Avenue** (tel: 6888-1234, 91-93F, Shanghai World Financial Centre, 100 Century Ave, Pudong) is the highest restaurant and bar on the planet, stretching from the 91<sup>st</sup> to 93<sup>rd</sup> floors of the 101-storey Shanghai World Financial Centre. Despite its high profile, it's not the least bit highfaluting. Filling the 91<sup>st</sup> floor is a very cool and convivial tavern with Western, Chinese and Japanese show kitchens and a 750-label cellar. The à la carte menu here allows you to mix-and-match different cuisines, and highlights top quality produce including seven types of US oysters, Australian Wagyu beef and fresh fish from Tokyo's Tsujiki Market. The 92<sup>nd</sup> floor hosts a jazz bar and quieter **Oriental lounge** with a small dance floor and ballroom dancing four nights a week, while the uppermost level is a private dining space for 100 people adorned in mod-Nordic style and lorded over by mischievous ceramic mooseheads.

In the basement of the **Shanghai World Financial Centre** (2/B, 100 Century Ave, Pudong), celebrity chef Salvatore Cuomo's 3,000sqm upmarket food hall incorporates eight different restaurants including an Italian Restaurant and Grill, Japanese Yakimiku, Crystal Jade dim sum counter and a relaxing lounge bar. Gourmet European grocer Bottega is a great place to pick up picnic supplies.

Tucked away by the riverside behind the Oriental Pearl Tower is Salvatore Cuomo's original Pudong location, **The Kitchen** (tel: 5054-1265, Unit D, 2967 Lujiazui Xi Lu), another Shanghai dining favourite. The airy Italian is a great place for sundowner drinks looking across the water to Puxi, and its woodfired oven turns out arguably the city's best pizza.



Hamilton House: photo: Hamilton

**Pudong Shangri-La's** penthouse bar is another destination in its own right offering creative cocktails and jaw-dropping views. Downstairs, the Japanese institution **Nadaman** serves teppanyaki and yakitori in a Zen-like setting with sleek granite surfaces and big paper lanterns. **Yi Café** is buffet brilliance, with 10 show kitchens presenting cuisines from China, Japan, India, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North America. (tel: 6882-8888, Pudong Shangri-La, 33 Fucheng Lu, Pudong).