

LONDON

SOUTHERN ENGLAND

CENTRAL ENGLAND

NORTHERN ENGLAND

WALES, SCOTLAND & N. IRELAND

THE 50 BEST

Bars

Hip hotels, hidden speakeasies and classic cocktail lounges, mixed by **Toby Green**



East-side story: Callooh Callay (no 1)



Coasting it: St Moritz Hotel lies between Rock and Penzance (no 2)



Jewel in the crown: The Vaults (no 5)

1 Callooh Callay

"This slightly hidden-away little cocktail bar is basically based around nonsense," says Ian Cameron. "Named after part of Lewis Carroll's 'Jabberwocky', there are three areas, including the rear lounge, which is reached by walking through a Narnia-style wardrobe. Old cassette tapes line the walls of the toilets, and upstairs there's a Jack and Vera-style 1970s home bar. This all sounds rather contrived but it really does impress in person."

Where 65 Rivington Street, Shoreditch, London EC2 (020-7739 4781; www.calloohcallaybar.com)

2 St Moritz Hotel

"Drinking locations don't get much better than this place," says Katy Salter. "The St Moritz is an art-deco hotel hidden just off the coastal path between Rock and Polzeath – mixologist Adam Coates sources many of his ingredients locally, such as the pears for his pear martinis, making the most of Cornwall's fresh produce." The restaurant follows the same ethos, and you can also get yourself pampered at the Cowshed spa.

Where Trebetherick, Wade-bridge, Cornwall (01208 862242; www.stmoritzhotel.co.uk)

3 Mojo

"This legendary bar has spawned siblings in Manchester and Liverpool, but the Leeds original is still reckoned the best," says Ben McCormack. "If the name wasn't enough of a clue, vintage music posters give away Mojo's USP: a great playlist and occasional live acts. The fact that it opened in 1996 at the height of Leeds's dance-music boom makes its longevity all the more remarkable. Keep things rock'n'roll by knocking back shots of bourbon."

Where 18 Merrion Street, Leeds (0113-244 6387; www.mojobar.co.uk)

4 Muriel's Café Bar

"Although this tiny hole-in-the-wall sort of place is brand new, it looks like it has been there for years and years," says Ian. "The whole place is based around a fictional woman called Muriel who used to run a hat shop. However, she couldn't quite make ends meet, so the story goes that she was also a prostitute who would take clients upstairs to the boudoir-style lounge. It has a great little deli counter where you can have a bite to eat with your drink."

Where 12-14 Church Lane, Belfast (028 9033 2445)

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THIS WEEK'S PANEL: Ian Cameron is the assistant editor of bar magazine, *Theme* (www.thememagazine.co.uk); Ben McCormack is the editor of the food and drink reviews website, *Square Meal* (www.squaremeal.co.uk); Katy Salter is the features editor and Jenny McIvor is the deputy editor of *Waitrose Food Illustrated*

NEXT WEEK: 50 BEST KITCHEN GADGETS

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