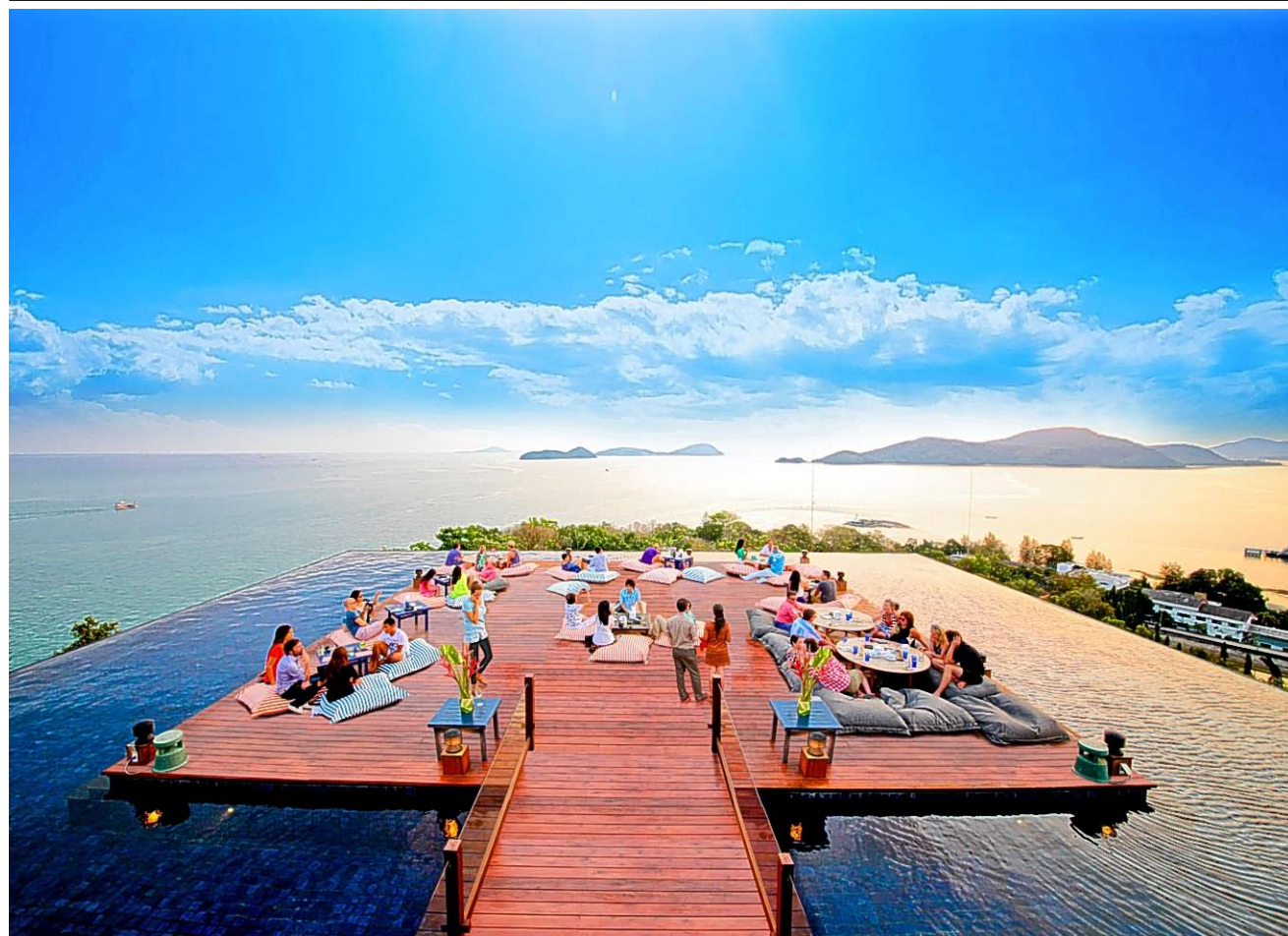
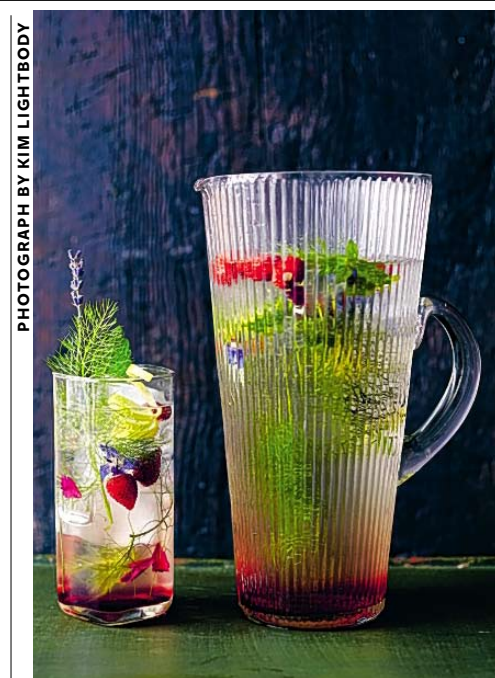


Lifestyle Lowdown **TRAVEL**

Rooftop bars



The sunset lounge in Phuket has 360 degree panoramic views (left and inset below); the Radio bar in London has a great view across the city; and Luna in Mexico (bottom) serves tasty tapas and margaritas



PHOTOGRAPH BY KIM LIGHTBODY

The Chelsea Fringe Collins designed as an alternative to that the more famous spectacle of English eccentricity, passion and plants

Feeling on top of the world ...

From Barcelona to Bali, the rooftop bar pulls in the crowds – and there's no better place to enjoy the views

WORDS BY **REENAT SINAY**

Summertime can't come soon enough and nothing says summer like a cold drink in the warm air. Add gorgeous views to that mix and you have an unbeatable combination.

Popping over to the continent? Enjoy your Eurotrip to the fullest with a stop at Sky Bar at Barcelona's Grand Hotel Central. Listen to live music while you sip on a spicy cocktail by the infinity pool. Those catching rays in Menorca, Spain, should stop by Cova d'en Xoroi's clifftop bar for that Ibiza party vibe.

Berlin's House of Weekend Roof Garden is not to be missed. Vertical gardens and spectacular vistas have made

this bar a hotspot for celebrities such as Lenny Kravitz and George Clooney.

Further afield, Asia boasts some of the best rooftop bars in the world, with hangouts like the Aer Lounge atop the Four Seasons Hotel in Mumbai. Check out the Sunset Happy Hour at this ultra-modern 34th floor lounge.

If you happen to be in Hong Kong this summer, spend an evening at the glamorous terrace bar at Sevvu. It's the best place to watch the nightly Symphony of Lights laser show and fireworks while enjoying a delicious signature cocktail.

The multi-level Rock Bar at Bali's Ayana resort will get you up close and personal with the island's tropical coastline and terrific sunsets. But if you are in an Empire State of mind? New York boasts a number of great rooftop bars. We like the Writer's Den and Poetry Garden terrace on top of the Library Hotel. With views of the beautiful Public Library and a literary-inspired cocktail menu, this lush rooftop bar is a true oasis in the middle of Manhattan.



↑ **PARADISE FOUND: BABA NEST IN PHUKET, THAILAND**

The Baba Nest rooftop bar at Phuket's Sripanwa Hotel is the ultimate in relaxation. Spend an afternoon surrounded by nothing but blue sky and cool and even bluer waters (and your drink, of course). Then enjoy the nearly 360-degree view as the sun goes down over the surrounding islands. Pure heaven. **Find it:** Sakdidej Road, Phuket, babaphuket.com



← **HOMEGROWN: RADIO AT ME LONDON**

Sometimes the best things in the world are found at home. Located on the 10th-floor of ME London, the Radio lounge offers some of the most gorgeous views of the capital. Open for lunch and until late most days of the week, the arrow-shaped bar and terrace features a live DJ in the evenings. Its swanky Ibiza-style sofas and candles make it perfect for a romantic evening. **Find it:** 337 The Strand, WC2, melia.com



↑ **PAINT THE TOWN PINK: LUNA ROOFTOP BAR IN SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE, MEXICO**

About 170 miles from Mexico City lies the charming colonial town of San Miguel de Allende. The bohemian haven for artists was recently named a Unesco World Heritage site for its well-preserved architecture and location in the foothills of the Sierra Madre. Gaze over the vista from the Rosewood Hotel's Luna Rooftop Bar in the historic centre of town. Enjoy margaritas and tapas as the sunset paints the town 50 shades of pink. **Find it:** Nemesio Diez 11, Colonia Centro, San Miguel de Allende, rosewoodhotels.com

Swanky Ibiza-style sofas and candles make it perfect for romantic evenings



CHELSEA FRINGE COLLINS **SERVES 1**

2oz (60ml) jasmine-infused Jensen's Old Tom Gin
1/2 oz (15ml) elderflower liqueur
1/2 oz (15ml) rose petal syrup
Dash of orange bitters
3/4 oz (22ml) freshly squeezed lemon juice
Soda water
Dash of cassis (optional)

Tools: cocktail shaker with strainer, tweezers/ small tongs, pipette/barspoon

Glass: Collins

Ice: cubes

Garnish: borage flowers, wild strawberries, wild fennel fronds, lavender sprig, dianthus petals, lemon twist

Fill the glass with ice. Tuck some wild strawberries, fennel fronds, the lavender sprig, borage flowers, and a few dianthus petals in among the ice cubes, sandwiched against the glass for maximum visual impact. Save a few borage flowers for the final garnish.

Add the gin, elderflower liqueur, rose petal syrup, orange bitters, and lemon juice to the cocktail shaker. Fill it two-thirds full with ice, cover and shake hard for 20 seconds. Strain the mixture into the chilled glass over the ice.

Garnish with the lemon twist and remaining flowers, using the tweezers or small tongs, then top with the soda water (it is important to add the garnish before the soda water, otherwise you will push the soda water out of the glass.)

Use a pipette or the top of a barspoon to drop the cassis to the bottom of the glass to create a colour contrast (optional).