

Sipping on a specialty craft cocktail
in an open-air rooftop lounge will leave you in

HIGH *Spirits*

→ by Kathy A. Johnson



Tampa Bay has always been known for its many family and outdoor attractions, but it's also gained a reputation as a hotspot for craft breweries and handcrafted cocktails. In fact, the Tampa Bay area boasts the greatest concentration of craft breweries



in Florida, with more than 75 establishments. Here, passionate and imaginative brewmasters flavor their beers with everything from citrus to raspberry to chocolate, and brew up every style of beer imaginable, including ales, stouts and pilsners.



Not to be left behind, the city's bartenders have been putting their own tropical twist on classic cocktails, experimenting with fresh flavor combinations and stirring up a hip cocktail scene in Tampa Bay.

So now that you're thirsty, where should you sample all these delicious creations? Sure, you could go to an "ordinary" restaurant or bar, but why not combine Tampa Bay's uniquely crafted brews and cocktails with an equally unique setting—a breezy rooftop bar-with-a-view? Sample some of Tampa Bay's best rockin' rooftop lounges and take in spectacular skyline and sunset views while sipping the latest handcrafted creation.



Luna Lounge by Bulla



Take in spectacular skyline and sunset views while sipping the latest handcrafted creation.

OPPOSITE PAGE: AMY PEZZICARA; LUNA LOUNGE BY BULLA; CENTURION RESTAURANT GROUP

For stellar views of the downtown Tampa Bay skyline, check out the **Luna Lounge**, the rooftop bar of **Bulla Gastropub** ("Boo-ya"), located on the fifth level of the Morrison Building in Tampa's South Howard (SoHo) corridor. Offerings include local craft brew favorites from Cigar City and Coppertail Brewing Co., wine, handcrafted cocktails, made-to-order sangrias and frozen rosé. Locals visit for a romantic date night or after-work happy hour, where they might sip the Bougie Palmer (a concoction of vodka, lemon and peach-oolong lavender

syrup) or the Lemongrass Collins (gin, elderflower, lemongrass syrup and cucumber). Pair your libation with a charcuterie board, small-plate appetizer or a flatbread from the tapas menu. Luna's kicked-back vibe is perfect after a day of sight-seeing—pull up a stool and watch the sun go down.

Just north of downtown, the **M.Bird Rooftop Lounge**—named after the mockingbird, Florida's state bird—perches atop hip Armature Works historic building in Tampa Heights. M.Bird pairs colorful tropical and modern deco design, complete with

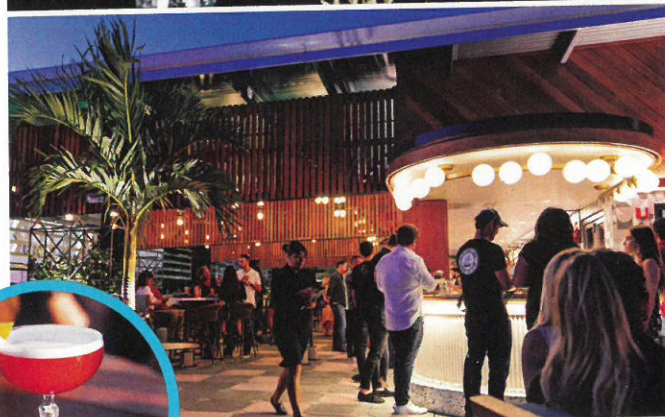


See BayCrafted.com for more info on Tampa Bay's craft beer scene, including a directory of local breweries.

HIGH Spirits

umbrellas, lounge chairs and palm trees. On select days, DJs perform live sets, pumping up the energy. Sip one of more than 40 types of rum and sugarcane spirits while enjoying a panoramic view of the Tampa Bay skyline and the Hillsborough River. Or order one of the popular craft cocktails, like I Left My Wallet at La Segunda (two types of rum, guava-coconut cream, pineapple, lemon and orgeat) or the Hemingway Daiquiri (Plantation 3 Stars white rum, Luxardo Maraschino liqueur, grapefruit and lime). Drinks are topped with Insta-worthy garnishes like fresh pineapple and orchids. If it's a hot night, cool off with a Boozecycle—a semi-frozen craft cocktail.

If you'd rather quench your thirst with a beer, M.Bird also features local craft beer, including Cigar City Jai Alai and Coppertail Seasonal. Feel like snacking? Sharable small plates showcase



M.Bird Rooftop Lounge



Rox at The CURRENT hotel



“An exceptional place to toast the sunset.”

Latin and tropical influences. Try the jerk chicken egg rolls or tuna poké tacos.

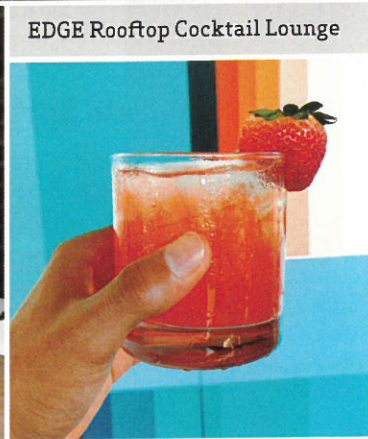
You'll find Tampa Bay's tallest rooftop bar, **Rox**, on the 10th floor of The CURRENT Hotel in the Rocky Point area. Check out the 360-degree views, which span Tampa Bay, St. Petersburg and Clearwater, while sipping a local beer from Brew Bus or Yuengling, a glass of wine, or some of the most innovative handcrafted cocktails in the area. The No Bad Juju comes in a sage-smoked glass (to cleanse any bad energy), or

choose a Smoked Old Fashioned made with the spirit of your choice. Bartenders will also create a drink just for you based on your favorite liquor.

Stomach rumbling? Appetizers include a mezze plate, lobster biscuits and gravy, a selection of charcuterie, or for your sweet tooth, a s'mores ice cream tart or strawberry shortcake.

An exceptional place to toast the sunset, Rox Rooftop Bar has both indoor and outdoor seating to accommodate any kind of weather.

M. BIRD BARTENDER: AMY PEZICARA; M. BIRD ROOFTOP LOUNGE AND COCKTAIL: KEIR MAGOULAS; ROX AT THE CURRENT HOTEL: WARRIDIT AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION



EDGE Rooftop Cocktail Lounge



So once you've had your fill of Tampa Bay's earthbound pleasures, or when you're wondering what to do with a few free evening hours, why not elevate a night out with a visit to one of these top-floor, open-air lounges? Whether you're thirsting for a new twist on a classic cocktail or you'd like to try one of our many craft brews, Tampa Bay's got you covered.

High spirits, indeed. ❄️

Catch a breeze and relax
as you watch the city lights flicker on.

If you're looking for a vibrant yet elegant ambiance, check out **EDGE Rooftop Cocktail Lounge**, the—you guessed it—rooftop lounge of the boutique hotel Epicurean, overlooking Tampa Bay's Hyde Park Village. Sink into a cushioned sofa with a bright mural at your back and drink a cocktail infused with fresh herbs, spices or fruits—like the *Señorita*, made with Corazón Blanco, jalapeño-fresno reduction, agave and lime. Wine and beer (try Cigar City's Florida Cracker), as well as small plates, fill out the menu. Catch a breeze and relax as

you watch the city lights flicker on, or end an evening out with a night-cap. A permanent awning provides shady seating, and fans or heaters keep guests comfortable, depending on the season.

One of the newest rooftop respites in Tampa Bay, **Six** at the JW Marriott Tampa Water Street pairs your newest favorite cocktails with chef-crafted modern American specialities. Overlooking the downtown luxury hotel's rooftop pool and the Garrison Channel six floors below, this trendy indoor-outdoor bistro certainly supplies the views.

If you don't want your cocktail experience to end, be sure to pick up a copy of *Tampa with a Twist* while you're in the area. This beautiful, full-color book showcases recipes from some of Tampa's leading bartenders, so you can up your cocktail game at home! Find it online or at the Unlock Tampa Bay Visitors Center.



EDGE ROOFTOP COCKTAIL LOUNGE & COCKTAIL: EPICUREAN HOTEL; EDGE BARTENDER: AMY PEZZICARA