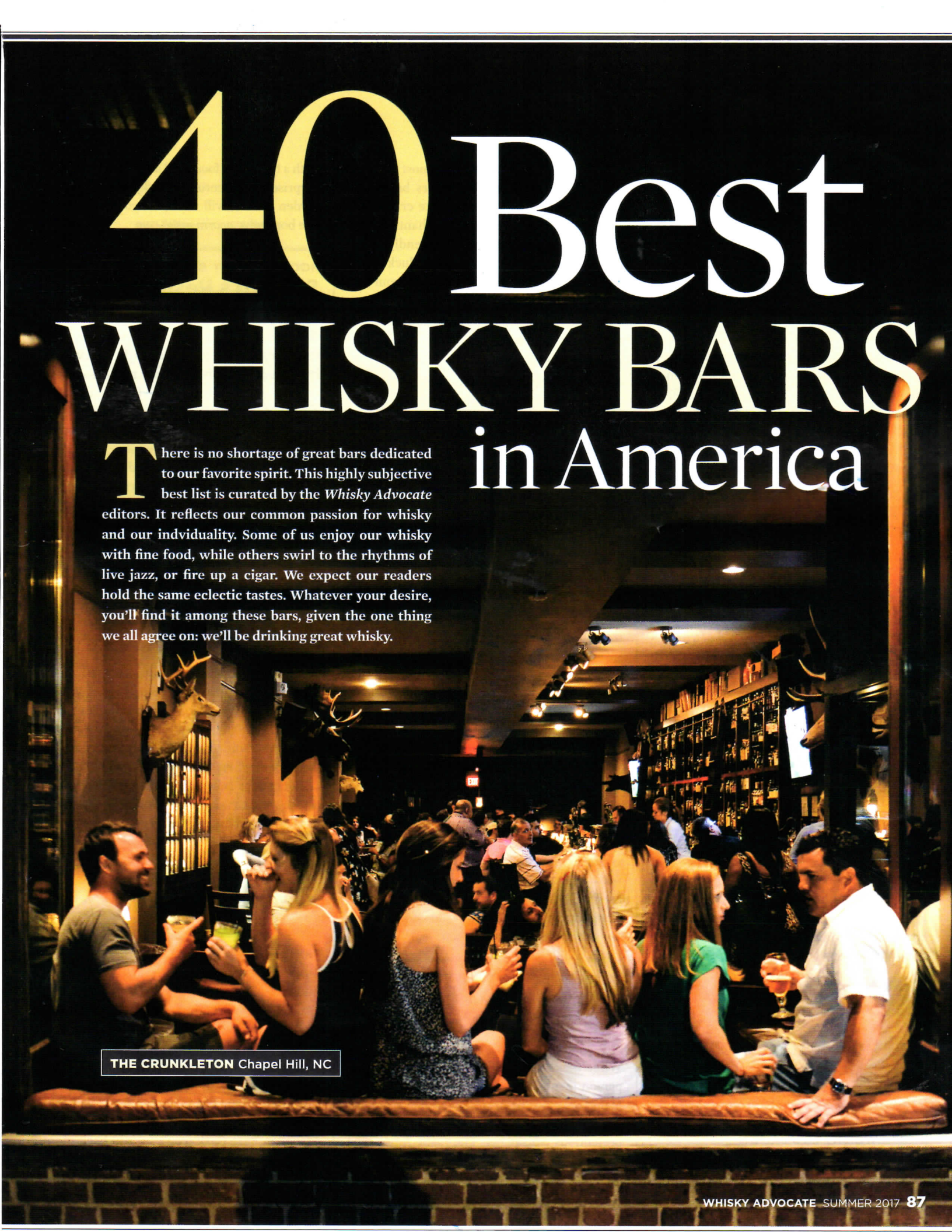


40 Best WHISKY BARS in America

There is no shortage of great bars dedicated to our favorite spirit. This highly subjective best list is curated by the *Whisky Advocate* editors. It reflects our common passion for whisky and our individuality. Some of us enjoy our whisky with fine food, while others swirl to the rhythms of live jazz, or fire up a cigar. We expect our readers hold the same eclectic tastes. Whatever your desire, you'll find it among these bars, given the one thing we all agree on: we'll be drinking great whisky.



THE CRUNKLETON Chapel Hill, NC

Northeast

A CIGAR CLUB OPEN TO ALL

Ashton Cigar Bar

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Located atop Philly's oldest cigar store, Ashton Cigar Bar pairs two of the finest things in life: cigars and whisky. Distressed brick walls, leather furniture, and a marble bar make it feel like an old-money private club, but it's open to everyone from aficionados to curious first-timers. Owner Robert Levin stocks an award-winning selection of 385 whiskies, 500 total spirits, and 200 premium cigars, so the combinations are endless. ashtoncigarbar.com

A HIGH-CLASS HANGOUT

Brandy Library

New York City



Known for its comprehensive spirits collection, Brandy Library is a bit of a misnomer. The sophisticated bar's short novel of a drinks menu (588 at last count) spans all aged spirits, including several from small New York distillers. Feeling adventurous? Kick back on a supple leather couch by the fireplace and order the blind stave tasting—nine 1/2-ounce (\$72) or three 1-ounce (\$35) pours served on a bourbon barrel stave. brandylibrary.com

STEEL YOURSELF FOR THIS LIST

Butcher & the Rye

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Ever wondered how it must feel to be a teen girl at a One Direction concert? Prepare to shriek at this whisky list: 25 Willett single barrels, Very Very Old Fitzgerald, silent and

closed distilleries...it goes on. Almost 700 bottles await behind the downstairs bar, while Rye Bar upstairs serves exquisite craft cocktails. Chef/owner Richard DeShantz is the genius behind the whisky-friendly food (smoked lamb neck and roasted duck soup) and the Restoration Hardware showroom aesthetic. butcherandtherye.com

NOTHING BUT NEAT

Copper & Oak

New York City



Many consider this bar from owner Flavien Desoblin to be the more laid-back version of its cousin, Brandy Library, but the library vibe persists, with shelves of back-lit bottles lining the walls. The construction echoes the materials found in distilleries—oak walls and shelves, copper barstools and bar. And of course, whisky! New York may be a land of fancy cocktails, but Copper & Oak goes against the grain, serving only neat spirits (vodka excepted). Soda or ginger ale is available on the side. copperandoak.com

COOL JAZZ AND PRIZED BOTTLES

The Flatiron Room

New York City



What better place to ponder a list of 1,000 whiskies than owner Tommie Tardie's plush Manhattan parlor, where you can peer into rare drams atop the same mahogany bar where Sinatra once sat? The live jazz is as carefully curated as the whiskies and wafts throughout the room while encouraging conversation. A "bottle keep" allows guests to purchase full bottles and store the remainder for their next visit. Reservations suggested. theflatironroom.com

GRILLED CHEESE AND WHISKEY

Noorman's Kil

Brooklyn, New York



While they offer over 400 whiskies, the companion menu of seven types of grilled cheese, many using locally sourced ingredients, quickly casts off any suspicion that this is just another pretentious whisky bar. The rustic Americana interior is also home to twelve draught beers

with a New York focus and a cocktail list that is, surprise, almost entirely whisky-based. Outside garden seating will transport you beyond the five boroughs. noormanskil.com

BOOZY WHISKY BRUNCH

Sanford's Restaurant

Astoria, New York



Established in the 1930s, Sanford's has evolved from a coffee shop and diner to a casual restaurant and bar with upscale food and drinks. Among the selection of over 300 whiskies, Sanford's offers an exclusive barrel from Elijah Craig and fourteen whisky cocktails, including in-house barrel-aged drinks like a Redemption Rye Manhattan. Brunch is served seven days a week until 4 p.m. Try the crispy duck confit and waffles or steak skillet with potatoes and poached eggs. sanfordsnyc.com

A TOP CHEF COOKS WITH WHISKEY

Village Whiskey

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



James Beard Award-winning chef Jose Garces take a no-holds-barred approach to big flavors, topping his whiskey burger with bourbon-glazed cipollini, bleu cheese, applewood bacon, and foie gras. And don't forget a side order of duck fat fries: plain, with cheddar, or with cheddar and beef. Of course, there's also whisky—more than 200 to choose from, as well as both Prohibition-era and contemporary cocktails. philadelphia.villagewhiskey.com

CUSTOM FLIGHTS AND BILLIARDS

The Whiskey Ward

New York City



With daily shot specials, darts, pool tables, and free peanuts, Whiskey Ward might seem like a throwback to the fraternity days...were it not for the 250 hand-selected whiskies. Choose any three for a flight, stylishly presented on a wooden board with each 1-ounce dram identified in handwritten chalk. The non-pretentious bar is known for reasonable prices—even a new and limited whisky like Macallan Rare Cask won't set you back more than \$40. thewhiskeyward.com

What's on Offer

- | | |
|------------------|-----------|
| LIVE MUSIC | CIGARS |
| FOOD | FLIGHTS |
| LOCKERS | BILLIARDS |
| WHISKY EDUCATION | |