

It's cocktail o'clock

If you're looking to satisfy that cocktail-hour craving, **Joel Porter** discovers some extraordinary tipples to try around the country

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CREMORNE GARDENS SOUR THE HIDE, LONDON

The Hide on Bermondsey Street has long been one of London's favourite gin bars. Taking an environmentally aware, hyper-local approach, The Hide's drinks and ingredients are all brewed, distilled, fermented or compounded in London. Its Cremorne Gardens Sour is one such London-centric tippie, named after the eponymous Chelsea pleasure gardens of the 1800s. The drink is a fresh and flavourful take on a gin sour, featuring Colonel Fox and Gentleman Badger sloe Cremorne gins, cranberry and elderflower cordial, lemon, and egg white.

RHUBARB & GINGER BRAMBLE THE TALBOT, MALTON

Malton is Yorkshire's self-proclaimed food capital and home to one of the UK's newest gin distilleries, Rare Bird, which launched in 2018. Being a Yorkshire gin maker, Rare Bird has embraced one of the county's most prized ingredients to make a dry rhubarb and ginger flavoured gin, used in many of the drinks at The Talbot boutique hotel and restaurant just over the road. The Rhubarb and Ginger Bramble features Rare Bird's gin, rounded off with lemon juice, and sweet Rhucello liquor for a drink that's pure Yorkshire in a glass.

RHUBARB & GINGER BRAMBLE



THE BEE'S PEAS

Non-alcoholic spirits are the latest trend to hit the drinks industry, and Seedlip is leading the charge with its copper-pot distilled booze-free gins. Found in top bars and restaurants around the world, Seedlip has managed to make non-alcoholic cocktails desirable again, offering refined complex flavours, without the hangover. Seedlip's own Bee's Peas cocktail uses its lighter Garden 108 gin, mixed with beeswax cordial, cloudy apple juice and verjus for a sweet fruity drink that's perfect on a hot summer's day.

DEATH OF A MAIDEN

DEATH OF A MAIDEN MINT GUN CLUB, LONDON

Whereas many bars eschew natural light in favour of dark basements, Stoke Newington's Mint Gun Club is a little slice of sunshine, with big windows, bright blue walls, tropical plants, and fantastic cocktails. The 'Death of a Maiden' might sound gloomy but this twist on a martini makes for a summery yet potent pour. Made using Silent Pool Gin (distilled in Surrey), Silver Birch Vermouth, Dry Chambéry Vermouth, and Akvavit, it's a fine example of a classic gin cocktail brought right up to date.

NIAGARA FALLS HEDONIST BAR, LEEDS

Hedonist is one of Leeds' best bars, with a contemporary design and a gin-focused drinks menu. One cocktail in particular provides a visual spectacle that's almost as impressive as its namesake — Niagara Falls. Made from Gin Mare, prosecco syrup and lemon, the drink is topped with a blueberry powder which dissolves when the soda is poured over, producing a fizzing waterfall effect and turning the cocktail a pale blue.



NIAGARA FALLS