

Hanoi

Bar none

Vietnam's capital city may be overflowing with hidden treasures – but if it's secret bars that you seek, head straight for the Old Quarter

BARS



Kumquat Tree

Ascending the steps to Kumquat Tree may feel like entering a private club for Hanoi's rich and famous – but don't get too intimidated. Once you get past the imposing red door, settle into one of the comfy booths, or perch at the brickwork bar where sprightly bartenders craft cocktails. The atmosphere cranks up with visiting DJs and events ranging from raucous LGBTQ parties to smooth jazz nights. What The Duck – which infuses duck fat-washed whiskey, sweet vermouth, homemade chocolate absinthe and chocolate bitters – is the drink of choice. fb.com/kumquattreehanoi



Mad Botanist

Nestled on the third and fourth floors of a ramshackle terrace house, Mad Botanist has been boasting Instagram-worthy views of Hanoi's iconic St Joseph's Cathedral since early 2017. To access this gin-focused speakeasy, you'll need to pass through a Hong Kong dim sum fast food joint before climbing a shabby set of stairs at the back. Head straight to the rooftop for the views or stop a floor below for an intimate (and air-conditioned) indoor salon. Mad Botanist's menu flaunts a bewildering selection of over 100 global gins, and the bar's English-speaking waiters are always on hand to assist. fb.com/themadbotanist

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