Selflessly sampling the cocktails at lobby bars and rooftop lounges, seated by firepits and before stunning views, AFAR’s travel editors have compiled a list of favorite places to check out when you’re checking in.

Do you find yourself glancing over your shoulder at the hotel reception desk to check out the lobby bar? Are you the hotel guest who peruses the cocktail menu with as much attention as you give the other amenities? The kind of cocktail lover who visits the bars of hotels you aren’t even staying in? When AFAR editors realized that many of the tips we exchange about upcoming trips are often about hotel bars, we thought you might want to know our favorites, too. From Tokyo to Tucson, here are some of the best places to get the taste of a new destination.

**The Living Room at the Dewberry**, Charleston, SC

The bar’s fantastic: Think embossed ice cubes and the best version of classic cocktails you’ve ever had, served in a roomy setting full of vintage midcentury furniture. Lit by the floor-to-ceiling windows during the day and at night by romantic lights gleaming off polished wood and brushed gold surfaces, the Living Room is the chicest spot in Charleston.—LM