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Cabana Cocktailing in Southern California: Top 5



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The Roof at Hotel Wilshire
Credits: Hotel Wilshire



Slideshow: Cabana Cocktailing in Southern California: Top 5

While it might be “fall” according to our calendars, the summer never really ends in Southern California. Mix sunshine galore with sophisticated rooftop, beachfront and poolside retreats and what do you get? A fabulous mix of Southern Californian grown cabanas, each offering their own personality and style, designed to fulfill the basic needs in life: nourishment, hydration and relaxation.

While there are many cabana retreats in Southern California, there are few that offer the best of service, location and design. Cabanas make for a perfect “home base”, ideal for birthdays, reunions or a blissful get-away retreat; often offering private i-pod docks, heightened food and drink service and a temporary abode to either siesta in the shade, splash in the pool, sip on champagne or enjoy being fanned and fed grapes, further embracing your inner goddess or pharaoh.

The Top 5:

1. The Hotel Wilshire: The Roof (Los Angeles, CA)

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The Hotel Wilshire, recently launched in the heart of the vibrant Miracle Mile, announced recently the debut of its new eatery and hangout- The Roof on Wilshire. With 360-degree views spanning the Los Angeles skyline, the whimsical rooftop restaurant is [Eric Greenspan's](#) latest creation. As guest of the upcoming season of Food Network's *Iron Chef* and A&E's *Fix This Kitchen*, Greenspan describes The Roof as "unlike any other space in Los Angeles", offering poolside cuisine set amongst intimate cabanas, serving up breakfast, lunch and dinner. Making for the perfect haven to rejuvenate from LA nightlife, try sipping on their signature Bloody Mary alongside the Stuffed French Toast or Crab Cake Benedict.

www.hotelwilshire.com

2. Pacific Edge Hotel: The Deck (Laguna Beach, CA)

Recently launched this summer and an amazing addition to Laguna Beach and the SoCal coast, The Deck boasts the ultimate beachfront cabana and restaurant experience literally just steps from the sand. Perhaps the most lavish cabana out of the "Top 5", guests can nosh on casual beach fare, sip on freshly made cocktails, take a dip in the ocean, watch the surfers, or lounge in a cabana while getting a massage! Located right on The Deck, the colorful and spacious private cabanas offer a menu of various pampering services, including mobile airbrush spray tanning and a personal photographer/videographer. The cabanas are perfect for private parties or even personal day retreats and even include a reserved beach area in front of the cabana complete with sand-sunken lounge chairs. Cabanas can be reserved for 12-hour periods and you don't need to be a hotel guest. Don't forget your I-pod and get ready to rock: Each cabana is complete with personal speakers and an I-pod dock made to satisfy all music requests!

www.deckonlaguna.com

3. The Hard Rock SD: Float (San Diego, CA)

Voted best rooftop bar, Float is set atop the Hard Rock Hotel overlooking the [Gaslamp Quarter](#). Choose to laze the day away in a well-appointed poolside cabana, equipped with private refrigerators with mini-bars and 42" HDTV's; Float cabanas make for the perfect hideaway to watch a game or simply unwind over cocktails in the sun.

If you are looking for something a bit more unruly, book your stay during Intervention Sunday (ends Sept. 25th), make sure to get your game face on and prepare to catch a few beats from famed DJ's such as [Laid Back Luke](#), set to play this upcoming Sunday, September 25th. Advice: go ahead and opt for the airbrushed tan if in doubt of your paleness factor and feel confident wearing your barely there, [Luli Fama](#) bikini you've been hesitating to wear all summer (if you are a girl, of course). You will want a private cabana so to take indulgence of a reserved escape if your feet need a break from too much dancing or when your champagne glass *needs* a refill and you don't want to wait. After a day of "cabana-cationing", head downstairs and enjoy globally acclaimed Japanese restaurant, [Nobu](#), for a mix of sushi and innovative, Peruvian-influenced cuisine for the perfect balance of fun and sustenance!

www.hardrockhotelsd.com

4. [The Andaz SD](#): The Ivy Rooftop (San Diego, CA)

San Diego's largest rooftop deck, offering 360-degree wrap-around views of San Diego's skyline and a glistening pool, The Ivy Rooftop takes sun worshipping to a higher level. Cabanas complete with VIP bottle service, 42" HDTV plasma televisions and plenty of room to stretch out and relax, this San Diego retreat never disappoints.

If you book your cabana during one of their Sunday Pool Party sessions, you just might just find yourself immersed in the rhythms of world-class DJ's often brought to you my highly popular events & entertainment group, [Fortune Music](#). While centered in the Gaslamp Quarter, you won't need to stray very far for continued entertainment as the Andaz transforms beautifully into one of the hippest lounges downtown offering three distinct experiences: Ivy Nightclub, Ivy Wine Bar and Ivy Rooftop.

www.sandiego.andaz.hyatt.com

5. Hotel Shangri-La (Santa Monica, CA)

Directly across the street from the beach, one could easily overlook the "cabana potential" of this 1930's Art Deco design hotel. With a recent multi-million dollar overhaul, Hotel Shangri-La is in the heart of sophisticated [Santa Monica](#), just steps from famous [3rd Street Promenade](#). While the ocean front rooms offer stunning views of the Pacific Ocean, the inviting pool and wrap around cabanas are enclosed within the hotel, leaving the rooftop bar as the solace for breath-taking views of the Santa Monica pier and beyond. Design-conscious dwellers will draw particular satisfaction from the architectural integrity of this beauty as rich history meets contemporary flair.

While reveling in your cabana, go ahead and take advantage of their gourmet restaurant, complete with service cabana-side. This refuge makes for an idyllic, low-key destination for any family or friend get-together.

www.shangrila-hotel.com