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Flask

## Trapdoor Coke Machines

And other hidden nooks in the city, from Liva Koziola and Cruz Maria Vallespir, founders of events company Kick the Gong Around.

### THE SECRET GARDEN: YONGFOO ELITE

"This early-20th-century manor was once the consulate to the U.K., Russia, and Vietnam and then a private members' club. Now owned by an art collector, it's open to the public as a restaurant and bar, but it still feels like a secret for those in the know because of the traditional Chinese garden in the back. It's a secluded spot for a cocktail or tea in the afternoon, decorated with Qing-era opium beds and an archway from a theater in nearby Zhejiang province, transported piece by piece." 200 Yongfu Rd.; 021-5466-2727



tequila, pandan syrup, coconut water, tonic bitters, and rose salt—is hidden; it arrives in a flask inside a carved-out book. The Taiwanese owners also do creative grilled cheese sandwiches like the K-Town, with kimchee, barbecue pork belly, aged Cheddar, and pickled garlic on white toast." 432 S. Shaanxi Rd.; 021-3368-6108

### THE BUZZER-DOOR BOOKSTORE: 1984

"This bookstore-café in the former French Concession is hard to find, as there are no signs outside, and you have to ring a buzzer next to a metal door to get in. Inside is a quirky space filled with vintage toys, musical instruments, Art Deco lamps, and, of course, books, as well as a few cats lazing in the tree-filled courtyard. It's the ideal place to go with a book on a sunny day." 11 Hunan Rd.; 021-3428-0911

### THE 1930S CABARET:

THE PEARL  
"A former Buddhist temple, this spot is tucked away on a

nondescript street of inexpensive food stalls in Hongkou. Most locals don't even know there's a theater there. And the vibe inside plays up the charm of a 1930s cabaret club, with burlesque, music, and theater shows on a small, red-curtained stage surrounded by balconies and intimate booths." 471 Zhapu Rd.; 137-6488-9962

### THE SUPPER CLUB: IL NASCONDIGLIO

"This is a wonderful Venetian-style private dinner series located in a lane house once owned by Nationalist Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek. The host meets you at the door and escorts you through a dark corridor past apartments where Shanghaiese families still live. The décor is dramatic, and the food—seafood and homemade pastas typical of Venice—is cooked right there in front of you by the Italian owner-chef." 311 S. Xiangyang Rd.; 137-6479-7831 or elena.geremia@yahoo.com for reservations.



### THE BACK-ROOM BAR: FLASK

"A speakeasy craft-cocktail bar hidden behind an old Coca-Cola refrigerator in a sandwich shop called Press—you open the fridge door and enter a corridor that leads to a dark lounge decked out with leather banquettes and concrete walls. Even the Taiwan winter-melon tea—made with

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### TALKING POINTS

Want to rile a Shanghaiese? Broach one of these hot topics.

#### The Market Crash

Residents are still plenty angry about the collapse of the Shanghai stock exchange this summer, when the market declined by 40 percent from its June high. Wary investors haven't returned in large numbers since. But the Shanghai property market showed steady growth in September, with home prices up 6.5 percent from the same time last year, although this has sparked concerns the housing market is overheating again.

#### Regional Discrimination

Tensions have been worsening between Shanghaiese and migrants from surrounding provinces. Recently, a fight broke out on the subway after a man believed to be from outside Shanghai spat on the floor and was chastised by passengers. It sparked a fierce debate online about the mistreatment many outsiders say they face.

#### Pricey Plates

The city implemented a license-plate auction 21 years ago to address congestion and pollution, but in recent years plate prices have skyrocketed to as much as \$14,530. Further upsetting car owners: This summer, the government said it was thinking about proposing a time limit on how long these plates remain valid.

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## BESPOKE PARADISE

Shanghai has a long history of tailoring that's expanded to include everything from slippers to eyewear.



### CUSTOM SUITS

Shirley Tailor at the Shi Liu Pu Cloth Market (168 Dongmen Rd., Stall 216) offers a wide range of wools and cashmeres from England and Italy. Prices range from \$160 to \$400 per suit. Across the aisle, Shanghai Shirt (Stall 203) makes dress shirts for about \$20.



### SWAROVSKI SUNGLASSES

Chaireyess's Zhou Yuan is a promising up-and-coming eyewear designer—his frames are sold at 10 Corso Como. Choose from 40 colored frames, then add accents like Swarovski crystals and shell or lace. Prices range from \$260 to \$380. Open by appointment only; info@chaireyess.com.



### ART DECO CHAIRS

At Shanghai Table Co. (57 Yongkang Rd.), furniture designers Sherrian Liang and Christopher Curran create bespoke oak and walnut chairs in Shanghai's 1930s Art Deco style. Prices range from \$650 to \$800 for a custom-made piece.



### FASHION DRESSES

Bring an image of your favorite drapery designer dress to Stall 300 at the South Bund Fabric Market (399 Lujiabang Rd.), where Xu Hong Ya has a large stock of Chinese silks and silk-cotton blends. Her tailors can copy it perfectly for around \$70.



### SMOKING SLIPPERS

Milan-born Charles Philip makes his slippers by hand at his former French Concession cobbler studio (101 Gao An Rd.). Custom options include canvas, wool, suede, leather, and pony-skin in a variety of prints and patterns. Men's shoes start at \$190; women's are slightly lower.

PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVE TACON (FLASK); CYNTHIA YONGFOO ELITE; AKA NIAU/ANDREA JONES ROOY (THE PEARL); PETER STUCKINGS/GETTY IMAGES (CUSTOM SUITS); THE3FOODKETEERS (LING LONG FAN); WHITNEY LAWSON/GALLERY STOCK (HOTEL PULU); ANDREW ROWAT (PEACE HOTEL); COURTESY OF THE VENDORS (REMAINING)