

T+L PICKS

## SECRET SIPS

Forget neon signage—the coolest cocktail bars in these towns are also the most covert.

By Diana Hubbell

## SHANGHAI

**The Library Distillery**

You need a password to join the elite here. Call to procure one, then slip past the bookshelves, behind a secret door and into the leather-and-wood den of Rick Starr for craft tipples and city views. High-rollers shell out for rare bottles from last century, each sold with an antique book printed the same year. *6F 133 Yuanmingyuan Lu, Huangpu Dist.*; 86-21/6361-1086; *light-n-salt.com*; drinks for two RMB180.

## SINGAPORE

**Operation Dagger**

Look for the rectangle and inverted crown symbol scrawled on a wall to enter to this slick speakeasy with a 6,000-lightbulb art installation. Luke Whearty's inventive concoctions are made with in-house infusions redistilled and packaged in unbranded bottles. Trust the bartender: get a six-drink set served with on-trend treats like kale crisps. *7 Ann Siang Hill*; 65/9296-4704; drinks for two S\$50.

## TOKYO

**Bar High Five**

You may have to fight for one of the few seats at Ginza's legendary hideaway, but master mixologist Hidetsugu Ueno's potent elixirs are more than worth it. Frills are nonexistent and the décor verges on austere, keeping the focus squarely on the perfectly balanced drinks with hand-carved ice. *4F No. 26 Polestar Bldg., 7-2-14 Ginza, Chuo*; 81-3/3571-5815; *barhighfive.com*; drinks for two ¥4,300.

## KUALA LUMPUR

**Omakase + Appreciate**

Sequestered in an anonymous office building behind a stern NO ADMITTANCE sign, this shoe box-size saloon offers a constantly rotating list of libations, including unconventional sips like the Last Ride Home, with sesame-infused Glenfiddich, ristretto liqueur, and espresso. *GF Bangunan Ming Annexe; 9 Jln. Ampang*; 60-3/2022-2238; *fb.com/OmakaseAppreciate*; drinks for two RM80. +