

that's SHANGHAI // Food & Drink

NEW BARS & CLUBS By Clare Slipper



Justin Ventura

Luxe



Taking pride of place atop Xintiandi is Luxe – a feverishly chic boutique lounge which exudes glamour right down to the velvet-cushioned bathroom stall

doors. A few too many suited staff members line the lively bar area, which at times suggests a confused attempt at elegance. Nevertheless, they are friendly and keen to cater to your every need: always at the ready with a light for your cigarette, or a torch to show you the drinks menu.

The latter boasts an impressive array of classic as well as innovative cocktails. Concoctions like the Super Model cocktail are aesthetically striking (with names like these they had better be), garnished with fruits in weird and wonderful shapes, plus a rose petal or two. But all the frilly decoration still doesn't justify a price tag of RMB80. Nor can we justify spending this much on a mojito that tastes suspiciously of Sprite. Tables must be reserved in advance, and enjoying a night in the luxury of their large VIP area will set you back an eye-watering RMB3,000. So, unless you're a member of Shanghai's real-fur-and-Chanel-clad flash pack, you might not be able to languish in Luxe's comfortable elegance for long. But don't let that deter you; you'll probably be on your feet most of the time here anyway. The infectious basslines booming from some choice R&B tracks are sure to lure you onto the dance floor. All in all, Luxe offers an enjoyable night of decent drinks, good music and, more importantly, great people-watching. But as with any bar in Xintiandi, come ready to spend.

// Daily 8.30am-4am. All cards. 5F, South Block, Xintiandi. (6336 0000) 新天地南里广场7号楼5楼