

Best of the

LONDON HAPPY HOURS



Get more pint for your pound! SARAH HUSSELMANN hunted down five of the best 2-for-1 drinks specials

1 Sugar Cane

247-249
Lavender Hill,
SW11 1 JW

This Tiki cocktail bar is a short walk from Clapham Junction station. Think hula skirts, palm fronds and wicker stools. Wednesdays are Big Kahuna Rum Nights: rum cocktails and doubles cost £4.

Happy Hours on Thursdays (5-8pm), Fridays and Saturdays (4-7pm) include £4 cocktails and £1 off all bottled beers.

Head Barman, Justin Knox from Queenstown, New Zealand, says, "It's a fun bar with a good vibe. Cocktails are made from fresh ingredients." We're glad to hear it, Justin.

Book a booth and expect a retro playlist, with lots of Club Tropicana.

www.thesugarcane.co.uk

2 Abacus

24 Cornhill
Street, EC3V 3ND

Just next to Bank station, Abacus is not for the faint-hearted. In fact, it's more for the steel-stomached.

During Happy Hour (5-9pm, Monday to Friday), 50% off all drinks means cocktails are slashed to a mere £3.

The bar has two floors and a dance floor, which, by the end of the night, is overflowing with people making some rather interesting shapes... Great for an easy pick-up. Not so great for the morning after.

Open 'til 3am on Thursdays and Fridays. Pay to get in after 10pm on Thursdays (£5) and Fridays (£10).

www.abacusbar.co.uk

3 Dirty Martini

11/12 Russell
Street, WC2B 5HZ

This stylish, New-York-inspired basement bar on the Covent Garden piazza plays funky house tunes on weekend nights.

You can pre-book a booth, but there aren't very many and the dance floor, which merges into the bar queue, will be bursting at its sweaty seams.

Alas, Happy Hour beckons and if you get there early enough you'll nab a good spot. Monday to Thursday (5-9pm) and Friday to Saturday (5-8pm), all bottles of wine are half price, there's £10 off champagne, and martinis go for £4.

www.dirtymartini.uk.com

4 Be at One Bar

4 Clapham Common,
SW4 7AA

Martin Taylor, "all round superstar" of the Wandsworth Demons, is a local of this, the eighth bar in the reliable Be At One chain. His verdict? "Friendly staff, good prices, cosy place and great atmosphere."

Happy Hours are Sunday to Wednesday, 5-8pm and Thursday to Saturday, 5-7pm. Sunday and Wednesday are 'Bartenders' Choice' nights when selected cocktails are two-for-one. The average price of a cocktail is £6.50.

Look out for other Be At One bars in Soho, Covent Garden, Hammersmith, Balham, Putney and Battersea.

www.beatone.co.uk

5 The Moon Under Water

28 Leicester Square,
WC2H 7LE

It's Happy Hour all the time at Wetherspoon's, and The Moon Under Water is a good example of a pub from this brewery.

Don't expect loads of charm and atmosphere, but your pounds will go further. The Monday Club offers pints and bottles for £2 and a beer-and-burger combo for £5. Bottles of Becks are £1.80 all the time, bottles of wine start at £7, and cocktail pitchers (four shots with mixers) are £8.

Other Wetherspoon's pubs include The Knights Templar in Holborn (an old bank with more character) and The Montagu Pyke on Charing Cross Road.

www.jdwetherspoon.co.uk/pubs

