



A good watering hole must possess certain characteristics - I'll start with a pet peeve of mine.

Order a cocktail - what do you get? Sugar water, frozen water, fizzy colored water, and a few drops of random indiscernible spirit...

Best profit point ever.

But can they make a real cocktail?



Y bar understands that a cocktail mixology is a serious art form, and a science, too - it should arrive elegant, and its fragrance must catch the nose, then please the lips, and tease the palate, and finally render sighs of satisfaction.

Y bar gets it, and they have invested expertise behind the counter - where it counts.

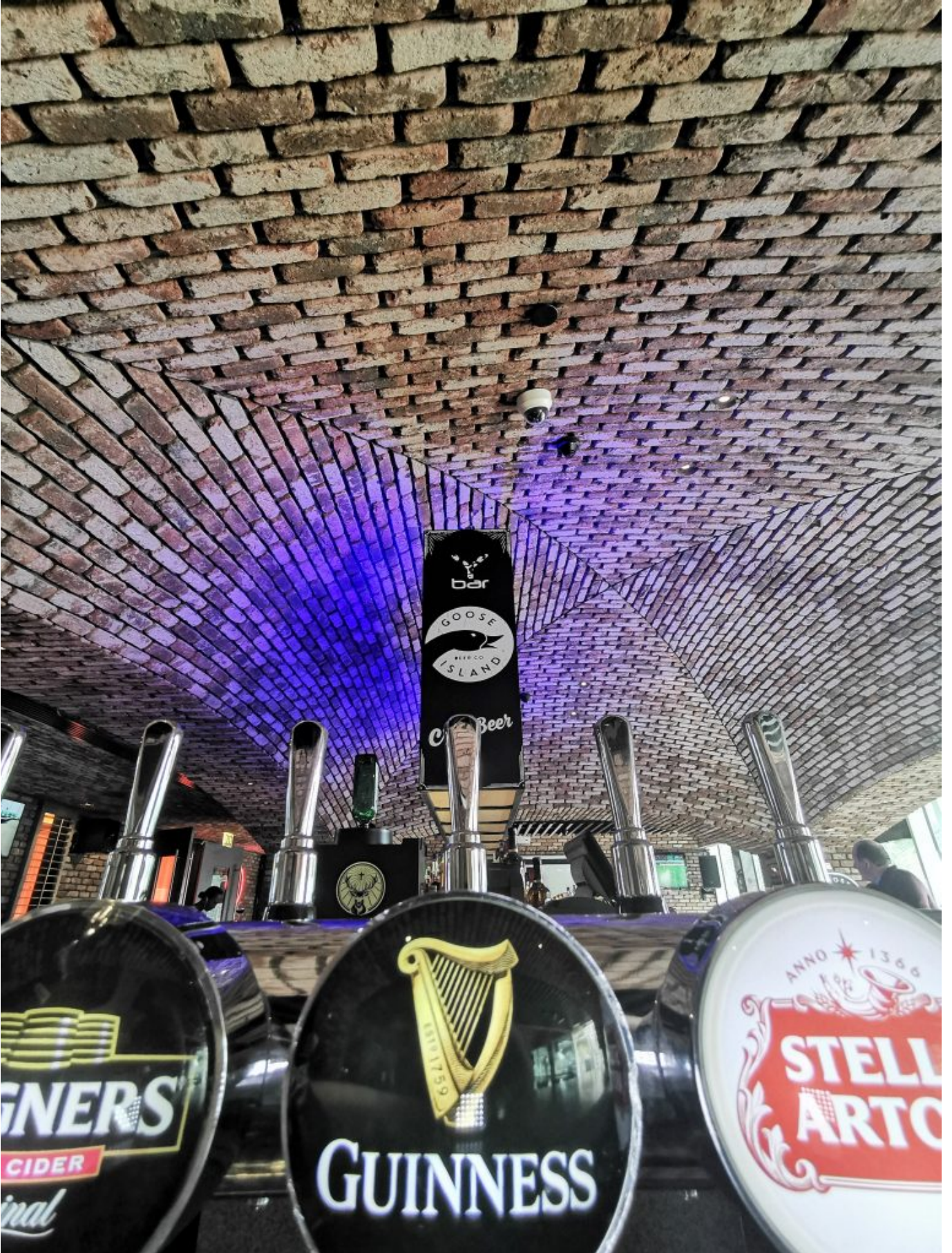
Any yahoo can slosh lemon-flavored pop over ice, throw in a sprig of tatty mint, and call it a mojito. And this cavalier attitude is the death of many so-called bars.

In fact, a bar must be professional - even the center of a hotel, not a token appendix, tucked away behind the stairs.

Y bar sits center-stage, proudly.

And rightly so. Y bar brings character, and presence.

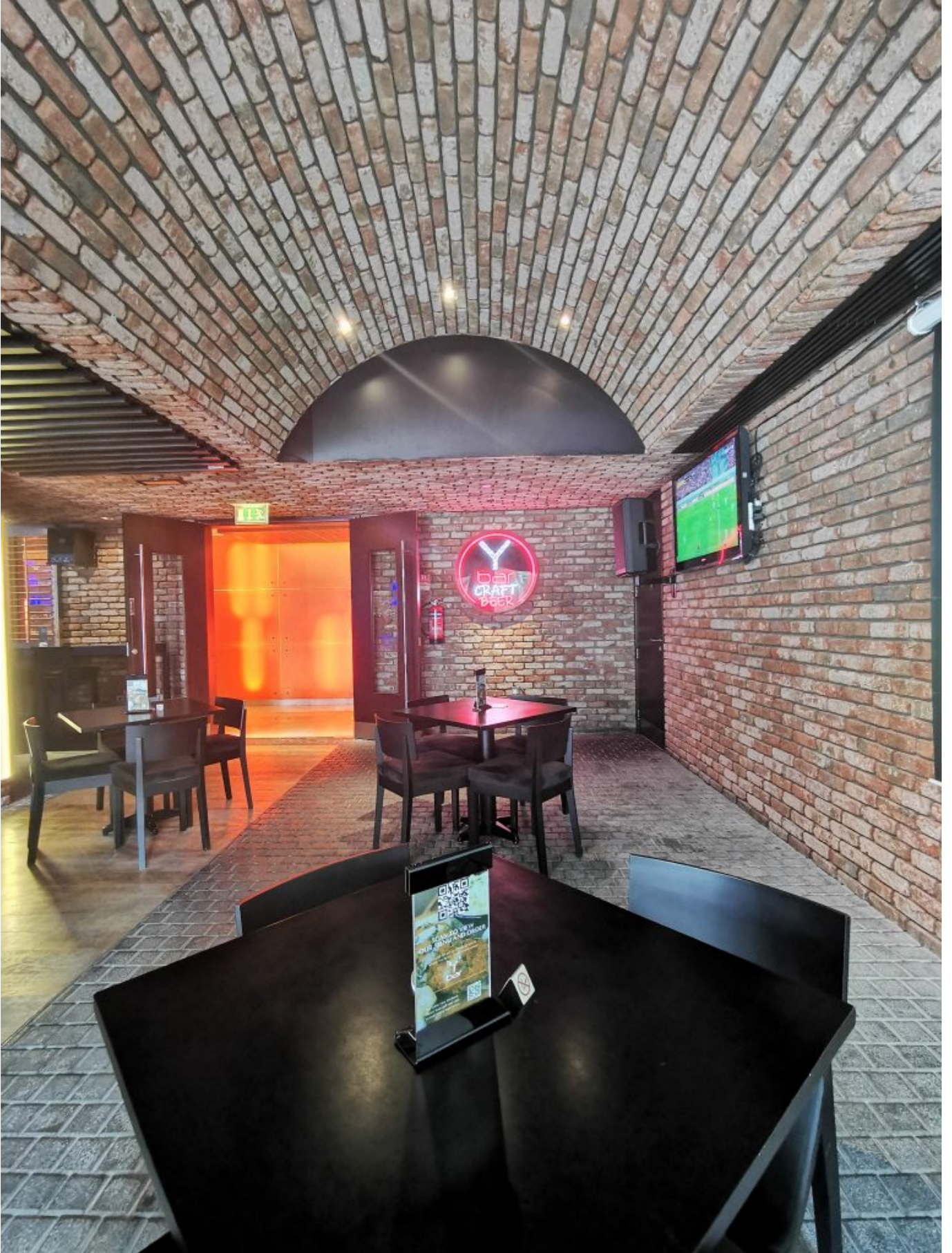
You enter and...





Weekend at Y Bar, Yas Island Rotana in Abu Dhabi

Oh! Somebody's put some thought and effort into building this tavern!





Weekend at Y Bar, Yas Island Rotana in Abu Dhabi

Wow... this surely isn't a spare room, turned into a bar just for the sake of having one.

In fact, it reminds me of European locales with centenary pedigrees! Or Lower East Manhattan, New York City; Alto Palermo in Buenos Aires, Argentina; or now indeed Yas Island Abu Dhabi!

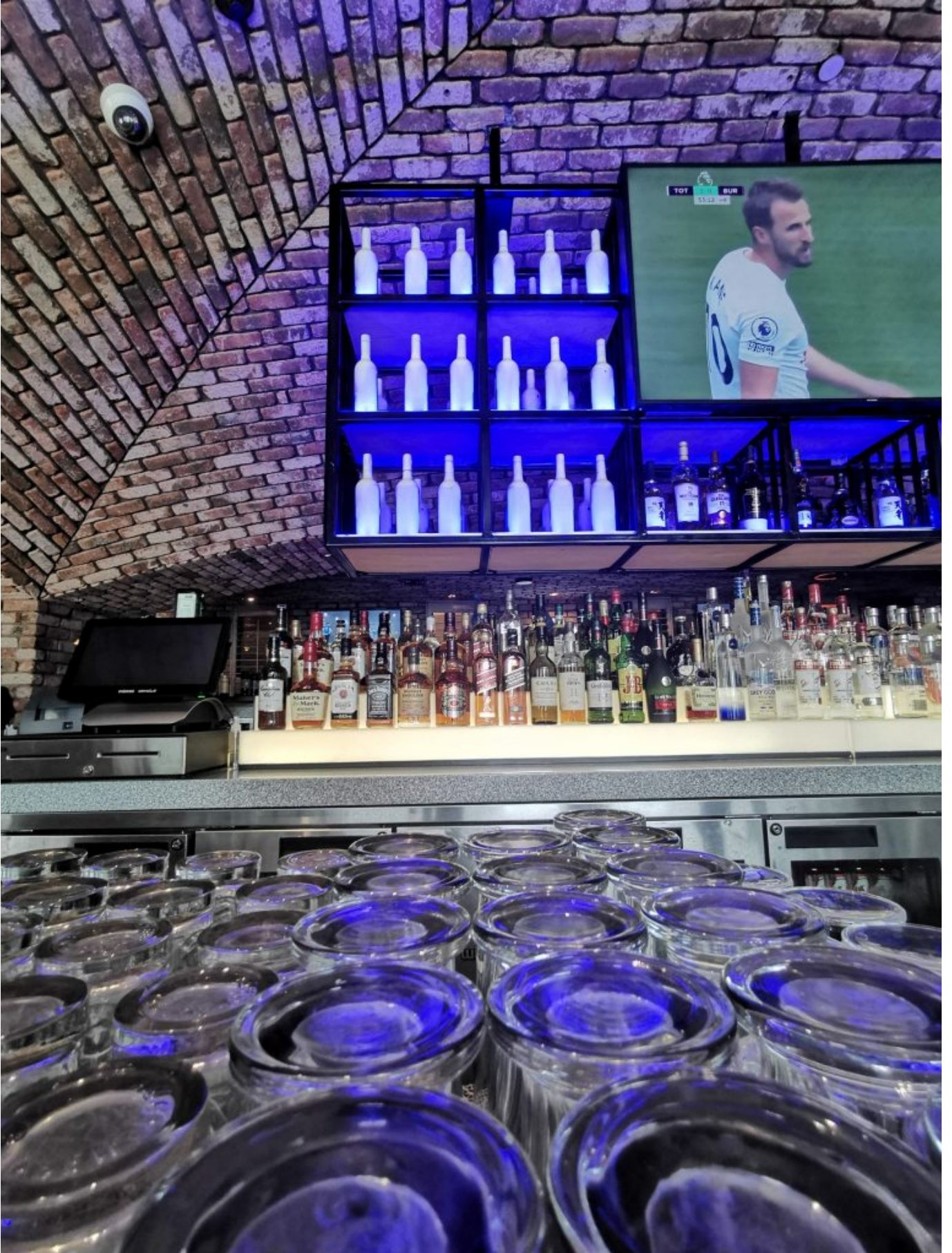
...where the thinkers would meet over the years, and discuss the affairs of the world, over drinks and coffee and cigars.





Weekend at Y Bar, Yas Island Rotana in Abu Dhabi

At the same time, Y bar isn't stuffy and frozen in time, as some of the afore-mentioned public houses have become - Y bar is dynamic, progressive, making full use of natural light, and brandishing full-wall entertainment, broadcasting the best live sports events from all over the globe.





And a good, faithful bar must serve a savvy selection of drinks - an inescapable requirement.

Selection of fresh draft and bottled beer, of course - but also be available to cater to whatever whim and desire on the spur of the moment. Tickle my fancy.

Yes sir, says Y bar.



Y bar CRAFT BEER

- | | | |
|---|--|-------|
|  | KIRIN ICHIBAN
ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST UNIQUE PREMIUM BEERS. THE FIRST PRESS METHOD USES ONLY THE MOST FLAVORFUL PORTION OF THE FINEST INGREDIENTS. | 40AED |
|  | HOP HOUSE 13
A DELICIOUS DOUBLE HOPPED LAGER, BREWED WITH IRISH BARLEY AND AROMATIC HOPS. | 40AED |
|  | ROGUE DEAD GUY ALE
A DEEP HOUNGEM IN COLOR WITH A MALTY AROMA. RICH HEARTY FLAVOR AND A WELL BALANCED FINISH. | 40AED |
|  | ANCHOR STEAM
THE DEEP AMBER COLOR, THE THICK CREAMY HEAD, AND THE RICH FLAVOR ALL TESTIFY TO OUR TRADITIONAL BREWING METHODS. | 50AED |
|  | ERDINGER WEISS
A CLASSIC GERMAN WHEAT BEER, OR WEISSBEER WITH AN IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF AROMAS AND FLAVOURS. | 50AED |
|  | ERDINGER DUNKEL
A RICH AND SMOOTH WHEAT BEER, SPECIALITY FROM ERDINGER WEISSBRÄU. | 50AED |
|  | KRONENBOURG 1664
A PLEASURE IN ITS LIGHT LEMON AND HERBAL FLAVOURS FROM THE ALSACE HOPS AND CLEAN BITTERSWEET FINISH. | 40AED |
|  | HOBGOBLIN IPA
THIS COLLECTION OF OLD & NEW WORLD HOPS PROVIDES AN EXPLOSION OF TROPICAL AROMA & A MICHY BITTERNESS. | 60AED |
|  | GOOSE ISLAND IPA
WE'VE TAKEN THE TRADITIONAL ENGLISH STALE AND CREATED OUR OWN FULLER FLAVORED IPA WITH BRIGHT CITRUS AROMAS AND A BOLD HOP FINISH. | 50AED |
|  | KRONENBOURG BLANC
THIS WHEAT BEER RECIPE WAS DEVELOPED IN WHICH TRADITIONAL INGREDIENTS WERE BALANCED WITH SPICY CORIANDER AND A HINT OF ORANGE PEEL GIVING ITS SURPRISINGLY SMOOTH AND HIGHLY REFRESHING TASTE. | 40AED |
|  | BROOKLYN LAGER
A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF THE PRE-PROHIBITION FAVORITE VIENNA LAGER STALE, DISPLAYING A FIRM MALT CENTER SUPPORTED BY REFRESHING BITTERNESS AND A FLORAL DRUHHOPPED AROMA. | 50AED |



Okay, wow - but what if my palate is looking for something different, something traditional?

Yes sir, says Y bar!

For instance, how about a stiff G&T?





Oh my!

But can one smoke?

Yes sir, says Y bar, not getting tired of my questions...

Smoking section both indoors, far away from the non-smokers; and there's a massive outdoor terrace for the win!

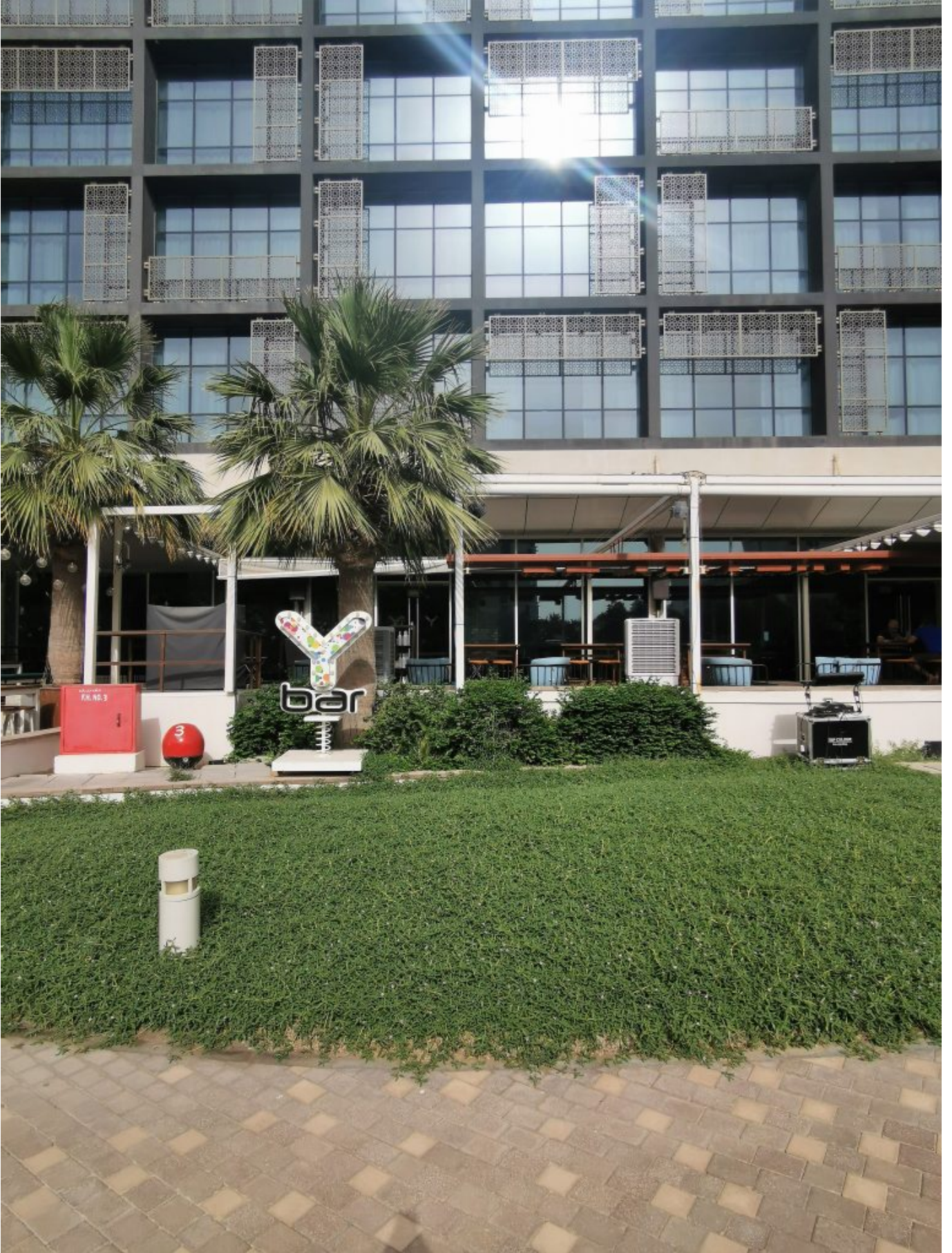






Weekend at Y Bar, Yas Island Rotana in Abu Dhabi

In fact, the terrace runs almost the entire front garden of the Yas Island Rotana!





Weekend at Y Bar, Yas Island Rotana in Abu Dhabi

So, with a wide variety of seating options, from enjoying a boisterous football game with the mates to a quiet chat in a private nook, Y bar takes on different guises depending on your need and preference.

But last, and not least: do you serve honestly delicious food?

Y bar just laughs and presents the menu...

Absolutely fantastic!





Finger-dipping Nachos - a masterpiece, generous on the trimmings, a mountain of curly tortilla chips, and you can taste the freshness of the ingredients. There was no cutting of corners here!

Look closer...





Weekend at Y Bar, Yas Island Rotana in Abu Dhabi

Best nachos I've had the pleasure of tasting in a very long time!

And with that portion size served, I didn't mind sharing at all.

But that was just the appetizer... Y bar is just getting warmed-up!



Three slider sisters - fish, chicken, and beef!

Each with their own dressing, and surrounded by fantastic fries: light and crunchy on the outside, very flavorsome, and delightfully soft on the inside.





Another one for the history books - and for Instagram!

Until the next dish arrives...

Incredibly, Y bar serves sausage by the meter - and I must come back to try that!

But for us, "just" an All-American Hot Dog!





Weekend at Y Bar, Yas Island Rotana in Abu Dhabi

Great quality grilled veal bratwurst, and again just top-choice, top-notch ingredients, preparation, and presentation - it was super delicious!





Weekend at Y Bar, Yas Island Rotana in Abu Dhabi

Same story from the Orient, with a good serving of egg noodles with shrimps, bok choy, not-too-much chili, sesame, and soy - an excellent counterweight to the European and American options.





Weekend at Y Bar, Yas Island Rotana in Abu Dhabi

And much more, of course - so that Y bar stands on its own as a restaurant, a destination for a lovely meal out.

All the way to dessert!



Overall, Y bar is a bar with a Master Degree - professional and knowledgeable, where drinks are taken seriously; but at the same time the ambience is fun and lively, with extraordinary interior decor - perhaps the best part is the care and attention to serving top quality food and drinks. This is a bar to call your own and become a regular.

