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Bar Guide**

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Stiff drinks near ice rinks

Warm up
après-skate
at these spots

BY CRISTINA VELOCCI
Metromix.com

While hitting one of the city's ice skating rinks can be both a cherished winter pastime and a classic New York moment, it can also be a total drag, thanks to the icy cold, thickets of out-of-towners and the chance of falling on your assets. One way to dull the pain is by warming up and winding down at these spots within walking distance of the rinks.

**THE POND
AT BRYANT PARK**
(Fifth Ave., btwn 40th
and 42nd sts.)

Celsius: A Canadian Lounge

Northeast corner of The Pond,
212-661-6640 ext. 107

Overlooking Bryant Park's ice skating rink, this two-story lounge boasts great views of the park as well as an outdoor terrace with heated lamps to keep you toasty. The indoor, glass-enclosed space takes on a Canadian theme, best exemplified by The Canadian (\$13), a toasty tippie of Canadian whiskey, warm spiced cider, lemon and mint.



Franklin Park's indoor annex features a working fireplace and serves hot toddies and Irish coffees. (DAN SAGARIN)

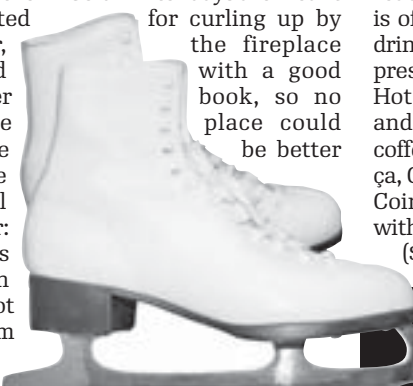
Blue Bar
59 W. 44th St. at Sixth Ave.,
212-840-6800

Post-skating, hit this popular pre-theater spot in the historic Algonquin Hotel, made famous as the meeting ground of noted writers Dorothy Parker, Robert Benchley and Harold Ross, who later went on to create The New Yorker. Though the bar has its own separate street entrance, it is still undeniably a hotel bar: Brass bells on the tables allow you to summon your drink, like the hot cider spiked with rum (\$15), from the near-

est bow-tied blue-vested server.

Bookmarks Lounge
299 Madison Ave., btwn 41st
and 42nd sts., 212-204-5498

Cold winter days are meant for curling up by the fireplace with a good book, so no place could be better



sued for defrosting than the Library Hotel's rooftop bar. While you could conceivably grab a classic from the shelf and settle in by the hearth, the only reading you need do here is off the best-seller list of drinks that are "hot off the press." They range from a Hot Apple Toddy to Café and Cachaça, made with coffee bean-infused cachaça, Coole Swan liqueur and Cointreau and garnished with freshly grated nutmeg (\$13.50 each).

**KATE WOLLMAN
RINK**
(Near Parkside/
Ocean Ave. entrance of
Prospect Park, Brooklyn)

Cocoa Bar

228 Seventh Ave., btwn
Third and Fourth sts., Park
Slope, 718-499-4080

By day, this sweet little Park Slope shop offers Belgian chocolates, homemade pastries and free Wi-Fi. By night, the comfy space transforms into a dessert and wine lounge, where the vino pairs well with decadent pralines and truffles. For a sophisticated take on the de rigueur post-skating hot chocolate, warm up to a White Out or French Hot Chocolate (\$12 each), which adds port wine and white or dark chocolate, respectively, to the mix.

Franklin Park

618 Saint Johns Pl., btwn
Classon and Franklin
aves., Crown Heights

This chilled-out beer garden from the brains behind Southpaw, the popular

music venue in Park Slope, gets winter-ready with a new 2,000-square-foot indoor annex, complete with a second bar and working fireplace. The bar has also begun serving hot toddies and Irish coffees for \$6 apiece, but be sure to hit the ATM beforehand — it's cash-only.

**TRUMP WOLLMAN
SKATING RINK**
(Central Park at 63rd St.)

Club Macanudo

26 E. 63rd St. at Madison
Ave., 212-752-8200

Fires aren't the only things being stoked at this cigar-centric bar that's one of the few establishments in the city to get an exemption from Mayor Bloomberg's ban on smoking. Macanudo carries an extensive selection of scotches, whiskey and bourbon, which employees will happily slip into your coffee any way you like it, from Swiss coffee with Godiva liqueur to American coffee with bourbon (\$12 to \$18).

Park Avenue Winter
100 E. 63rd St. at Park Ave.,
212-644-1900

When this seasonal restaurant does its quarterly quick-change into a winter menu and decor, beat frostbite with a selection of "Hibernation Beers," such as Smuttynose Winter Ale and Victory Storm King Stout (\$7 each), that are toasty in body and flavor, rather than temperature. For oenophiles, there's also a list of wines inspired by the winter season.

Robert Graham

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