

panoramic Memphis

Head downtown to the **hotel rooftops** for sweeping views of the city skyline and the mighty Mississippi River. Whether you are looking for a quiet romantic spot, a chance to have a martini and enjoy some good music or an all out rockin' party, there is a rooftop waiting for you.

BY JENNIFER CHANDLER • PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY ADKINS

“Best View in Town” Sunset Atop the Madison

“Sophisticated yet funky” are the adjectives the regulars use to perfectly describe Sunset Atop the Madison. Many consider the sweeping view of the Mississippi River from the rooftop terrace garden of the Madison Hotel the best river view in town. On Thursdays evenings from April through September, it is the place to be to enjoy hot music, cool drinks and great company.

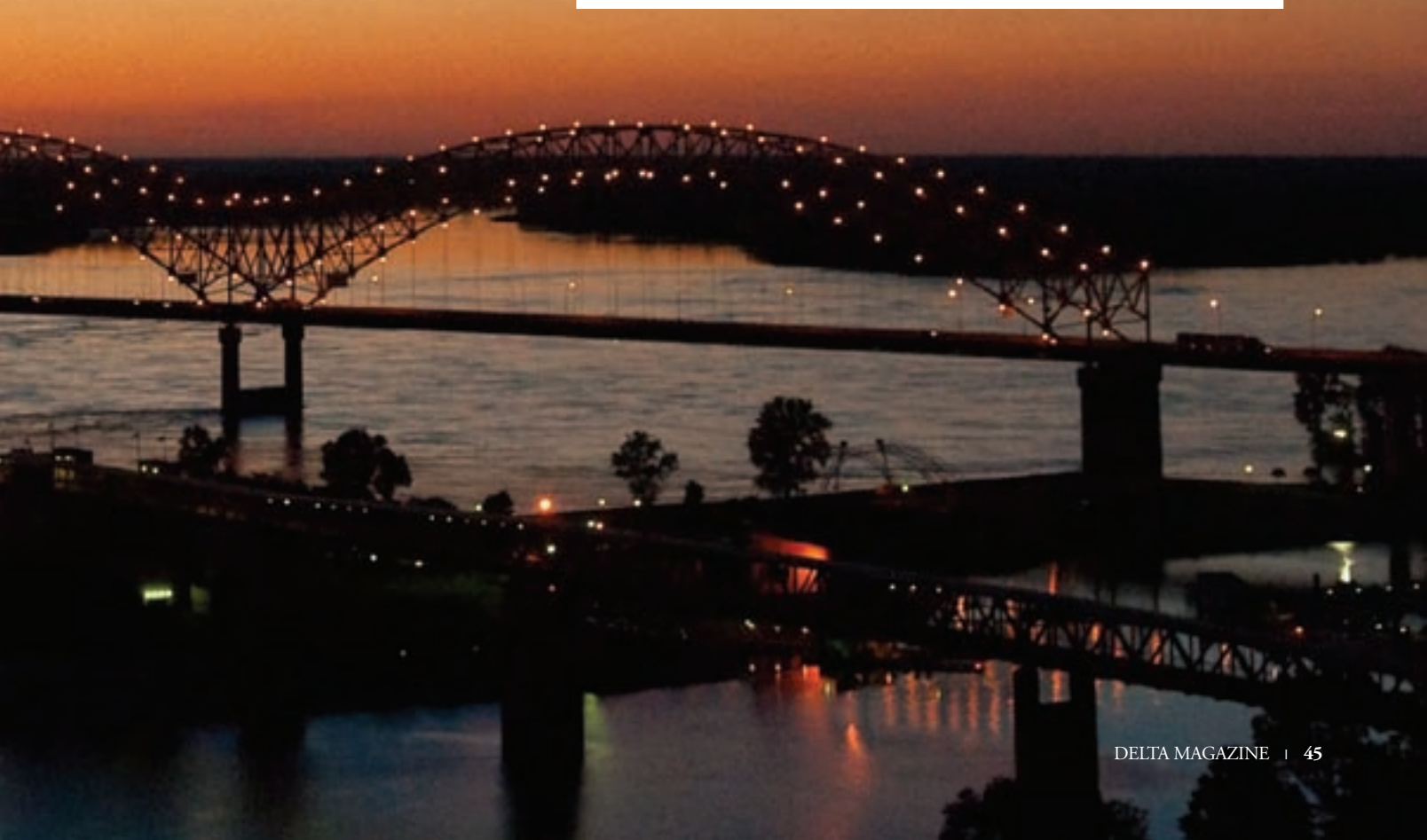
From 5:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., some of Memphis’s finest musicians entertain the crowd with popular jazz, blues, R&B and rockabilly. Offering a wide variety of acts

throughout the rooftop season, the Madison books such local favorites as Joyce Cobb, Elmo & The Shades, Brian “Breeze” Cayolle and the Daddy Mack Blues Band.

Known as a boutique luxury hotel, the Madison Hotel continues that tradition with its rooftop series. Attention to every detail is taken into account. There is ample seating at linen-covered tables and an attentive wait staff ensures your glass is always filled. In addition to its signature martinis, the Madison’s rooftop menu features “small plates” of tapas such as roasted blue prawns, kobe beef sliders and gorgonzola stuffed dates.



Cool jazz and a tapas menu attracts the after-work crowd at Sunset Atop the Madison at the Madison Hotel.





Downtown Memphis skyline view near sunset from the Madison Hotel rooftop.



At The Peabody, music lovers come out in droves for the renowned local and national entertainment acts.

One of the many regulars, Jim Beck, sums up why Sunset Atop the Madison has been a popular summer tradition for the past seven years. “Do you need to ask...this is the best event in town.” He then jokingly adds, “I also like it because it’s the one rooftop party where I drink out of a glass—not plastic!”

Raisin’ the Roof **The Peabody Hotel’s Rooftop Parties**

Originally called Sunset Serenades, Peabody Rooftop Parties began when the Plantation Roof and adjoining Skyway opened in 1938. Much about this Thursday evening tradition has changed since the Big Band supper club era but what has remained constant is its popularity.

“You know that The Peabody’s rooftop season has begun because it’s a rockin’ party you can hear from the street,” says DJ Mark Anderson.

Drawing more than 1,000 people weekly, The Peabody Hotel’s Rooftop Parties take place on the hotel’s roof from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. every Thursday night from April through July.

“Great weather, great music and a place that knows how to supply good food and drinks...it’s the perfect combo,” Anderson

says is the key to The Peabody Rooftop Parties’ longstanding success. As he scans the packed crowd he also points out, “This is a place where Memphis comes together. There is a good cross section of the city here each week.”

And week after week, a standing-room only crowd comes out to enjoy the view, the weather and live music. “The Peabody Rooftop Party is a big, festive, see-and-be-seen throw-down, so we book the region’s top party bands and touring rock acts,” explains Rollin Riggs of Resource Entertainment Group, the company that produces the weekly party. Bands such as Dr. Zarr’s Amazing Funk Monster, Lord T & Eloise, Shinedown, The Ugli Stick, The Venus Mission and Cowboy Mouth have all been featured acts.

Occasionally, The Peabody even hosts a performance from a national touring act. In recent years, national acts like Sister Hazel, Dishwalla, Better Than Ezra, Vertical Horizon, Ingram Hill and Shawn Mullins have performed.

“During the summer months, this is without a doubt the best party in Memphis,” exclaims party-goer Torrey Shoaff over the noise of the rockin’ and rolling crowd.



Not your grandmother's Peabody Skyway evening: The hotel's Rooftop Parties are now an all-out throwdown.



Things move at a little slower pace at The River Inn Rooftop Terrace in Harbor Town, just like the amazing river itself.



On the Rooftop Terrace menu, the jumbo lump crabmeat with potato croquettes are divine.

Easy Going Evening The River Inn Rooftop Terrace

Looking for a more intimate spot to enjoy the sunset? Then The River Inn's Rooftop Terrace is your rooftop destination. Located just steps from the Mississippi River in the Harbor Town community, The River Inn Rooftop Terrace not only overlooks the majestic river but also offers a panorama view of Downtown Memphis.

Perhaps the crown jewel of The River Inn, this charming spot is accented by gaslit lanterns, decorative wrought iron, blooming window boxes and colorful red umbrellas.

Open to the public for cocktails and appetizers daily from 4:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the Rooftop Terrace menu features specialty martinis, an excellent wine selection and appetizers such as a woodsmoked salmon "BLT," jumbo lump crab with lemon potato croquettes and fire roasted red pepper hummus.

For a romantic evening, a quiet night out with friends or a pre-dinner gathering, there's no better place to enjoy hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and the pink and blue hues of a spectacular Mississippi River sunset. ☪