



STUNNING: The view from the Sky Lounge

Height of style

IT'S not often a bar gives you a new perspective on your home city – but that's exactly what the fabby new Sky Lounge does.

This hot new hangout on the 13th floor of the new waterside City Inn at Granary Wharf has amazing panoramic views across Leeds.

It sneaked in under the radar and quietly started trading just over a week ago, without the usual huge "hey Leeds, we're here" hype – although rumour has it there will be a fancy opening bash in September so there's still that to look forward to. Of course, yours truly had to be one of the first to check it out, with a glamorous girl pal on my arm, and I know it won't be long before we're back again.

It's hard to think of a better way to celebrate that Friday feeling than by sipping Bellinis on its open-air terrace, gazing out over the waterways and rooftops of the city. Plus you don't have to deal with all the riff-raff staggering past, like you would sitting outside any other city-

centre bar. And being that high up, away from the crowds – nearer the clouds, just automatically gives you that VIP feeling.

You don't realise how high up you are until you look down at Leeds railway station and it looks like a little Hornby train set.

And for those with a similar sense of direction to me – i.e. non-existent – you can have hours of fun trying to work out which building is which, or admire the roof-top features you had no idea existed – like the glass domes on the roof of Temple Mill – where, legend has it, sheep used to graze.

Manchester's skybar at the Hilton Hotel – Cloud 23 – is such a hit there's a constant queue outside the lift to get up there on Friday and Saturday nights and I reckon our Sky Lounge will end up the same.

I remember when hotel bars were shabby affairs for desperate guests only, not anymore.

Sky Lounge is the coolest new kid on the block.



COOL: Inside the Sky Lounge