How to Watch the Fourth of July Fireworks in Los Angeles This Year

The first thing you need to know about July 4 in Los Angeles is that there’s not just one celebration: there are over a dozen. Unlike New York City, which anchors its Independence Day festivities around a single fireworks event, practically every neighborhood in LA has a different spin on the national holiday. Here are a few ways to celebrate, whether you’re after a romantic picnic under the stars or a ritzy perch from a sky-high city rooftop bar.

In summer, West Hollywood is considered the staycation capital of Los Angeles. It has top-notch dining, wonderful small parks and a hotel scene that can compete with anything in Beverly Hills or downtown LA. One hotel, in particular, makes the case for spending Independence Day on the Strip. The London West Hollywood is built on a hill, with the rest of Los Angeles falling at its feet. As such, the rooms (especially the south-facing ones) offer up some pretty spellbinding views. Directly facing the hotel is Century City, but then as your eye drifts farther, you can spot Santa Monica, Mid-City, downtown LA — heck, on a clear day, it’s even possible to glimpse Catalina Island in the distance. On July 4, the hotel’s rooftop bar, Boxwood on the Roof gets busy with folks trying to catch a front row seat for the fireworks. The way to do it, if you’re not a guest, is to ride the elevator up to Boxwood around 5:00 pm. Once you’re there, get into the spirit of things with a Blueberry vodka cocktail, and enjoy the live band that sets up on Wednesday while waiting for the fireworks to start.