

Live Music



SWEETWATER SALOON

This legendary club has a strong following because it features an impossible combination: an intimate setting (95 seats) and world class musicians. Elvis Costello, John Lee Hooker, Robert Cray and Bonnie Raitt have all graced the tiny stage. The club books an eclectic blend of artists from folk to blues to soul, and the downtown Mill Valley location is ideal for visitors. 153 Throckmorton Ave. Mill Valley (415) 388-2820. • sweetwatersaloon.com

2AM CLUB

It was in this small bar in Mill Valley in 1983, that Huey Lewis and the News shot the cover for their biggest selling album, "Sports." The "2AM Club" on Miller Avenue (also known as "The Deuce") was the hometown hangout for Huey and the band in the '80s. 382 Miller Ave at Montford, Mill Valley, (415) 388-6036

THE NO NAME

A saloon on Sausalito's main street, the no name is known for having music every night of the week. On Sunday afternoons, Mel Sharpe and his Big Money Band swing with a Dixieland groove that is contagious. During the week, the bar features jazz and blues, with no cover charge. The bartenders also know how to mix a potent potable, to add to your evening. 757 Bridgeway (415) 332-1392.

NEW GEORGE'S NIGHTCLUB

The largest of the music venues listed here, New George's in San Rafael is more of a traditional nightclub. Though most of the acts booked are rock, it is not unheard of to find some blues of Van Morrison's talented daughter, Shana, singing there. The crowd tends to be younger and louder. 842 4th St. San Rafael (415) 457-1515.

FOURTH ST. TAVERN

Just down the street from New George's is the 4th St. Tavern, a classy dive. The tavern is first and foremost a bar, but it also has a very consistent musical calendar featuring the best blues players in the Bay Area. If your idea of fun is having a drink, listening to the blues and cutting a rug, this is your place. Fair warning: The dance floor is the size of a throw rug, with 100 people trying to get on it. 711 4th St. San Rafael (415) 454-4044.

RANCHO NICASIO

Owned by Bob Brown (manager of Huey Lewis and the News), this roadhouse located in rural Novato, is host to some very hot blues and barbecues during the spring and summer. Brown knows music, and the players range from Novato's own Joe Louis Walker and Roy Rodgers to Brown's wife, Texas blues diva Angela Strehli. The atmosphere is laid back and the crowd tends to be a little older. On the Town Square (415) 662-2219. • ranchonicasio.com

Notes

Let us know your off-the-beaten path recommendations so we may share them with other Joie de Vivre Hotels guests! Please return your suggestions to the front desk staff.
