

Insider's Guide to Silicon Valley Nightlife



Downtown San Jose

AGENDA

A plush supper club that aims to serve popular cuisine and music medium to the downtown mix. The club is in full swing, booking an eclectic, cosmopolitan array of jazz, lounge and roots music upstairs and serving California cuisine on the main floor.

399 S. First Street in San Jose (408) 380-3042

TOON'S

San Jose State student hangout with live rock, disco and funk starting at 9:30 p.m. The crowds are prompt, enticed by \$1 drink specials. The best in local cover bands bang the heads of college students looking to forget their last midterm. Occasionally books great Sunday night local shows. Live '80s and '90s rock. DJ dancing nightly; Sunday is the Disco Booty Ball. Hand-poured shots; microbrews on tap, wines by the glass, premium tequilas, small-batch bourbon, single-malt scotch. Live DJ, dance floor, jukebox. Cover: after 9pm.

52 E. Santa Clara Street in San Jose, (408) 292-7464

SMOKE TIKI LOUNGE

Smoke Tiki Lounge is the best San Jose nightclub hotspot for that never-ending island beach party. The outdoor patio at San Jose's Smoke Tiki Lounge is the largest in downtown and comes complete with its own bar, semi-private cabanas available to reserve ala tropical VIP style with bottle service, a stage for live music and the hottest San Jose nightlife scene. Combining Tiki gods and some of San Jose's hottest bartenders, Smoke Tiki Lounge is an awesomely hip and retro place to party. 152 Post Street, San Jose, CA, 95113. (408) 292-4266

VOODOO LOUNGE

VooDoo furnishes a first class night club featuring 70's, 80's, 90's and the most up-to-date dance hits. 14 South Second Street in Downtown San Jose (408) 286-8636

FAHRENHEIT ULTRA LOUNGE AND RESTAURANT

Fire-blowing bartenders, super-chill lounge areas, ideal mingling music and gorgeous patrons make Fahrenheit one of Silicon Valley's top ultra lounges. For partiers who prefer proper accommodations, VIP reservations are highly recommended and groups of 6 or more should consider a private table for bottle service. 99 East San Fernando Street, San Jose, CA 95113. (408) 998-9998

THE VAULT

Resurrected from the foundation of an old savings and loan bank, San Jose's Vault Ultra Lounge boasts two separate VIP areas with available bottle service, three bars with stylish drink slingers pouring premium cocktails and this San Jose ultra lounge also sports an impressive slate of top Bay Area DJ talent spinning dance, funk, hip-hop, soul, R&B, old school and virtually anything else that gets heads bobbing. 81 W. Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95113. (408) 298-1112

THE LOFT BAR AND BISTRO

Loft Bar and Bistro in San Jose is arguably the chicest testament to hip urban dining in downtown San Jose serving outstanding contemporary American and California fusion cuisine in a space that can only be described as stunning. The Loft Bar and Bistro sports two levels, each with its own bar, lounges and dining areas, and the coolest outdoor patio of any downtown San Jose restaurant. The rooftop deck sits high above Second Street, away from the noise and the traffic, offering patrons a super chill place to kick back with friends for A-list drinking and dining in downtown San Jose. 90 S. Second Street, San Jose, CA 95113. (408) 291-0677

SAN JOSE BAR AND GRILL

The official San Jose Bar and Grill in downtown is a great place for business travelers and San Jose locals to gather to socialize. With plenty of beers on draft and tasty bar food available, San Jose Bar and Grill is the ideal location to watch sporting events with friends. Located near the corner of San Fernando Street and Second Street in Downtown San Jose, San Jose Bar and Grill is in the center of it all. 85 South Second Street, San Jose, CA 95113. (408) 286-2397

GORDON BIRSCH

This is a great restaurant and micro brewery. A good place to go and watch a game with friends. The full bar is spacious and has separate tables from the dining area. Gordon Biersch also has a comfortable outside patio dining where they occasionally host events and concerts. 33 E. San Fernando Street, San Jose, CA 95113. (408) 294-6785

A PERFECT FINISH

One of the newest bars in downtown San Jose. This is an amazing wine bar with a wide selection of Wines, Ports, Liquor and Beer. A swanky place to visit, there are tables that surround couches and relaxing arm chairs to sit back, relax and enjoy a glass or two of wine. If you like a nice after dinner drink they have an excellent selection of Scotch and Tequila. If you are looking for desert in any location in downtown this place is worth the travel to. They also host live Jazz every Friday and special tasting events every Thursday. Check out their website for upcoming events and a tasting schedule. 55 South First Street, San Jose, CA, 95113. (408) 288-6000 apfwinebar.com

SPLASH

Located on the site of one of San Jose's oldest buildings that actually once was a house of ill repute, Splash has succeeded in becoming the South Bay's premier gay nightclub. In addition to providing 2 dance floors, 2 bars, and an outdoor smoking patio, Splash hosts a variety of dance nights featuring house, hip-hop, high energy, latin, and 80's nostalgia DJ's complete with a Video DJ system. Splash serves up excellent drinks and has a better than average happy hour nightly until 10 pm. 65 Post Street, San Jose, CA 95113. (408) 993-0861

SANTA ROW

Santa Row is full of fine restaurants and upscale Bars, here are a few of our recommendations. Everything listed is within walking and centralized parking. 3055 Olin Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128. (408) 551-4611

VILLAGE CALIFORNIA BISTRO AND WINE BAR

VINTAGE WINE MERCHANTS – wine store and tastings

SINO - Asian

ROSIE McCANN'S IRISH PUB AND RESTAURANT - Pub

LEFT BANK – French, excellent Martinis

EL JARDIN TEQUILA BAR AND RESTAURANT – Outside Tequila bar

V BAR – Ultra Lounge

Los Gatos

#1 BROADWAY

The Premier Blues, R&B, and Motown Dance Club of Los Gatos and the South Bay area. The club features a great atmosphere, drink specials, billiards, and live entertainment 5 nights a week. 102 South Santa Cruz Boulevard in Los Gatos (408) 354-4303

MOUNTAIN CHARLIES

The jumpiest spot in Los Gatos houses local modern-rock cover bands. Hand-poured shots; wines by the glass, premium tequila, small-batch bourbon, single-malt scotch. Dance floor, video games. Smoking/cigars. 15 N. Santa Cruz Avenue in Los Gatos (408) 395-8880

CARRY NATION'S

This mainstay of the Los Gatos bar scene has a little something for everyone and gets it done every night of the week. Carrie Nation's is small and extremely popular with the twenty and thirty year old crowds and has a back room with TVs where you can catch all your sports. This local Los Gatos bar is a perennial favorite for the big game and the perfect place for a before or after dinner drink. 8 North Santa Cruz Avenue, Los Gatos, CA. (408) 354-1771

C.B. HANNEGAN'S

Home to the largest St. Patrick's Day celebration in the area, seriously when that magical March date rolls around if you're not there at like 6am go someplace else, C.B. Hannegan's also gets pretty rocking the other 364 days of the year. Regulars describe this Los Gatos local bar as a home away from home and, if you've even been there once, you know exactly what they're talking about. The outdoor patio comes with a fireplace for those chilly evenings. 208 Bachman Avenue, Los Gatos, CA. (408) 395-1233

DOUBLE D'S SPORTS BAR AND GRILL

A sports haven in Los Gatos, Double D's Sports Grille will happily put on any game you want, seriously even if you don't know what channel it's on, the bartenders will find it faster than it takes you to drink half of your first beer. For this reason, also for their awesome grill works and semi-separate arcade room, Double D's is one of our favorite sports bars to camp out on a Saturday or Sunday scoping the sports action thankfully beamed in from across the nation... and beyond. 354 N. Santa Cruz Avenue, Los Gatos, CA. (408) 395-6882

THE BLACK WATCH

Los Gatos' venerable dive bar, the Black Watch has that low key hipster vibe that belongs in a more urban setting, but that certainly doesn't mean that we're not thankful it's here. You can toss a few rounds of darts or just kick back with friends and you're likely to hear the loud rock and roll music coming out of the Black Watch before you step inside to the dimly lit interior to take part in their signature drink special: a pint glass of kamikazes of all different flavors! 141 1/2 N. Santa Cruz Avenue, Los Gatos, CA. (408) 354-2200

Sunnyvale

CLUB SAVOY

Club Savoy is the hottest women's club in the valley and has great DJ's playing great tracks. The club features 2 large dance floors with state of the art sound and lighting, 2 full bars, 12 beers on tap, and two pool tables. 3546 Flora Vista Avenue in San Jose (408) 244-6909

FIREHOUSE GRILL AND BREWERY

A great restaurant and micro brewery. Whether you are looking for a drink or a decent steak this is a great place to go. They also have TV's on if you are looking to watch a game or relax. 111 S. Murphy Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. (408) 773-9500

SCRUFFY MURPHY'S IRISH PUB

Irish ex-pats and anyone who enjoys a good old Irish party pack into Scruffy Murphy's in Sunnyvale or a heaping dose of the Emerald Isle. Scruffy Murphy's sports 13 beers on tap and serves up all of the heart stopping cuisine classics that you'd expect from a local Irish bar. Be sure to check them out on Wednesdays which is the designated Irish night—complete with live music sometimes—and the real party here is on the weekends when a DJ pumps up the crowd on the dance floor. 187 S. Murphy Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. (408) 735-7394

SHOOTERS BAR AND GRILL

Shooters is everything that you'd expect from a little Sunnyvale neighborhood sports bar with 11 beers on tap and plenty of other distractions like pool, darts and video games to occupy your brain when the game isn't on their big screen TV. Also, this no frills local Sunnyvale bar plays host to karaoke on Thursdays so you can kick start your weekend by drunkenly belting out "I Will Survive" to all your adoring fans. 769 N. Mathilda Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. (408) 738-2787

ROOSTER T FEATHERS

This local comedy club and bar is a 21 and up place, so leave the kids at home. They host a few special nights including College night on Thursday and Military night on Sunday, where admission is free with appropriate ID. They do recommend that you make a reservation ahead of time and there is also a 2 drink minimum on all shows. Reservations can also be made online at their website. 157 West El Camino Real, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. (408) 736-0921 roostertfeathers.com/index.htm

Campbell

BOSWELL'S

Modern-rock and Top-40 bands alternate at this venerable live venue located between a cafe and a movie theater. Hand-poured shots; microbrew on tap, wines by the glass, premium tequila, small-batch bourbon, single-malt scotch. The dance floor is always live. 1875 S. Bascom Ave, Campbell (408) 371-4404

CARDIFF LOUNGE

The Cardiff Lounge existed as a scruffy neighborhood bar until it got a modern makeover and cemented itself as the new Campbell hotspot for chilling out and dancing to slick DJ stylings. Even though we loved this local bar in its previous incarnation of Cardiff, as the new hipster spot is, indeed, a welcoming addition to Campbell's growing nightclub scene. 260 E. Campbell Avenue, Campbell, CA. (408) 374-7477

KATIE BLOOM'S

As an age old drinking rule, you must have fun at Irish bars, and Katie Bloom's in the heart of Old Town Campbell, is certainly no exception because this local bar gets extremely packed nearly every night of the week with drinkers of all ages raising their pints to the sounds of some of Ireland's favorite sons and daughters. You can also grab some down home authentic Irish food stuffs from their grill because Katie Bloom's is owned and operated by Irish lads and lassies who've decided to reside in California even though they still refer to Ireland as home. 369 E. Campbell Avenue, Campbell, CA. (408) 379-9687

KING'S HEAD PUB AND RESTAURANT

A favorite local bar to Anglophiles in Campbell and across the South Bay, the King's Head Pub & Restaurant serves up authentic British grub and pints in their rustic two-story interior. Also, the King's Head sports the largest back patio of any bar in Campbell complete with a pool table for some al fresco billiards and large tables that can accommodate all of your drinking buddies. Live music is also on the bill at this local bar featuring original and cover bands rocking out many nights of the week. 201 Orchard City Drive, Campbell, CA. (408) 871-2499

Mountain View

TIED HOUSE CAFÉ AND BREWERY

The Tied House Café and Brewery in Mountain View takes full advantage of the microbrew craze and packages it with good food in a killer setting to keep the local bar crawlers and diners coming back. Usually they offer at least eight house beers on tap and one of 12 specialty brews that are dependent on the season—you have to swill some of the Spring Maibock which is the stuff of Mountain View bar legend—all of which you can enjoy inside or on the beer garden patio. 954 Villa Street, Mountain View, CA. (650) 965-2739

BUDDHA LOUNGE

You can kick back and meditate over a few cocktails provided by the friendly bartenders at the Buddha Lounge in Mountain View at one of their two bars that are better than sitting on the stone under the waterfall other buddhas had to compete with. The hip loungey vibe goes perfectly with the small, cozy space and the tiny dance floor in the back comes complete with neon-lit cubes for ladies to dance on. As a local dance club and hipster lounge, the Buddha Lounge finally fills that niche in Mountain View that clubbers have been yearning for. 251 Castro Street, Mountain View, CA. (650) 965-7665

MOLLY MAGEE'S

On tap Irish beer flows at Molly Magee's in Mountain View as freely as the good times at this local bar fave. There's a pool table and TVs to provide distractions during the week, but those are completely kicked aside on the weekends when Molly Magee's gets to be a down right raucous party scene. 241 Castro Street, Mountain View, CA. (650) 961-0108

OFFICE BAR

Definitely on our dive bar crawl list, just the excuse factor of the name alone does it, the Office Bar in Mountain View has those quirky touches that you just can't find at your cookie-cutter bars that are popping up everywhere, like the supreme lack of windows so prying eyes can't see in and the time you've been camped on the bar stool gets blissfully blurred, or the full suit of armor standing guard over the liquor. Four nights a week, the Office Bar plays host to the local lung monkeys for some belt it out loud karaoke and if you're not into this wholly embarrassing, but totally fun phenomenon this local Mountain View bar also has pool, darts and pinball. 820 El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA. (650) 969-2098

