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Sunset
doesn't
just end
the day
here.
It starts
the fun!

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Opposite: Proof Bar, Santa Ana
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Live Music

Coach House ►► The longtime success of this venue is all the more remarkable when you consider its location in the middle of a business park about 100 yards from the 5 Freeway. An eclectic mix of acts performs nightly: roots rockers Los Lobos, blues legend Buddy Guy, singer-songwriter Todd Rundgren, metal act Dokken, Celtic band Solas, and comedian Paula Poundstone. Skip the food; go for the music. // 33157 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, 949-496-8930, www.thecoachhouse.com.

Continental Room ►► Old isn't usually synonymous with hip, but this long cavern, decked out in red velvet, retains a retro feel. Established as a nightclub in 1925, it caters as much to the nearby Cal Staters as it does to curious locals. Live rock, funk, soul, ska, reggae, electronica, and rockabilly share the stage with Elvis impersonators and burlesque. Sounds like a party. // 115 W. Santa Fe Ave., Fullerton, 714-526-4529, www.myspace.com/thecontinentalroom.

The Grove of Anaheim ►► What the Grove frequently lacks in quality acoustics, it makes up for in spaciousness; quality rock, R&B, jazz, and country artists; and top comedians. A better-than-average dinner is available during many shows for those who can afford the additional \$20 to \$50; the place used to be a dinner theater, after all. // 2200 E. Katella Ave., Anaheim, 714-712-2700, www.thegroveofanaheim.com.

Gypsy Lounge ►► Don't let the nearby strip joint throw you. The lounge brings live acoustic and electric sounds quite comfortably to the minimal world with an open dance floor and cushy lounge seating. Hunger pangs? Try the nearby Inka Grill or Peppino's before the show. \$5 to \$8 admission. // 23600 Rockfield Blvd. #3A, Lake Forest, 949-206-9990, www.thegypsylounge.com.

Harp Inn ►► Has it been 20 years? This tavern remains the standard-bearer of local Irish pubs, with a well-lubricated delivery system for live Celtic music and fresh pints of Guinness. Affordable and tasty sandwiches, salads and traditional pub fare such as bangers and mash, or shepherd's pie, served from lunch to dinner, mean a good time for all. // 130 E. 17th St., Costa Mesa, 949-646-8855, www.harpinn.com.

House of Blues ►► Call it corporate if you like, but it's O.C.'s premier club. The "Mouse House"—in Downtown Disney and part of a national chain—hosts spirited shows from some of the world's best bands. A great combo of proximity, good bookings, and an easy-to-access bar make it hard to beat. Comfort food for dinner: New York or rib-eye steaks, teri-



DETROIT BAR ►► Arguably the most ambitious nightclub in the county, this self-described "Silver Lake-meets-O.C." spot hosts live indie rock, comedy, and DJs spinning electronica, hip hop, and underground. Perfect if you're looking to hang out, shoot some pool, and sip martinis in what could pass for an Ikea showroom. // 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, 949-642-0600, www.detroitbar.com.

yaki salmon, or meatloaf. // 1530 S. Disneyland Drive, Anaheim, 714-778-BLUE (2583), www.houseofblues.com/venues/clubvenues/anaheim.

Nadine's Irish Mist ►► The refurbished Mist, owned and named after Ulster pop star Nadine Coyle, offers a combination of beach scenery and Irish pub. Comedy and karaoke during the week, and live Celtic music on the weekends keep things hopping. Beware the inebriated sing-alongs. // 16655 Pacific Coast Highway, Sunset Beach, 562-592-7000, www.nadinesirishmist.com.

OC Tavern ►► Cool, comfortable, and sooo San Clemente. Local live-music lovers get their fill of a variety of acts most any night. Country, salsa, electronica, '80s, and classic rock all get their day—or night. A tasty menu of burgers, salads, pizza, and pasta for lunch; dinner is ready after 4. // 2369 S. El Camino Real, San Clemente, 949-542-8877, www.octavern.com.

in-law. The minikitchen turns out hot snacks to soak up the vino, from truffle-battered popcorn to rib sliders. Open until 8 Sunday through Tuesday, 10 Wednesday through Saturday. // 16635 Pacific Coast Highway, Sunset Beach, 866-375-2749, www.brix4wine.com.

MAWL ►► The name of this spot tucked in an unlikely location is an acronym for "Music, Art, Wine, and Love." The mostly middle-aged, already coupled clientele probably finds love at home in clean pajamas after flossing their teeth. Their sense of adventure lies in discovering new wines. Two tastings, with a reserve option and artisanal cheese sampling, begin at 4 on Friday and noon on Saturday. Open until 9 nightly; closed Sunday. // 12752 Valley View St., Garden Grove, 714-893-7000, www.mawlwine.com.

The Twisted Vine ►► This pretty wine bar in Fullerton's SoCo district has it all, from intriguing flights to romantic décor with dark woods, exposed brick, and candlelight. And the menu is wine-friendly. Pair whites with delights such as baked brie, and pinot noir or dry rosé with a puddinglike "cheese-cake" with strawberry sauce and graham cracker crumbles. On date night, order fondue for two and a fruit-bomb cabernet. Microbrews for the infidels. Last call usually at 12:30 or 1 nightly. Kitchen open until an hour before the



THE GALAXY ►► Closed for a year because the owner lost his lease, this venue's return from the dead in March was great news to music fans. The club picked up where it left off as a regular stop for top rock, reggae, hip hop, jazz, country, and blues acts with a dance floor that gets you close to your favorite bands—including Huntington Beach's Franki Doll & the Broken Toys, above. Artists often stick around to meet fans and sign autographs. Typical nightclub fare, so if you must eat, try the nachos. // 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, 714-957-0600, www.galaxytheater.com.

Wine Bars

Brix ►► The wine bar for baby boomers, its nondécor looks like it was done by an aging hippie. Live, low-key music at tastings; watch for an occasional guest appearance by guitarist Robby Armstrong, a.k.a. Cameron Diaz's brother-

THE GALAXY PHOTOGRAPH BY ROGER KRUEGER; DETROIT BAR PHOTOGRAPH BY SHAUNT GHARIBIAN



Bistango ➤ On Saturday nights, an array of overdressed forty- to sixtysomething guys 'n' gals dance the night away to Ron Kobayashi and his trio, who play everything from Latin jazz to creaky '70s R&B. Expect martinis, scotch on the rocks, cleavage, cologne, and plenty of middle-aged mischief. Music starts at 8. // 19100 Von Karman Ave., Irvine, 949-752-5222, www.bistango.com.

Duke's Place ➤ A must-stop spot for fans of the late John Wayne, this favorite haunt of the Mariner's Mile crowd has pianist Mark LeBrun and a singer Wednesday, a trio plus a singer Friday, and quartet Saturday. Attracts a senior set of expert ballroom dancers; try to keep up with them and *you* may break a hip. No cover, \$20 minimum per person. Drinks are \$1 more during entertainment. Music starts at 7:30 on Wednesday, 8 on Friday and Saturday. Kitchen stays open until 10. // Balboa Bay Club & Resort, 1221 W. Coast Highway, Newport Beach, 949-645-5000, www.balboabayclub.com.

Nieuport 17 ➤ Adored by date-nighters seeking a retro scene, as well as jazz fans, this clubby old standby serves '60s snacks—steak tartare, shrimp scampi—with cocktails to match. Swirl that whipped-cream topper into a frozen pink squirrel or breathe the heady fumes of a whiskey-soaked Rob Roy. Silky smooth singer Chuck Ousley and two sidemen dish up straight-ahead standards. Points for hospitality: Ousley greets every customer. Jazz starts about 7 on Friday and Saturday. Kitchen is open until 10 Sunday through Thursday, 11 on Friday and Saturday. No cover. // 13051 Newport Ave., Tustin, 714-731-5130.

Samueli Theater ➤ Orange County Performing Arts Center management smartly extracted most of the jazz series from the mammoth auditorium and moved it first to Founders Hall and now to the Samueli Theater, with the venue set up cabaret-style for cocktail service. The classiest acts, from discoveries Eldar and Esperanza Spalding, to legends such as Toots Thielemans, play to the most polite audience ever. No loud, sloppy drunk will ever ruin the show. // 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa, 714-556-ARTS, www.ocpac.org.

Spaghetini ➤ For a little dinner with your jazz, Spaghetini is made to order. The club books interesting acts such as saxman Eric Marienthal and studio legend Lenny Castro. The kitchen keeps the wood-fired pizza, pasta, steaks, and seafood coming. Jazz Wednesday through Sunday, cover varies, start times range from 6:30 to 8. Kitchen closes at 9 Sunday through Tuesday, 9:30 Wednesday, and at 10 Thursday through Saturday. // 3005 Old Ranch Parkway, Seal Beach, 562-596-2199, www.spaghetini.com.

bar closes. // 127 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, 714-871-1200, www.twistedvinewines.com.

Vine ➤ Vine offers the local gentry an Old World wine bar ambience as well as vinos from around the globe. The owners teach a friendly, informal \$40 wine class with food pairings at 7 on Wednesday nights. Kitchen closes at 10; lounge stays open until 11. Closed Sunday and Monday. // 211 N. El Camino Real, San Clemente, 949-361-2079, www.vine.sanclemente.com.

Wine Gallery ➤ Happy hour is so hot here that the tastings are almost beside the point. Best nights for wine aficionados are when vintners stop by: Get on the e-mail list and be part of the "in"crowd. Wine Gallery now has a kitchen so you can pair dishes with flights of wine. Open until 9 Monday through Wednesday, and until 10 Thursday through Saturday. // 2411 E. Coast Highway #250, Corona del Mar, 949-675-3410, www.cdmwinegallery.com.

Jazz Joints

Ambrosia ➤ Michael Harrah's plush restaurant is the closest Orange County comes to a '40s supper club. An exceptional menu by chef Michael Rossi is served while diners listen to jazz vocalists. Look for a roster of artists—which lately has included Gina Saputo, Rose Mallet, and Leslie Lewis—on Ambrosia's Web site. 6:30 to 9 Thursday through Saturday. No cover. // 801 N. Main St., Santa Ana, 714-550-0811, www.ocpavilion.com.

Teddy Bear Bouncers

The toughest part of the job is knowing how to be gentle



Name Big T

Establishment Café 360, Laguna Niguel

Stats 6-foot, 240 pounds, 73-inch reach

His Style "A good security guard reads his crowd. If I see any hard looks or attitude, I just make my presence known. It helps to be more of a friend, especially to people who are intoxicated, because they get very defensive very quickly. It's like talking to a child. You want to be warm and concerned about their well-being."



Name Blaze

Establishment Heat Ultra Lounge, Anaheim

Stats 6-foot-6, 250 pounds, 78-inch reach

His Style "I observe every customer, look for potentially problematic people. I remind them of the consequences of their actions; a lot of times people don't think that far ahead. ... When it comes to problems, I don't have many—this is Orange County, and I'm a 6-6 black guy."



Name Bear

Establishment Code, Newport Beach

Stats 6-foot-5, 340 pounds, 77-inch reach

His Style "Real bouncers don't sit around and watch 'Roadhouse' together. You provide a presence, but you also provide a service, to make sure everyone's playing well together. I like to smile, get patrons to feel comfortable. No one goes out to have a bad time; everyone just wants to have fun."

—Rose Flores Medlock



More Jazz Joints

Steamers ➤ Terence Love built this indie, now an O.C. institution for straight-ahead and Latin jazz. It's a no-ambience room, and reviews of the food are lukewarm, but who cares when the gin is cold and the jazz is hot? Poncho Sanchez and Francisco Aguabella play regular engagements, and the joint showcases unusual artists such as Slide Fx Trombone Tenth, and hosts special events such as Ragfest. Live music every night, usually 8 to midnight, with big bands on Monday, Dixie on Sunday. Cover charge Friday through Sunday. Kitchen open until 2. // 138 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, 714-871-8800, www.steamersjazz.com.

Thrills

Giant Paintball ➤ See if you can shoot each other in the dark at one of Giant Paintball's three urban-setting fields. Play 4 to 9 Friday, and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday; open from November through mid-April. Cost: \$25 all day, plus about \$20 equipment rental. Private groups should reserve in advance. Ages 10 to 17 require parental permission. Ask about monthly specials. // 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa (Gate 5), 877-442-6897, www.giantpaintball.com.



STRIKE ORANGE COUNTY ➤ Enjoy portobello mushroom sandwiches, artichoke dip, and watermelon martinis as you bowl on glow-in-the-dark lanes. It's an adult experience with the big-screen video wall and throbbing sound system. Eighteen and older only after 9. Open until at least 11 nightly, until 2 on Friday and Saturday. // The District at Tustin Legacy, 2405 Park Ave., Tustin, 714-258-2695, www.bowlmor.com.

Lobster diving ➤ Take a night dive and pull up live lobster at Laguna Sea Sports. First, get certified; then bring your dive light and follow an instructor to pull lobsters out of undersea caves during the Advanced Diving Course, or Night Diver Specialty Course. Cost: About \$300. Must also have fishing license and lobster card. Lobster season runs Oct. 3 through March 17. Take limit: seven per day. // 925 N. Coast Highway, Laguna Beach, 949-494-6965, www.lagunaseasports.com.

Starr Ranch ➤ Pick an evening this fall to accompany a biologist in search of nighttime critters—from screech owls to coyotes—at Starr Ranch. Spend an hour or two riding in the back of a flatbed truck to explore Bell Canyon on the 4,000-acre Audubon sanctuary next to Rancho Santa Margarita. Help with the Western Screech Owl Survey, or just enjoy stalking insects, frogs, owls, and coyotes. Minimum group of 15 on weekend nights, six on weeknights. Ages 7 and older, \$8 per person. // 949-858-0309, www.starranch.org.

Family Fun

Anaheim Ice ➤ The '70s-era roller-skating rink gets an update at Anaheim Ice's Rock-N-Skate. From 9:30 to 11:30 on Friday, skaters can circle the ice while music videos play on a 12-foot-screen. Admission is \$12, which includes skate rental; just make sure to bring your crush for a couples' skate to Taylor Swift's "Love Story." // 300 W. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, 714-535-7465, www.anaheimice.com.



NIGHT SURFING ➤ Want Orange County's best wave all to yourself? First, you need to be a strong surfer. Second, you need to be fearless, some might even say stupid. Since the rule of thumb is to get out of the water by dusk to avoid sharks, surfing in the dark is even more perilous. Still stoked? Pick a cloudless night with a full moon and hike down to Lowers at Trestles in San Onofre State Park and Beach. Sick!

Barnes & Noble ➤ Put your wee one in cozy jammies and hop in the car. Free evening story times are offered at the Barnes & Noble bookstores in Huntington Beach (at 7 on Monday) and Orange (at 7 on Friday). The sessions also can include a craft or seasonal activity, such as a snowy night created with cotton balls. // In Bella Terra, 7881 Edinger Ave. #110, Huntington Beach, 714-897-8781; in Orange Town and Country, 791 S. Main St. #100, Orange, 714-558-0028; www.barnesandnoble.com.

Discovery Science Center ➤ During Midnight Madness Camp-Ins, kids have the run of the center after hours. Separate sleepovers are held for boys and girls, and are open to groups with a minimum of eight, plus chaperones—ideal for Scout troops or birthday parties. Cost is \$25 to \$35 per person and includes a nighttime snack, continental breakfast, and lots of time to try the center's hands-on exhibits. // 2500 N. Main St., Santa Ana, 714-913-5030, www.discoverycube.org.

Irvine Park ➤ The Christmas Train is our Polar Express—kids can travel to the North Pole and romp around a winter wonderland that includes cookie decorating and meet-and-greets with Santa and the missus. The one-third-scale train travels its brightly decorated route—complete with the Tunnel of Lights—from Nov. 27 through Dec. 23. Unlimited rides for an \$8 ticket. // 1 Irvine Park Road, Orange, 714-997-3968, www.irvineparkrailroad.com.

South Coast Repertory ➤ Plan a night out with your child at Theatre for Young Audiences programs. SCR offers three shows adapted from children's books for kids 4 and older. The musical "Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business" runs Nov. 6 through 22, followed by "A Wrinkle in Time" (Feb. 5 through 21), and "Ben and the Magic Paint-

brush" (May 21 through June 6). Performance times vary; tickets are \$17 to \$29. // 655 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa, 714-708-5555, www.scr.org.

Coffeehouses

Alta Coffee ➤ "No studying" and "no cell phones" rules ensure maximum relaxation at this coffeehouse. Self-proclaimed "love poet" Lee Mallory runs the intimate-yet-casual poetry nights (second Wednesday of the month; audience participation encouraged); other nights are given over to songwriters (Tuesday) and a range of music (Friday and Saturday). Bring your own mug and leave it behind for your next visit. Open until 11 Sunday through Thursday; midnight Friday and Saturday. // 506 31st St., Newport Beach, 949-675-0233.

The Gypsy Den ➤ "Garage-sale décor" sums up the interior of this coffeehouse, a spacious corner spot in Santa Ana's Arts District. Wall tapestries, mismatched mugs, and a veggie menu create a suitably Bohemian atmosphere for open mike on Monday and Thursday and acoustic music on Friday and Saturday. The Factory Readings (first Tuesday of the month), hosted by Lee Mallory, are long-running and legendary. Open until 9 on Sunday, 10 Monday through Wednesday, and 11 Thursday through Saturday. Kitchen closes half an hour before. // 125 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, 714-835-8840, www.gypsyden.com.

The Lost Bean ➤ The teas, the coffees—heck, even the water—are "organic." But there's not a whiff of smugness: The cheery staff whips up lattes, infusions, and hot chocolates for a student-heavy clientele. Live rock, acoustic, folk, or roots on Friday. Open until 6 on Sunday,

7 Monday through Saturday. // 13011 Newport Ave. #104, Tustin, 714-544-2584, www.thelostbean.com.

The Neighborhood Cup ➤ Loyal fans love this coffeehouse's commitment to the community, not to mention its comfy sofas and toothsome sweet treats. Live folk/rock/acoustic music starts at 8 on Saturday. Most Fridays feature swing dancing at 7:45, although the first of the month is open mike, starting at 7. Open until 5 on Sunday, 9:30 Monday through Thursday, and 11 on Friday and Saturday. // 1 Journey, Aliso Viejo, 949-716-5100, www.theneighborhoodcup.com.

The Ugly Mug ➤ Order your drinks at the counter, then proceed to the "living room" of this former home, kitted out with Elvis Presley and Rudolph Val-

entino posters, mirrors, and Tiffany-style lamps. The Wednesday night poetry readings, emceed by Ben Trigg and Steve Ramirez, draw enthusiastic amateurs, although the rows of chairs—not to mention the \$2 cover charge—are proof that it's serious business. Open until 11 Sunday through Thursday, midnight on Friday and Saturday. // 261 N. Glassell St., Orange, 714-997-5610, www.theuglymug.com.

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Drink Destinations

Cantina Lounge ➤ Cal Staters call this sports bar/Mexican restaurant home for its dancing and silly frat-house-style



DRINKS
COMMONWEALTH LOUNGE ➤ Imaginative cocktails such as a gin shakeup called the Dean Martini, and decadent foodie-magnet comfort dishes by chef Nick Phelps—braised short-ribs, sea bass—lounge lizards to this dark den filled with overstuffed furniture and garage-sale lamps. An anchor in Fullerton's SoCo district, it hops every night with live music, burlesque, and DJs starting at 8. Kitchen open until midnight Sunday through Thursday, 1 on Friday and Saturday. // 112 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, 714-525-8888, www.commonwealthlounge.com.

COMMONWEALTH LOUNGE PHOTOGRAPH BY DON WHITLOW; BOTTLE PHOTOGRAPHS BY JUSTIN PATRICK LONG

THE DRINKING MAN

Microbrew Smackdown

The *Orange Coast* staff spent a profoundly unproductive recent morning tasting some of the finest beers from O.C. microbreweries and brewpubs, which we recommend you enjoy in the evening. Some were a revelation. One made us wonder if soulless macrobrews are really such a bad thing.

Staff Favorite



BREWBAKERS MARK'S MÄRZEN

Brewbakers in Huntington Beach has a winner in this smooth beer with a sweet herbal flavor. Pair it with warm pretzels and a game. Märzen, by the way, is the traditional Bavarian beer of Oktoberfest. Because beer couldn't be brewed in the summer—this was before refrigeration and coolers on wheels—Märzen was made in March ("Märzen" in German) and cellared until October. Brewbakers rotates its 100 beers, but this one still should be available this month. www.brewbakers1.com.

LEFT COAST BREWING CO. HOP JUICE

If you like India Pale Ales, this golden-colored one's for you. Hop Juice, made by Left Coast Brewing Co. in San Clemente, hits the bitter nail on the head with strong, sharp flavors. Enjoy with a plate of spicy Thai food. Watch out though: At 9.4 percent alcohol, it could bite you back. www.leftcoastbrewing.com.



THE BRUERY BLACK ORCHARD

This ale from Placentia is without question the beer for wine drinkers. Dark, with a bubbly head, its flavors are tangy, with chocolate and coffee notes. Crack open a few of these champagne-sized bottles with your favorite Mexican mole. www.thebruery.com.



BREWBAKERS MEAD

This unexpected delight isn't exactly beer. Mead, or honey wine, is one of the oldest styles of fermented alcoholic beverages. It's light and sweet. Start or finish a meal with this one. Its fruity profile would be great with an *amuse bouche*, or a fluffy piece of angel food cake. www.brewbakers1.com.



BAYHAWK ALES CHOCOLATE PORTER

This dark porter from Irvine? Skip it! The extreme bitter flavor and long-lasting cough-syrup aftertaste make it tough to swallow. We opened a second bottle to make sure it wasn't from a bad batch. Both were undrinkable. www.bayhawkales.com.





Dance Clubs



Cougar den
Boob jobs



Sugar daddies
Lounge vibe



Good wine list
Buy dinner, pay no cover



Karaoke
Live music

CLUB M

680 S. Coast Highway,
Laguna Beach, 949-497-5646,
www.mosunclubm.com.

Vibrant Asian-themed décor with black lacquer and bamboo accents, glass paneling, and plush, red-velvet couch seating along the walls give Club M an upscale feel. So does being attached to Mo Sun, a sushi/sake bar. Hip hop and Top 40. Live music two or three nights each month. Dress fashionably. **\$10 cover.**



9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Mo Sun restaurant closes at 10:30 p.m.

CODE

4221 Dolphin Striker Way,
Newport Beach, 949-660-0888,
www.coderestaurant.com.

Sleek and polished without the pomposity—that's Code. Chocolate leather seats line the walls and high-tech projection screens flank the dance floor. VIP cabanas with bottle service. Persian cuisine. **No cover.**



11 a.m. to midnight Monday through Wednesday; 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday through Saturday. Dinner served until 10 p.m.

HENNESSEY'S

213 Ocean Ave., Laguna Beach,
949-494-2743,
www.hennesseystavern.com.

Come straight from the beach to this relaxed, low-key pub with wood floors and ceiling fans. DJs play '80s, rock, and house music. Pub grub served, from Irish nachos to chicken wings and spinach-artichoke dip. **No cover.**



10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday through Thursday; 8:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Kitchen open until 11 p.m. Thursday, 1 a.m. weekends.

ILOUNGE

18912 MacArthur Blvd.,
Irvine, 714-594-5932,
www.iloungeoc.com.

The rich décor, VIP rooms with bottle service and plush seating, enormous outdoor patio, extensive cocktail menu, and spacious dance floor make it the haunt of choice for those in their 20s and 30s. Lounge nights. **No cover.**



10 p.m. to midnight Monday through Wednesday; 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday through Saturday. Dinner served 4:30 to 10 p.m.

IN CAHOOTS

1401 S. Lemon St.,
Fullerton, 714-441-1666.

It's not just a country-music club, it's a place to get free lessons on popular dances when you arrive early on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday—on other nights you just don't get the real vibe. Over-18 night on Wednesday. Cheap drinks. **No cover.**



5 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday and Saturday. Kitchen open until 2 a.m.

LANDMARK

3520 E. Coast Highway,
Corona del Mar, 949-675-5556,
www.landmarknewport.com.

The outside patio buzzes with professional types in their 20s and 30s flirting, talking business, or throwing back Bellinitinis. DJs play Top 40 and '80s music. Bottle service. Expect to wait if you arrive after 9. Dancing Thursday through Saturday. Live music on Wednesday. **No cover.**



5 p.m. to midnight Monday through Wednesday; 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday; 5 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Saturday. Dinner served until 11 p.m.

RED (shown above)

4647 MacArthur Blvd.,
Newport Beach, 800-500-0000,
www.rednightclub.com.

Newport's crowd with the flash and the cash party at Red, with its three bars, VIP bottle service, large patio with its own bar and DJ, and notable guest DJs such as Paul Oakenfold and Timbaland. Dollar drinks from 9 to 10. Bypass the lines by dining in Ten or Panini next door, and they'll wave the **\$20 cover.**



9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday through Saturday.

SANDPIPER

1183 S. Coast Highway,
Laguna Beach, 949-494-4694.

Lovingly called the "Dirty Bird" by regulars, the Sandpiper offers live music nightly, from rock to reggae. The vibe is friendly and the place is filled with locals. **\$5 cover after 9 p.m.**



1 p.m. to 2 a.m. daily.

SHARK CLUB

841 Baker St., Costa Mesa,
714-751-4405,
www.sharkclub.com.

A 2,000-gallon shark tank, with feedings at midnight on Saturday, has earned this club its name. The interior is a mix of jewel tones and industrial décor. Two dance floors, three bottle-service lounges, indoor and outdoor fireplaces. DJs play mash up, hip hop, Top 40, and electro. Over-18 night on Thursday. Dress to impress and prepare for a **\$10 to \$20 cover charge.**



8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday and Saturday; noon to 2 p.m. Friday. Restaurant serves California cuisine until 1 a.m.

SUTRA

1870 Harbor Blvd.,
Costa Mesa, 949-722-7103,
www.sutrabar.com.

A huge Vegas-style club with modern décor, a mirrored bar, and projection screen accents on the ceiling and walls. Three bars, two dance floors, VIP table service inside or on the large patio. Dance to electro, Top 40, and mash up. Unless you're on the guest list, which can be accessed on its Web site, you'll pay a **\$20 cover.**



8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday through Saturday. Restaurant; kitchen closes at 11 p.m.—*Erin Stafford*

More Drink Destinations

shots—the \$8 Scooby Snack is a sticky mix of Midori, Malibu rum, pineapple juice, and whipped cream. The kitchen is open until 10 nightly, cranking out sloppy bar snacks and entrées good enough for when Mom and Dad treat for dinner. Drinks are \$1 more when the club scene kicks in. Wednesday through Saturday, dancing to DJs or live bands after 10; comedy night is 8 to 10 Sunday. // 2736 E. Nutwood Ave., Fullerton, 714-879-8094, www.cantinalounge.com.

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar ➤ Perfect for people-watching and a knockout for luxury car-spotting. The valet line is packed with limited-edition Aston Martins, Lamborghinis, and Ferraris. Prime time for this bar is happy hour Wednesday through Friday. The White Cosmo is one of the most popular cocktails here, but who can pass up Napa's best by the glass from a list of 100, even when the per-stem price is pushing \$20? // 455 Newport Center Drive, Newport Beach, 949-720-9633, www.flemingssteakhouse.com.

Javier's ➤ Located across the street from the breathtakingly beautiful beaches of Crystal Cove State Park, this is a great place to take in a divine sun-

set. Add one of the bar's famous organic margaritas and everything seems perfect in the world. By night, it's a scene bar for Newport Coasters. // 7832 Pacific Coast Highway, Newport Beach, 949-494-1239, www.javiers-cantina.com.

La Cave ➤ Entering is like making your way into a speakeasy: Take the elevator to a basement space that looks a touch clandestine. In the lounge bathed in red light, DJs play a variety of club music for regulars on the postage-stamp-size dance floor. According to the bartenders, the crowd drinks "anything stiff." // 1695 Irvine Ave., Costa Mesa, 949-646-7944, www.lacaverestaurant.com.

Lola Gaspar ➤ Tucked in the middle of Santa Ana's Artists Village, this small Spanish-style bar is where the hip come to party. Prime time to celebrate here is late, late, late. Drinks of choice? House-made margaritas or the positively sunny cocktails, such as the famous strawberry caipirinhas. // 211 W. Second St., Santa Ana, 714-972-1172, www.lolagaspar.com.

Mahé ➤ The tiki masks on the walls look exotic, but Mahé is a loud, neighborhood bar with great eats, including the Salmon Bomb. Rock bands play week-ends while crowds ranging from twentysomethings on dates to folks in their 60s mingle over the Mahé martini with pine-



Clubbing with a Pro

Former star of "The Hills" and Rancho Santa Margarita High alum **Doug Reinhardt** has invested in H.Wood, one of the hottest clubs in Hollywood, hosting regulars such as Jessica Alba, Paris Hilton (his ex), Lauren Conrad (ex again!), and Chase Crawford. As a party boy and club owner, he



walks both sides of the street. Who better to give his best tips for slipping by the toughest doormen?

1 Dudes, surround yourself with a gaggle of gals. "If you are a guy trying to go in alone or with other guys, it will be very, very difficult. I suggest grabbing three or four of the hottest women you can find and try to go in with them because clubs want good-looking girls inside. When good-looking girls are there, guys spend money, and when guys spend money, the club makes money. So, if you are a guy—bottom line—they don't want you in there unless you are spending."

2 Money talks. Usually, that means paying for bottle service. That's when you have a table reserved, you get your own waitress and one bottle of booze, with mixers such as 7Up and cranberry juice. "At my club," Reinhardt says, "there's a two-bottle minimum. And if you aren't a celebrity and it's a crowded night, it can be a three-bottle minimum. So, yep, that's \$1,500 for three bottles of alcohol, the same kind you buy for \$30 at the store."

3 Befriend the tough-looking guy holding a clipboard at the front door. "You have to figure that one out on your own. But, usually if he likes you and you become his friend, you're in."

4 Pretend to be a celebrity's friend. "When a celebrity and his entourage are being let in, there's always so many of them, you can usually just slip in with their crowd."

5 Get there early. "Celebrities don't show up until midnight. But around 10 p.m., when they just start letting people inside, they are more likely to let anyone in to just fill it up. But sometimes they'll make you wait, even then. Club owners want a line outside just to look like the club is happening."

6 Know which nights to be there. "If you want to go out when celebrities are there, it's usually during the week," Reinhardt says. "At my club, for example, Monday night is the big, big night to be there."

7 Know how to dress. "Show off what you got a little bit, ladies. Have a nice, sexy look," says Reinhardt. "Guys, it's more casual, plain shirt, some jeans. ... And no suits!"

—Tina Dirmann



DRINKS

THE CROSBY ➤ Although fans dig the good-eats-with-a-twist menu of chili-cheese sweet potato fries and grilled-cheese sandwiches, it's really about the artsy vibe at this hipster hang. Shepard Fairey—creator of the famous Obama "Hope" poster—DJ'd on opening night and a troika of clued-in owners—Chris Alfaro, Phil Nisco, and Marc Yamaoka—has kept an eclectic mix playing. The Crosby serves cocktails made with fresh, seasonal ingredients, and a chef's menu. Music usually starts about 9. Musicians and DJs offer something for everyone: classic soul, ska, hip hop, Afrobeat, punk, low-rider oldies, lounge, jazz, and cheesy slow jams. Closed Sunday. // 400 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, 714-543-3543, www.thisisthecrosby.com.



More Drink Destinations

apple-infused vodka. // 1400 Pacific Coast Highway, Seal Beach, 562-431-3022, www.eatatmahe.com.

Mesa ➤ Part of the eco-savvy Camp retail center, Mesa is more a classic convertible than a Prius. Its retractable roof opens to the night sky. Hipsters from all over the Southland come for witty conversation and cocktails such as the

elderberry flower martinis. // 2937 Bristol St., Costa Mesa, 714-444-4267, www.thecampsite.com.

Palm Terrace Lounge at The Island Hotel ➤ This hotel bar turns into Las Vegas when Jimmy Hopper brings his rock-meets-opera act Friday and Saturday. The Palm's crowd often favors zinfandels, but recently its most buzzed-about sipper is Island Heat, a tequila drink spiced with jalapeño. *Olé!* // 690 Newport Center Drive, 949-760-4920, www.theislandhotel.com.

Proof ➤ A long, skinny space with a dramatic 25-foot ceiling (see this month's cover) makes for a chic, big city-style den in the Arts District. Eclectic DJ sounds and killer cocktails, such as a lethal Raspberry Lemon Drop Martini, make it a scene after 10 on weekends. Groups settle on low-slung leather couches; sin-

gletons on the prowl can get a seat facing the entrance. No kitchen. Dancing starts at 10 nightly. // 215 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, 714-953-2660, www.proofbar.com.

The Quiet Woman ➤ Some call it the "Quiet Cougar." Sure, it's a comfy hangout for the sporty-over-40 set, but that applies to both sexes. The small bar can be packed on Thursday night. Live music Tuesday through Saturday, usually soft rock, rock, and blues. Try the \$9 Skinny Margarita (200 calories). Kitchen stays open until 11 on Sunday and Monday, midnight on Tuesday and Wednesday, and 1 Thursday through Saturday. // 3224 E. Coast Highway, Corona del Mar, 949-640-7440, www.quietwoman.com.

The Rooftop Lounge ➤ The open-air wood deck is where surf dogs and investment bankers gather to witness the sun set over Laguna's gorgeous

beaches. The mojito is a favorite drink at this always-crowded bar. The quirky spirit of Laguna Beach lives in the hotel lounge directly below, with lively nightly performances by bongo players and pianists. // 1289 S. Coast Highway, Laguna Beach, 949-497-2446, www.rooftoplagunabeach.com.

3-Thirty-3 ➤ Have an anything-can-happen night mixing it up with the 30-and-up regulars. The crowd includes well-heeled Newporters who might invite you onto their yachts, and the wannabes who long to go with them. It's all fueled by icy martinis and gourmet sliders of pulled pork and crab cakes. Kitchen stays open until 11 for dinner; late-night menu served until 1:15. // 333 Bayside Drive, Newport Beach, 949-673-8464, www.3thirty3nb.com.



Disney Into the Night *Time for grownups to come out and play*

RUGRATS, OUT!

Right around 7 or so, moms pushing strollers with sleeping toddlers and dads carrying drowsy children head for the exits. They check their pockets for parking passes or resort maps leading to hotels, and pile onto the parking lot trams or Monorail. In a couple of hours, the kids are gone and adults rule the parks. Now it's safe to ride the teacups without fear of barfing munchkins.

DIAMONDS IN THE SKY

As twilight arrives, lanterns, street lamps, and string lighting sparkle against shop windows on Main Street. Torches outside the Rainforest Cafe in Downtown Disney flare up, and bulbs along California Adventure's Golden Gate Bridge reflect in the water below. At 9:30, fireworks illuminate the sky—watch them for free from the courtyard between the two parks.

ROCK OUT

Major acts play the House of Blues in DD. November's artists include Boyz II Men, Keller Williams, and Thrice. Most shows can be heard from any of the nearby restaurants or cafés. If loud isn't your thing, check the schedule to avoid the crowds before or after shows.

REPORTING FROM ...

Excited to see the Anaheim Ducks crush the Detroit Red Wings? DD's ESPN Zone (www.espnzone.com/anaheim) is the place to cheer on your team. And when the hometown heroes win big, this is the place the TV crews report the victory. They always need local fan comments—get discovered!

TEA FOR TWO

If the economy is lightening your wallet and inexpensive is key on date nights, head to DD's Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen Express to share to-die-for beignets, followed by piping-hot cups of tea at Compass Books & Cafe. Both are especially pleasant the later it gets as the masses thin out and you can be alone together.

CHEERS!

For a splurge date, two of Disney's high-end dining options are especially charming. The art nouveau outdoor wine bar at Catal Restaurant & Uva Bar in DD is surrounded by romantic lighting and privacy hedges. Couples head for intimate bistro tables, while singles congregate at the bar in the center. Foodies escape the night chill at the indoor dining room at Napa Rose in the Grand Californian Hotel.—*Rose Flores Medlock*



LATE BITES

25 DEGREES ➤ A slice of Old Hollywood in O.C. Order a signature burger or build your own with gourmet sauces and toppers: jalapeño, tarragon remoulade, and artisanal cheeses. On Friday or Saturday night, order the \$5 burger special from the take-out window in the alley. The deal starts at 1 a.m. and is available to the first 100 customers. Open until midnight Sunday through Wednesday, 1:30 on Thursday and Friday, and 2:30 on Saturday. // 412 Walnut Ave., Huntington Beach, 714-960-2525, www.25degreesrestaurant.com.

Late-Night Bites

Anjin ➤ You won't be the only one grabbing a late bite at this Japanese grill-it-yourself strip-mall gem, but don't be discouraged by the crowd. Once you're invited inside the small-but-elegant space, plates of ready-to-cook meats and vegetables appear moments after placing your order. The ingredients are top-notch and you'll pay accordingly, but your mouth will thank you. Open 5 to 1 daily. // 3033 Bristol St., Costa Mesa, 714-979-6700.

Big Belly Deli ➤ The pizza at this deli often is overlooked in favor of its killer sandwiches. But the pies are superior. And did we mention the ambience? Good. Because there isn't any. Open until 10 nightly. // 6310 W. Coast Highway, Newport Beach, 949-645-2888, www.bigbellydeli.com.

The Blue Beet ➤ A hot spot for night life, but have you tried the tacos? At \$1.50 to \$2 a pop, they're fast and cheap, but not cheap fast food. Until 2 a.m. Monday through Sunday. // 107 21st Place, Newport Beach, 949-675-2338, www.thebluebeet.com.

Charlie Palmer at Bloomingdale's ➤ This elite lounge packs in the chic set for a happy-hour repeat. Ace cocktails and wines by the glass are half-off. Order generously from a small-plates menu with notable nibbles—caramelized chicken livers with balsamic brown butter and shitake mushrooms, anyone? Nightly happy hour 10 to midnight. // South Coast Plaza, 3333 S. Bristol St., Costa Mesa, 714-352-2525, www.charliepalmer.com.

Crow Bar & Kitchen ➤ Hungry night owls flock to the Crow for modern gastropub grub, from artisan cheeses to hearty eats such as primo burgers and Cornish pasties. Showy selection of craft ales and good wines. Fanciful desserts, too. Kitchen is open until 10 Sunday through Wednesday, 11 on Thursday, and midnight on Friday and Saturday. // 2325 E. Coast Highway, Corona del Mar, 949-675-0070, www.crowbarcdm.com.

Honda Ya ➤ Sign up on the clipboard outside the front door and wait with the masses for your name to be called. The large menu covers just about everything Japanese—from sushi to noodles—plus dozens of small-plate options deep-fried, stir-fried, and steamed. This is Kappo Honda's sister establishment in Old Town Tustin (see listing below). Last food orders taken at 12:30; open 5:30 to 1 nightly. // 556 El Camino Real, Tustin, 714-832-0081.

Kappo Honda ➤ This neighborhood izakaya is loved by locals who can't get enough of its marinated meats on a stick, bacon-wrapped asparagus, and an eclectic menu that caters to the adventurous eater who longs for pork belly, hamachi kama (cheek of yellowtail), and quail eggs. 5:30 to 1 Monday through Sunday. // 18450 Brookhurst St., Fountain Valley, 714-964-4629.

Kimera ➤ The sexy setting with a chill vibe attracts a young professional crowd to this stylish sibling of Bayside and Bistango. Order global cuisine from a bar menu served until midnight on Friday and Saturday. Closed Sunday. // 19530 Jamboree Road, Irvine, 949-261-1222, www.diningasart.com.

Bad Night?

We think of Las Vegas as the 24/7 town, but Orange County has plenty of services to offer when you really need them. We chose police blotter items from the *Huntington Beach Independent* and *The Wave Huntington Beach*—local newspapers covering what could be the county's hardest-partying town—hoping their cautionary tales might be a godsend to those seeking help at odd hours.—*Anne Valdespino*

Crest Avenue: About 50 people were heard “chanting” in an alley near the 300 block at 2:22 a.m. Sunday.

Sounds like this congregation could use a place to worship. **St. John the Baptist Catholic Church** has a chapel in the back that's open 24 hours. 1015 Baker St., Costa Mesa, 714-540-2214.

Bluebonnet Drive at Goldenwest Street: A caller said his tooth was chipped when he was pushed by someone at 3:43 a.m. Sunday.

Ouch! We couldn't find a 24-hour dentist, but until this guy can get an appointment he needs some numbing toothdrops to relieve the pain. Some **Walgreens** locations are open 24 hours. 19001 Brookhurst St., Huntington Beach, 714-593-1352; or 1538 E. Chapman Ave., Orange, 714-288-1790.

Hamilton Avenue and Brookhurst Street: Two men in an SUV at a Del Taco drive-through jumped out and beat up a man who was walking his dog at 1:59 a.m. Saturday.

Was the dog hurt? If so, the owner could have gotten 24-hour emergency care at **VCA All-Care Animal Referral Center**, 18440 Amistad St. #E, Fountain Valley, 714-963-0909, www.vcaacarc.com.

And while we're at it, let's steer you to a place with more authentic late-night tacos. **Taqueria de Anda** is open 24 hours. 308 W. Valencia Drive, Fullerton, 714-871-4211; 291 N. Tustin St., Orange, 714-639-1020; 1029 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, 714-558-0856; www.taqueriadeanda.com.

Pacific Coast Highway: A drunken man was seen banging on a door in the 1000 block at 2:44 a.m. Sunday.

Did this genius forget his keys, or does the wife lock him out after he's had too much hooch? Either way he needs a service that comes to him any time of the day or night. **Pacific Locksmith**, 800-416-8955, www.pacificlocksmith.com.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 168



The OC Channel is my source for great television produced by young minds, right here in Orange County.

-Jim Doti, President, Chapman University



Public broadcasting has something for everyone. The OC Channel is the next generation of PBS, and it is an outlet for the next generation of filmmakers at Chapman University. Faculty and students have the opportunity to use the cutting-edge tools at Chapman to put together television programs that are important to the OC community.

www.occhannel.org

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More Late-Night Bites

Laventina's Big Cheese Pizza ▶ You can't beat the large cheese pizza with one topping for less than \$7, but the spaghetti and the 12-inch garlic cheese bread have fans, too. Open until 11 Sunday through Wednesday, and until 2 on Friday and Saturday. // 2819 Newport Blvd., Newport Beach, 949-675-1980, www.laventinabigcheese.com.

Lee's Sandwiches ▶ Craving a late-night sandwich? How about a *banh mi* crammed with your choice of grilled chicken, pork, slivers of fiery green peppers and other stuffings? Lee's has locations all over the county—the restaurant at 13991 Brookhurst St. in Garden Grove is open 24 hours—but our favorite is across from UC Irvine. We love the crazy airport terminal atmosphere and the *café sua da* (Vietnamese iced coffee) so strong it could wake the dead. Just the thing to revive you after a wild pub crawl. Open nightly until midnight. // In the University Center at 4127 Campus Drive, Irvine, 949-509-9299, www.leesandwiches.com.

Slowfish ▶ Order small plates of soft-shell crab, the Famous Fat Avo—an avocado stuffed with seared albacore tuna—and a Japanese version of the jalapeño popper, the Jalatuna. Slowfish also serves salads, entrées, and stylish signature rolls. Open until 1 on Friday and Saturday. // 16051 Bolsa Chica St., Huntington Beach, 714-846-6951, www.slowfishusa.com.

Taco Loco ▶ A tiny stand along South Coast Highway makes a delicious stop for barhoppers in Laguna Beach. The Cal-Mex menu has blackened fish tacos, spicy calamari nachos, and a beloved tofu mushroom burger. Open until 2 on Friday and Saturday; until midnight Sunday through Thursday. // 640 S. Coast Highway, Laguna Beach, 949-497-1635.

Yard House ▶ Known for its versatile beer selection and half-yard (32-ounce glass of beer), O.C.'s home-grown chain also provides a hefty menu and a line of whimsical adult beer floats. Stop in for a ham-and-pineapple pizza, firecracker wings, or a sampler dessert platter. Late-night menu available Friday and Saturday until 1; Sunday through Thursday until 11:30. // Costa Mesa, Irvine Spectrum, Brea, and Newport Beach. www.yardhouse.com.

Zimzala ▶ Don't be fooled by the surfer spirit. This new lounge at the trendy Shorebreak Hotel has the goods: a beach air indoor/outdoor setting, primo cocktails, and inspired coastal Mediterranean eats from a bar menu by chef Vincent Muraco. Served until midnight Friday and Saturday. // 500 Pacific Coast Highway, Huntington Beach, 714-960-5050, restaurantzimzala.com.

Zipangu ▶ When you've had enough of crowds and loud, this place offers just enough Zen. Look for Japanese fusion fare and polished sushi in a space that's sleek and chic. The friendly service is another bonus. Food is served until 10 on Sunday, 11 during the week, and midnight on Friday and Saturday. // The Lab, 2930 Bristol St., Costa Mesa, 714-545-2800, www.zipanguoc.com. ●