



May 2010



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London

THE PARTY PLACE Interred beneath a Moorish cupola next to a churchyard, **The Bathhouse** is one of London's more esoteric venues, with original decorative tiling, candle lighting, and a menagerie of animal skeleton prints. Victorians came for the Turkish baths and vapors; new Elizabethans descend the circular steps for Grey Goose vodkas, Asahi on tap, and DJs inside a giant birdcage. Reserve a table for Thursday's cabaret-and-supper night, which grooves to '50s swing and rock 'n' roll; Friday is Caligula, where an angular, gayer clientele are marshaled by Club Kids alum Larry Tee. Lady Gaga, Nick Cave, and even Bill Murray have shaken their tail feathers here (7-8 Bishopsgate Churchyard, EC2).

THE COCKTAIL LOUNGE Chef Mark Hix has long championed British ingredients, a passion that also informs his speakeasy-style **Mark's Bar**, beneath his new Soho restaurant, Hix. Home to a billiards table, clubby chesterfields, and contemporary London art, it has a menu of historical English libations curated by cocktail whiz Nick Strangeways, and a clientele that has included Kate Moss, Roger Moore, and Guy Ritchie. Order a Hanky Panky or a Spitfires Over Kent and wonder at the

TOKYO COMBINE



WHO GOES
Alex Kapranos, Franz Ferdinand's lead singer, and DJ friends.



DRINK
Too many tequila shots.



WEAR
A punky Vivienne Westwood bag.

mysterious jars of Hix Strangebrew—gins infused with seasonal flavors—lining the shelves (66-70 Brewer St., W1).

THE HOTEL BAR Shoreditch society can get stifling. The alfresco **Boundary Rooftop** offers valuable thinking space, as well as 360-degree views over the city. Crowning Terence Conran's new 17-room hotel, the bar was unveiled last summer and is open spring through fall, weather permitting, its Mediterranean optimism (olive trees, barbecue, wicker sofas) tempered by such practicalities as a log fire, a canopied seating area, and blankets to snuggle up in. The drink of choice is the elderflower martini, best taken with a plate of bready nibbles and olive oil. No reservations (the line has been known to snake around the block). Check twitter.com/boundaryrooftop for a weather report before you go (2-4 Boundary St., E2).

Los Angeles

THE PARTY PLACE Trust Hollywood to take the most pedestrian of spaces and turn it into a star. That's what happened late last year when a windowless storeroom inside the nightclub H.Wood, across the alley from the touristy Hollywood & Highland Center, was transformed into the **Tea Room**, a nightclub with "Prohibition tea," served chilled in teapots and spiked with spirits. The idea coalesces disparate cocktail trends: the speakeasy craze, the popularity of artisanal teas (one of the bar's partners owns a plantation in India), and the impulse to imbue beverages with healthful elements. Stars of yesterday (Paris Hilton) and today (Katy Perry) have been spotted at the club, which opens only on Wednesdays to a vibrant crowd of girls in minidresses and stiletto boots and guys in gold sneakers and skinny jeans (1738 N. Orange Ave.).

THE COCKTAIL LOUNGE The brainchild of Sasha Petraske, proprietor of Manhattan's cocktail-snob mecca Milk & Honey, **The Varnish**, a small, stripped-back space with wood benches at the back of Cole's, has brought exotic libations to L.A.'s revitalizing downtown. Smart patrons order the Bartender's Choice and wait ten minutes while the mixologist muddles his pick of fresh fruit and herbs, measures spirits and house-made syrups, and chips ice from a block. Come early for conversation (the place fills up fast and the piano player's ragtime ricochets), and pay for parking monitored by an attendant in this sometimes-dicy hood (118 E. 6th St.).

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Melbourne

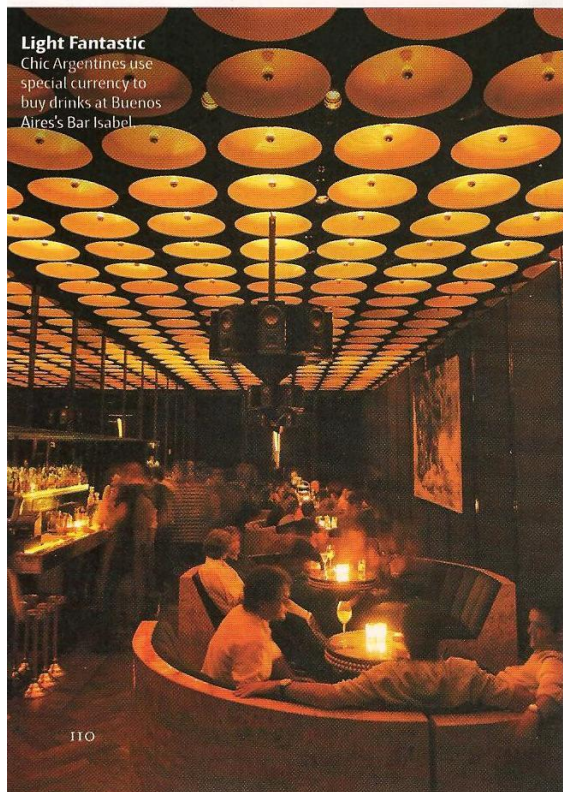
THE PARTY PLACE Melbourne nightlife vets still mourn the 2006 demise of Honkytonks, one of the city's landmark laneway venues. Hence the collective sigh of relief when the man behind the legend, Michael Delany, opened **Sorry Grandma!** with DJ Andee Frost. The weekends-only club has quirky styling (retro furnishings in private nooks, Tiffany lamps that flash to the dance floor beat), excellent cocktails, and a roster of the best local and international DJs. It attracts models and music industry types—Good Charlotte's Joel Madden has dropped in; the Presets and Ksubi designer Dan Single are regulars—but you'll have to get through the door to join in. It's all about attitude, so do your hip, devil-may-care best (590 Little Bourke St.).

THE COCKTAIL LOUNGE The après-office crowd—fashionably casual and none too suity—flock to the **Emerald Peacock** to display their plumage. The moniker theme is carried throughout the bar. An impressive avian mural greets patrons before they enter the lounge area, which has peacock-adorned wallpaper above the cozy booth spaces, but it's the rooftop area where most head at day's end. Roosting up here, guests enjoy an impressive city skyline view and drinks aplenty. The list will have you crowing with its Big Cocks page, featuring jugs of mixed drinks such as the Taj Iced Tea—Bombay Sapphire, *crème de pêche*, lemon juice, sugar, and tea (233 Lonsdale St.).

THE HOTEL BAR The seats at the bar surrounding the cheese and charcuterie "tower" (in reality, a 13-foot-tall glass cabinet) are the most sought-after at **Sotano**, a stylish new bodega gracing the Hilton South Wharf. The large, lofty room, with warm natural timber and terra-cotta tones, is a far cry from your average hotel lobby lounge. The name is Spanish for *cellar*, which gives you an indication of its intentions: More than 2,000 bottles of wine are housed in a climate-controlled cage over the bar, and the Catalan snacks—salted cod fritters and meatballs with cuttlefish, from Michelin-starred Spanish chef Ramon Freixa—are highly recommended (2 Convention Centre Pl.).

Mumbai

THE PARTY PLACE Operating out of an old textile mill in Lower Parel, **Zenzi Mills** is



Light Fantastic
Chic Argentines use special currency to buy drinks at Buenos Aires's Bar Isabel.