

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT ISSUE

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CELEBRATE | DISCOVER | EXPERIENCE

GIRLS' WEEKEND
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SPIRITED
MARTINI BARS

BREEDERS' CUP
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MALIBU

L.A.'S
MID-CITIES

HISTORIC HOTELS





The Straight Up *Best* MARTINI BARS *in Southern California*

BY DUSTIN CLENDENEN



“Shaken, not stirred.” James Bond’s legendary martini instructions are at least partially responsible for the popularity of the drink, but it doesn’t hurt that they’re delicious. The *Gold Coast* has no shortage of twists on the gin / vodka and dry vermouth combo, and there are just as many unique watering-holes in the region to find your favorite flavor. *Here’s a roundup of the best martini masterpieces in Southern California:* ☛



The Tuck
Room Tavern



BUBBLES & BREWS



GINGER'S

600 5th Avenue (located below Barleymash)
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 255-7373

If the opportunity to say “shaken, not stirred” to a bartender isn’t enough to make you feel cool, see what happens if you do it after venturing underground to this ultra-hip, ultra-hidden speakeasy beneath San Diego’s bustling Gaslamp District. **GINGER'S**, located below Barleymash, boasts an impressive drink menu and distinct 1920’s prohibition aesthetic. If you want to keep the spy fantasy going, remember, you’re on a mission to try the bar’s most famous martini: “*The Hemingway*,” which combines “*the crisp flavors of Grey Goose L’Orange, Cinzano dry vermouth, vanilla syrup, grapefruit, and cherry syrup.*” And don’t forget to have at least a sip of their signature, “*The Ginger*,” to help you relax into the DJ’s beats.



COURTESY OF GINGER'S (3)

TIN LIZZIE SALOON

752 Saint Clair Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
(714) 966-2029

Gay bars aren’t the first thing that come to mind when you think about nightlife in Costa Mesa, but the **TIN LIZZIE SALOON** has achieved almost legendary status in the area, thanks in no small part to their martinis. The bar’s delicious array of signature cocktails updates old recipes with new-age flavors that can only come together in Southern California. Even with its elegant red velvet, Victorian-era interior, the gin comes cheap, so you’ll have lots of change to drop in the jukebox. *Tin Lizzie Saloon* has been OC’s premiere gay bar for more than half a century, and is one of the oldest establishments in Costa Mesa’s SoBeCa arts and culture district, so come out and order up.



TINLIZZIESALOON.COM (2)



THE TUCK ROOM TAVERN

10850 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(310) 307-7004

After making waves in Houston and Miami Beach, **THE TUCK ROOM** has landed on the west side of Los Angeles, replete with California-perfect cuisine and signature cocktails. The real treat of the libations menu, however, is the *Choose Your Own Adventure*, where patrons can build their own martini from the ground up. And if you're a little unsure about how to whet your whistle, the world-class bartenders are guaranteed to guide you in the right direction. Located inside *iPic Theaters*, *Tuck Room Tavern* is definitely its own destination as much as the shows. 🍸



📷 COURTESY OF THE TUCK ROOM TAVERN (4)



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BUBBLES & BREWS



THE PURPLE ROOM SUPPER CLUB

1900 E. Palm Canyon Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264
(760) 322-4422

The main draw for Palm Springs' premiere supper club is some truly world-class entertainment, from live jazz bands to owner Michael Holmes' popular weekly "Just Judy" show, where he dresses up as Judy Garland and belts out her most famous songs. Still, the drink menu packs some star power of its own, like the Rat Pack-themed Dean Martini. We may send you there for the booze, but stick around for the show.



PURPLEROOMPALMSPRINGS.COM (3)



FACEBOOK.COM/MILKANDHONEYTAPAS (3)



MILK & HONEY

30 West Anapamu
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 275-4232

For a tapas bar, this Santa Barbara favorite packs an impressive drink menu to pick, choose and share from. Their *Triple Chocolate Martini* is hands down their most recommended beverage, but the *Holy Crop!* is an impressive martini in its own right, bringing together Crop organic cucumber vodka, elderflower liqueur, muddled mint and fresh lime juice. Every drink is designed to pair well with the amazing cuisine on their menu. Whether you're looking for world-class martinis or not, this is a definite must-visit when you're in downtown Santa Barbara. ❖

