

**Drink, Eat and Be Merry:  
No Reservation Dining at the Bar  
in Fully Licensed Restaurants in Oakland,  
Berkeley & Emeryville**

**A Personal Guide: Steve Sugarman and Karen Carlson  
Spring 2009**

**WHAT WE LIKE –**

- . PHYSICALLY – ATTRACTIVE BAR SURFACE, PERFECT RATIO OF STOOL TO BAR TOP HEIGHT, PLEASING VISTA FROM THE BAR STOOL (NO BOXES OR GARBAGE PAILS IN SIGHT)
- . BARTENDERS – COMPETENT AND ATTENTIVE BUT NOT INTRUSIVE
- . FOOD – A VARIETY OF TASTY CHOICES AND ABILITY TO MAKE A MEAL OF SMALL PLATES
- . BAR SCENE – LIVELY BUT NOT TOO LOUD

**THIS RESERVATION-FREE WAY TO DRINK AND DINE OUT IS NO LONGER A WELL KEPT SECRET, SO HEAD OUT EARLY TO GET A STOOL. OUR FAVORITES, ROUGHLY IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE –**

**WOOD TAVERN – 6317 COLLEGE, OAKLAND (654-6607) – PHYSICALLY VERY GOOD BAR, MOSTLY EXCELLENT BARTENDERS, EXCELLENT FOOD, EXCELLENT SCENE – SO GOOD IT'S HARD TO GET A SEAT BEFORE 9:30 PM**

**ADESSO -- 4395 PIEDMONT, OAKLAND (601-0305). ITALIAN TREATS FROM THE DOPO CREW. DRINKS AND TAPAS ARE GREAT; WONDERFULLY LIVELY SCENE. CROWDED BAR BUT SEATING SPILLS OVER TO THE NEARBY TABLES.**

**MUA -- 2442 WEBSTER, OAKLAND (238-1100) TERRIFIC NEW TRENDY LOUNGE, TERRIFIC FOOD AND MORE. FROM THE SOIZIC PEOPLE. LOOKS LIKE A FORMER CAR BODY SHOP, VERY BROOKLYN. BESIDES THE BAR TRY THE RESTAURANT IN THE BACK AND THE LOUNGE UPSTAIRS. OPEN LATE.**

**GARIBALDIS – 5356 COLLEGE, OAKLAND (595-4000) – PHYSICALLY TERRIFIC BAR AND NICE BAR TABLES, GOOD ENOUGH BARTENDERS, EXCELLENT FOOD, GOOD SCENE**

**FLORA -- 1900 TELEGRAPH (19TH), OAKLAND (286-0100)**  
JAZZY-LOOK PLACE FROM THE DONA TOMAS FOLKS. LIVELY  
AND NOISY. GOOD FOOD. CROWDED BUT ATTRACTIVE BAR.

**TOWNHOUSE - 5862 DOYLE, EMERYVILLE (652-6151) -**  
PHYSICALLY GOOD BAR, SOMETIMES EXCELLENT  
BARTENDERS, GOOD FOOD, VERY GOOD SCENE, VERY  
CROWDED DURING PRIME TIMES

**SIDEBAR -- 542 GRAND, OAKLAND (452-9500).**  
COMFORTABLE FOOD IN A NICE LAKE MERRITT LOCALE BY  
THE FORMER ZAX PEOPLE. GOOD BAR SCENE.

**CESAR - 4039 PIEDMONT, OAKLAND (985-1200) -**  
LIVELY. GOOD FOOD. VERY NOISY AND CROWDED. WE LIKE  
THIS CESAR BETTER THAN THE ONE NEXT TO CHEZ PANISSE.

**A COTE - 5478 COLLEGE, OAKLAND (655-6469) -**  
PHYSICALLY CROWDED BAR, MIXED BARTENDERS, GOOD  
FOOD, VERY NOISY SCENE - BETTER TO HAVE TAPAS AT A  
TABLE IF YOU CAN GET ONE

**OLIVETO (DOWNSTAIRS) - 5655 COLLEGE, OAKLAND (547-  
5356) -VERY SMALL BAR, GOOD BARTENDERS, GOOD FOOD,  
MODEST SCENE**

**ECCOLO - 1820 FOURTH ST., BERKELEY (644-0444) -**  
PHYSICALLY TERRIFIC BAR, GOOD BARTENDER, EXCELLENT  
FOOD, QUIET

**BUCCI - 6121 HOLLIS, EMERYVILLE (547-4725) -**  
PHYSICALLY GOOD BAR, GOOD BARTENDER, GOOD FOOD, OK  
SCENE

**BARLATA -- 4901 TELEGRAPH, OAKLAND (450-0678)**  
SPANISH TAPAS IN A LIVELY SETTING. TASTY FOOD, NICE  
SERVICE. NICE BAR.

**PARAGON - IN THE CLAREMONT HOTEL (549-8585) -**  
PHYSICALLY VERY ATTRACTIVE BAR, GOOD BARTENDERS, SO-  
SO FOOD, VERY POPULAR AND LIVELY SCENE, CAN BE VERY  
CROWDED, OPEN LATE!

**CAFÉ ROUGE** – 1782 FOURTH ST., BERKELEY (525-1440)  
– PHYSICALLY FABULOUS BAR, GOOD ENOUGH BARTENDER,  
GOOD FOOD, VERY GOOD AND POPULAR BAR SCENE, VERY  
CROWDED DURING PRIME TIMES

**FRANKLIN SQUARE WINE BAR** -- 2212 BROADWAY  
(22ND), OAKLAND (251-0100) VERY SMALL AND  
REASONABLY ATTRACTIVE WINE BAR WITH A MODEST MENU  
OF TASTY ITEMS.

**OZUMO** -- 2251 BROADWAY, OAKLAND (286-9866). HOT  
BAR SCENE WITH MIXED VIEWS OF THE THE JAPANESE FOOD,  
A SF SPIN-OFF.

**SOIZIC** – 300 BROADWAY, OAKLAND (251-8100) – VERY  
GOOD FOOD, PHYSICALLY APPEALING SMALL BAR

**CITRON** – 5484 COLLEGE, OAKLAND (653-5484) – VERY  
SMALL BAR AND NICE BAR TABLES, FRIENDLY BARTENDERS,  
EXCELLENT FOOD, QUIET

**MEZZE** – 3407 LAKESHORE AVE, OAKLAND (663-2500) –  
GOOD FOOD, PHYSICALLY OK BAR BUT HAVEN'T SAT AT IT

**B** – 499 9TH STREET, OAKLAND (251-8770) – PHYSICALLY  
OK BAR, OK BARTENDERS, OK FOOD, NOT MUCH OF A  
SCENE

**MONTCLAIR BISTRO** – 6118 MEDAU PLACE, OAKLAND  
(482-8282) – PHYSICALLY SMALL OK BAR, OK BARTENDER,  
OK FOOD, NOT MUCH A SCENE

**SOMERSET** – 5912 COLLEGE, OAKLAND (428-1823) –  
PHYSICALLY OK BAR, INEXPERIENCED BARTENDERS, OK  
FOOD, OK SCENE

**FONDA** – 1501 SOLANO, ALBANY (559-9006) – LOVED BY  
MANY LOCALS, NOT ESPECIALLY BY US

**LIAISON** – 1849 SHATTUCK, BERKELEY (849-2155) – NOT  
REALLY RECOMMENDED BECAUSE, ON OUR ONE TRY SOME

TIME AGO, THERE WAS A TRASH-FILLED VIEW FROM THE BAR  
STOOLS, BUT FOOD IS FINE; NOT A SCENE

WE WELCOME YOUR ADDITIONS AND PREFERENCES. EMAIL  
US: [sugarman@lberkeley.edu](mailto:sugarman@lberkeley.edu)