

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

**A Personal Guide from Steve Sugarman and Karen
Carlson
Summer 2007**

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 (OUR NEWEST LOCAL) – 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

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

OLIVETO (DOWNSTAIRS) – 5655 COLLEGE, OAKLAND (547-5356) – PHYSICALLY TERRIFIC BUT VERY SMALL BAR, EXCELLENT BARTENDERS, EXCELLENT FOOD, MODEST SCENE

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

PEARL – 5634 COLLEGE, OAKLAND (654-5426) – PHYSICALLY TERRIFIC BAR, GOOD ENOUGH BARTENDERS, EXCELLENT FOOD, NICE SCENE

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

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

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

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!

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

ZAX – 2826 TELEGRAPH, BERKELEY (848-299) – PHYSICALLY OKAY BAR, VERY GOOD BARTENDER, GOOD FOOD, OK SCENE

DOWNTOWN – 2102 SHATTUCK, BERKELEY (649-3810) – PHYSICALLY GOOD BAR, SOME UNAPPEALING BARTENDERS, GOOD FOOD, LIVELY BUT OFTEN VERY NOISY

CESAR – 4039 PIEDMONT, OAKLAND (985-1200) – LOOKS GOOD BUT HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET NEAR IT

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 (HINT: THEY OPEN AT 5:30 PM)

SOIZIC – 300 BROADWAY, OAKLAND (251-8100) – VERY GOOD FOOD, PHYSICALLY APPEALING BAR BUT HAVEN'T SAT AT IT

NIZZA LA BELLA – 825 SAN PABLO, ALBANY (526-2552) – GOOD FOOD, PHYSICALLY LOOKS GOOD, BUT HAVEN'T SAT AT IT

CAFFE VERBENA – 14TH AND BROADWAY, OAKLAND (465-9300) – PHYSICALLY OK BAR, OK BARTENDERS, GOOD FOOD, NOT MUCH OF A BAR SCENE

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) – WE'VE NOT TRIED IT

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@law.berkeley.edu