

## DRINKING & NIGHTLIFE

### top picks

- Otto Zutz (p211)
- Elephant (p211)
- Shôko (p204)
- Dry Martini (p205)
- Terrazza (p213)
- Harlem Jazz Club (p200)
- Sala Apolo (p213)
- Razzmatazz (p205)
- Bar Marsella (p200)
- Barcelona Pipa Club (p198)
- Space (p213)
- Sutton the Club (p212)

Heading out into the night in Barcelona will rarely leave you in the cold. The sheer number of bars, pubs and taverns could keep the curious drinker shifting from one spot to the next for weeks, if not months.

Most locals do their partying from Thursday to Saturday. The hefty influx of tourists, students and foreign residents with irregular hours means that you can usually find places busy in the Barri Gòtic, El Born (La Ribera) and El Raval any night, while other areas that attract mostly local punters are quiet until Thursday night.

There is also a good spread of clubs and, although city bylaws make it virtually impossible to open major new dance and gig venues, Barcelona is already blessed with a rich line-up of places to hide in until dawn, and a handful where you can stay inside until the middle of the day too (on weekends).

The live music scene is vigorous, if a little limited in terms of variety. Barcelona does not have a big local band scene. That said, depending on the night, you can see anything from ear-splitting Spanish pop-rock (popular with the locals but perhaps a little tiresome for the international set) to the latest in house, hip-hop and funk. You can catch a live jazz set on just about any night, and flamenco (often cheesy but sometimes top-class) is another perennial favourite. A handful of major venues welcome all sorts of acts, Spanish and international, throughout the year.

The city's casino, **Casino de Barcelona** (Map pp98–9; ☎ 93 225 78 78; www.casino-barcelona.com/ing; Carrer de la Marina 19-21; ⌚ 11am-5am; ♿ Ciutadella Vila Olímpica) in Port Olímpic, is the place for those who are feeling lucky or fiscally well-endowed. As well as the usual one-armed bandits and more sophisticated games, there are restaurants, bars and a club.

## WHAT TO DRINK

### Wine

Spain is a wine-drinking country and *vi/vino* (wine) accompanies all meals (except breakfast!). Spanish wine, whether *blanc/blanco* (white), *negre/tinto* (red) or *rosat/rosado* (rosé) tends to have quite a kick, in part because of the climate but also because of grape varieties and production methods. That said, the long-adhered-to policy of quantity over quality has for some time given way to a subtler approach. It is still possible to find cheap, kick-arse wine that makes your mouth pucker, but the palette of varieties has become much more sophisticated since the 1980s.

At the bottom end of the market (apart from true *garrafón* in the form of almost giveaway Tetrabriks), an entirely drinkable bottle of table wine can easily enough be had for around €5 in supermarkets and from wine merchants (especially the old kind, a slowly dying breed, where they will fill your bottle from giant casks). However, the same money in a restaurant won't get you far. Apart from *vi/vino de la casa* (house wine), which is commonly ordered at lunchtime by the litre or half-litre, you will pay an average of €10 to €15 for a reasonable bottle, and considerably more

### GETTING THE LOCAL LOWDOWN

There is no shortage of guides to Barcelona's nightlife, both in print and on the web. **Guía del Ocio** (€1; www.guiadelocio.bcn.es, in Spanish), the city's weekly entertainment mag, is available from newsstands. Look for the free mags and booklets distributed around some bars. They include *Micro*, *Go Mag*, *Mondo Sonoro*, *Metropolitan*, *Nit*, *Gig*, *Salir* and the rivers of flyers that flow through many bars. For the latest events, register online with **Lecool** (www.lecool.com). Also take a look at **Agentes de la Noche** (www.agentesdelanoche.com, in Spanish), **Barceloca** (www.barceloca.com), **BCN-Nightlife** (www.bcn-nightlife.com), **Barcelonarocks.com** (www.barcelonarocks.com), **ClubbingSpain.com** (www.clubbingSpain.com, in Spanish), and **LaNetro.com** (http://barcelona.lanetro.com). These sources are a good starting point but may not always be up-to-date. Also bear in mind that, in most cases, many places pay for their listing, so 100% impartiality cannot be guaranteed.

for something classier. You can also generally order wine by the *copa* (glass) in bars and restaurants, although the choice will be more limited. Not generally available in bars is the acquired taste of *calimocha*, a mix of Tetrabrik red wine and coke, beloved of penniless partying students across the country.

As in the other major wine-producing countries of the EU, there are two broad categories: table wine and quality wine. The former ranges from the basic *vi de taula/vino de mesa* to *vi de la terra/vino de la tierra*, the latter being a wine from an officially recognised wine-producing area. If a region meets certain strict standards, it receives DO (*denominación de origen*) status. Outstanding wine regions get DOC (*denominación de origen calificada*) status. In Catalonia, there are 12 DOs (known as appellations), including a regional one (DO Catalunya) and a general one for *cava*. Some of the DOs cover little more than a few vineyards. Unfortunately classifications are not always a guarantee of quality, and many drinkers of Spanish wine put more faith in the name and reputation of certain producers or areas than in the denomination labels.

The bulk of DO wines in Catalonia are made from grapes produced in the Penedès area, which pumps out almost two million hectolitres a year. The other DO wine-making zones (spread as far apart as the Empordà area around Figueres in the north and the Terra Alta around Gadesa in the southwest) have a combined output of about half that produced in Penedès. The wines of the El Priorat area, which tend to be dark, heavy reds, have been promoted to DOC status, an honour shared only with those of the Rioja (which have been categorised as such since 1926). Prices have accordingly shot up and most locals in that part of Catalonia can no longer afford their own wine! Drops from the neighbouring Montsant area are frequently as good (or close) and considerably cheaper.

Most of the grapes grown in Catalonia are native to Spain and include White Macabeo, Garnacha and Xarel·lo (for whites), and Black Garnacha, Monastrell and Ull de Llebre (Hare's Eye) red varieties. Foreign varieties (such as Chardonnay, Riesling, Chenin Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Pinot Noir) are also common.

The bulk of production in and around the Penedès area is of white wine. Of these the best-known drop is *cava*, the regional version of champagne. The two big names in bubbly are Freixenet and Codorníu. Connoisseurs tend not to get too excited by these, however, preferring the output of smaller vintners. The main name in Penedès wine is Miguel Torres – one of its stalwart reds is Sangre de Toro. See p257 for tips on wineries to visit.

There is plenty to look out for beyond Penedès. Raïmat, in the Costers del Segre DO area of Lleida province, produces fine reds and a couple of notable whites. Good fortified wines come from around Tarragona (p259) and some nice fresh wines are also produced in the Empordà area in the north.

Sangría is a red wine and fruit punch (usually with lemon, orange and cinnamon), sometimes laced with brandy. It's refreshing going down, but can leave you with a sore head. Indeed, the origins of the drink go back to the days when wine quality was not great and the vinegary taste needed a sweetener. Another version is *sangría de cava*, the same drink made with sparkling white. *Tinto de verano* (summer red) is a mix of wine and Casera, which is a brand of *gaseosa*, similar to lemonade. It is both a means of sweetening tart table wine and avoiding lunchtime hangovers. As its name suggests, it is also popular as a refreshing summertime lunch tippie.

### Beer

The most common way to order *cervesa/cerveza* (beer) is to ask for a *canya*, which is a small draught beer (*cervesa/cerveza de barril*). A larger beer, which comes in a straight glass, (about

### BARCELONA'S NEW OLD BEER

Moritz, a crisp lager that was once Barcelona's most popular beer, has made an extraordinary comeback since 2004. Brewed since 1856 by a company founded by Alsatian brewer Louis Moritz, Moritz went broke in 1978 but his descendants (who kept the brand) are back in action. The three late-19th-century buildings at Ronda Sant Antoni 39-43 (Map pp108–9) that once housed the subterranean brewery are being turned into a leisure and cultural centre (under the direction of French architect Jean Nouvel), with bar-restaurant (under Carles Abellán), demonstration brewery and museum, in addition to the company headquarters. The façades have been restored and the centre is due to open by 2009.

## SOMETHING GOOD BURNING

With Catalan impresarios making money hand over fist in sugar plantations in Cuba and other South American colonies from the late-18th century, it is hardly surprising they developed a taste for one of its by-products, *rom/ron* (rum). In 1818 the Pujol liquor company set up a rum distillery in Catalonia, and since then Ron Pujol has been one of the dominant local brands for this sweet firewater. Today it produces all sorts of rum and rum-based drinks, including the classic Ron Pujol (42%), Pujol & Grau (38%, a lighter, white rum) and Ron 1818, based on the original recipe made in the Antilles. Closer to the Brazilian *cachaça* is Caña Pujol (50%). But the great Catalan drink, especially popular in summer festivals, is *rom cremat* (burned rum). Litres of rum are poured into a shallow ceramic bowl, to which 100 grams of sugar is added per litre, strips of lemon zest (half a lemon) and a stick of cinnamon. The lot is then set alight and constantly *remanat* (stirred and ladled) for about 20 to 30 minutes. About a third of the alcohol is burned off. When the surface appears to be completely alight, with no spaces, your rum is well burned and ready. A small cup of good coffee is poured into the mix to extinguish (this takes some minutes). If you then have to put on a lid to put out remaining flames, you've stuffed it and haven't burned the rum properly!

300mL) is sometimes called a *tubo*. A pint is a *gerra/jarra* and is usually relevant only in pseudo-Irish pubs. A small bottle of beer is called a *flascó/botellín*. A 200mL bottle is called a *quinto* (fifth) and 330mL is a *tercio* (third). Either bottle is often referred to as a *mediana*. If you just ask for a *cerveza* you may get bottled beer, which tends to be marginally more expensive.

The main Catalan brewery is Damm, established by Alsatian immigrants in the 19th century. Their lager-style Estrella Damm is the most common beer in Barcelona (other Damm variants include the potent and flavoursome malt Voll Damm). San Miguel, founded in Lleida in the 1940s, is also widely drunk and the company (with several breweries around Spain) is owned by the Mahou beer conglomerate. Damm company produces 15% of all Spain's beer, as does San Miguel.

A *clara* is a shandy – a beer with a hefty dash of lemonade (or lemon Fanta).

## Other Drinks

There is no shortage of imported and local top-shelf stuff in Barcelona – *coñac* (brandy) is popular. Larios is a common brand of gin (but it doesn't get too many rave reviews from resident Brits!).

On occasion you may be asked if you'd like a *chupito* to round off a meal. This is a little shot of liqueur; the idea is to help digestion. Popular and refreshing Spanish *chupitos* are *licor de manzana verde* (green apple liqueur) and *licor de melocotón* (peach liqueur), both transparent, chilled and with around 20% alcohol.

A popular drink across Spain that swings between sweet liqueur and something a little harder is Ponche Caballero. If you wander into a Galician restaurant you might come across their version of grappa, a clear firewater made with crushed grapes and called *orujo*. The Catalan firewater is *ratafia*, a particularly Pyrenean drop tasting vaguely similar to Kahlua.

South American cocktails such as the Brazilian *cachaça*-based *caipirinha* and the Cuban rum-based *mojito* are especially popular – many bars will whip these up for you in no time.

For tap water in restaurants you could ask for *agua de l'aixeta/agua de grifo*, but you're bound to get a funny look. People rarely opt for Barcelona tap water (and with good reason – it's bloody awful). *Agua/agua mineral* (bottled water) comes in innumerable brands, either *amb gas/con gas* (fizzy) or *sense gas/sin gas* (still).

## BARS

As the hordes of stag- and hen-night partiers demonstrate, there is no shortage of places to get a drink or six in Barcelona. Indeed, there is more drinking, bar-hopping and carousing to be done here than most average mortals can bear. The trick is finding the right zone for you on the right night.

Most visitors converge on Ciutat Vella (Old City) and as a result, you can be sure of plenty of activity seven nights a week. The lower end of the Barri Gòtic, especially on and around Plaça Reial and Carrer dels Escudellers, is usually packed, from the series of tourist-infested pseudo-

Irish boozers on Carrer de Ferran, to cool dance locals and relatively quieter bars hidden away in side lanes. In La Ribera the place to be is Passeig del Born and the lanes that branch off it.

In El Raval the scene is more spread out – from the student faves of Carrer de Joaquín Costa to the mixed set on and around La Rambla del Raval, Carrer Nou de la Rambla and Carrer de Santa Mònica. Some of the city's classic old bars are scattered about here.

Waterfront action comes in three flavours. It is by far busiest in summer, when a set of hip bars along La Barceloneta beach attracts a crowd of chilled-out folk, while the barnyard action of Port Olímpic (replicated to a lesser degree in the bars of Maremàgnum) is home to a strange of mix of youngsters from the 'burbs, sailing folk, and marauding stag- and hen- night groups from abroad. The third scene is the summer-only beach bar option (see p203).

In l'Eixample, Carrer d'Aribau is charged. The action spreads north across Avinguda Diagonal into La Zona Alta, with bars and several clubs that, as a rule, attract a mostly well-dressed, up-town crowd with the occasional cashed-up tourist thrown into the mix. The bars of Gaixample (gay l'Eixample) are clustered around the Carrer del Consell de Cent end of Carrer d'Aribau.

The squares and some streets of Gràcia are laced with bars, as sleepless local residents are constantly reminded. The scene in the area is remarkably homogenous – basically a young, somewhat rowdy, grunge student set. They are mostly locals but out-of-towners, especially of the Erasmus student programme variety, mix in as well.

A handful of options sparkle in Poble Sec, while some clubs are spread across the city, from La Barceloneta to Montjuïc and La Zona Alta.

You can pay anything from €2 to €4 for a 330mL bottle of Estrella beer (draught costs a little less) – it all depends on where and when you order it. Indeed, drink prices reflect the area you're in. In Gràcia, you're likely to find good cocktails and *combinats* (mixed drinks) for €5.50, and many bars offer happy hours. In the old town the same drinks will nudge closer to €8, while in l'Eixample, La Zona Alta and the waterfront (and of course the clubs) you are looking at €10–12 for the same poison.

Most bars are at their liveliest from around 11pm and close between 2am (Sunday to Thursday) and 3am (Friday and Saturday). A handful of places, bless 'em, keep their doors open as late as 5am. That there are not more is largely the result of irate neighbours and the increasingly rigorous application of noise regulations.

Note that drinking in the streets, on the beach and other public places away from bars is illegal and can attract hefty fines.

## Etiquette

One rule of drinking etiquette to observe closely in bars: never ask for or suggest having one last drink. Catalans always order the *penúltima* (next but last), even if it really is the last drink of the evening. To mention the *última* (last) is bad luck, since it sounds like one's last drink on earth. Of course, the problem with ordering a *penúltima* is that frequently it ends up being just that...

## CLUBS

Barcelona's clubs (*discotecas*) come alive from about 2am until 6am, and are at their best from Thursday to Saturday. Indeed, many open only on these nights.

A surprising variety of spots lurk in the old-town labyrinth, ranging from plush former dance halls to grungy subterranean venues that fill to capacity.

Along the waterfront it's another ball game. At Port Olímpic a sun-scorched crowd of visiting yachties mixes it up with tourists and a few locals at noisy, back-to-back dance bars right on the waterfront. The best spots are over on La Barceloneta side. You'll also find the city's only ice bar there, if that sort of thing tickles your fancy.

## TURNTABLE KINGS

Barcelona is crawling with DJs, some local and others passing through. Among the locals, David Mas shines out, regularly spinning his mixes at places like CDLC, Shōko and Sugar Club earlier in the evening and then often winding up headlining locations such as Otto Zutz later on. Right up there with him are Jekey, Sergi Domene, Jordi Martin, Chus Soler and Toni Bass, among many others.

A sprinkling of well-known clubs is spread over the classy parts of town, in l'Eixample and La Zona Alta. As a rule of thumb they attract a beautiful crowd, while the bulk of the city's gay nightlife is concentrated in L'Eixample.

Cover charges range from nothing to €18. If you go early, you'll often pay less. In almost all cases the admission price includes your first drink. Bouncers have last say on dress code and your eligibility to enter. Some places stage live music before converting into clubs.

## LIVE MUSIC

Barely a night goes by without a band filling the night air with the sounds of anything from world music to jazz. A circuit of well-established jazz clubs is always busy, while bands, local and international, turn up in clubs around the city. Jazz fans are also in for a treat in November, when the city's annual jazz festival is staged (see p19).

Start time is rarely before 10pm. Admission charges range from nothing to €20 – the higher prices often include a drink. Note that some of the clubs listed in this chapter sometimes stage concerts. Some bars also intermittently proffer live music.

To see big-name acts, either Spanish or from abroad, you will pay more and probably wind up at venues such as the 17,000-capacity Palau Sant Jordi on Montjuïc, the Teatre Mercat de les Flors or the Fòrum. Truly big acts play the Estadi Olímpic.

## BARRI GÒTIC & LA RAMBLA

La Rambla holds little interest, so leave it to those content to settle for expensive pints and plunge into the narrow streets and back alleys of the lower end of the Barri Gòtic. Check out Carrer dels Escudellers, Carrer Ample (and the parallel Carrer d'En Gignàs and Carrer del Correu Vell) and the area around Plaça Reial.

**BARCELONA PIPA CLUB** Map pp64–5 Bar  
☎ 93 302 47 32; www.bpipaclub.com; Plaça Reial 3; ☎ 11pm–4am Sun–Thu, 11pm–5am Fri & Sat; ☑ Liceu

This pipe-smokers' club is like an apartment, with all sorts of interconnecting rooms and knick-knacks – notably the pipes after which the place is named. Buzz at the door and head two floors up. Generally it is for members only until 11pm.

**CLUB SOUL** Map pp64–5 Bar  
☎ 93 302 70 26; Carrer Nou de Sant Francesc 7; ☎ 10pm–2.30am Mon–Thu, 10pm–3am Fri & Sat, 8pm–2.30am Sun; ☑ Drassanes

Known to most by its old name of Dot, this remains one of the hippest hang-outs in this part of town. Each night the DJs change the musical theme, which ranges from deep funk to Latin grooves. The tiny front bar is for drinking and chatting (get in early for a stool or the sole lounge).

Out back is where the dancing is done. On Sundays they start early with a little live jazz.

**GLACIAR** Map pp64–5 Bar  
☎ 93 302 11 63; Plaça Reial 3; ☎ 4pm–2.30am; ☑ Liceu

This classic, with marble bar and timber seating inside and aluminium tables and chairs outside beneath the porch, remains a favourite for warm-up drinks and watching the free street theatre of Plaça Reial.

**LA CLANDESTINA** Map pp64–5 Bar  
☎ 93 319 05 33; Baixada de Viladecols 2bis; ☎ 10am–10pm Sun–Thu, 9am–midnight Fri & Sat; ☑ Jaume I

Berets and goatees go down well in this right-on, wi-fi equipped teashop, where you can also opt for a beer, relax over a Middle Eastern narghile (the most elaborate way to smoke), get a head massage or eat carrot cake.

## top picks

### GAY & LESBIAN CLUBS

- DBoy (p207)
- Metro (p208)
- Dietrich Gay Teatro Café (p207)
- New Chaps (p206)
- Aire (p207)

**MANCHESTER** Map pp64–5 Bar  
☎ 663 071748; www.manchesterbar.com; Carrer de Milans 5; ☎ 7pm–2.30am Sun–Thu, 7pm–3am Fri & Sat; ☑ Liceu

A drinking den that has undergone several transformations down the years now treats you to the sounds of great Manchester bands, from the Chemical Brothers to Oasis, but probably not the Hollies. It has a pleasing rough and tumble feel, with tables jammed in every which way.

**SCHILLING** Map pp64–5 Bar  
☎ 93 317 67 87; Carrer de Ferran 23; ☎ 10am–2.30am Mon–Thu, 10am–3am Fri & Sat, noon–2am Sun; ☑ Liceu

A gay-friendly favourite with a classy low-lit feel. Perch at the bar, take a little table or slink out the back to the lounges, while various snacks are served up. Whatever you choose, it's a congenial place for a drink and some knowing eye contact.

**SINATRA** Map pp64–5 Bar  
☎ 93 412 52 79; Carrer de les Hores 4–10; ☎ 9pm–2.30am; ☑ Liceu

Lurking back a block from boisterous Plaça Reial is this no less raucous location. It's largely patronised by foreigners (Spanish-speaking staff are hard to locate!) who flop into splotchy cowhide pattern lounges, perch on long stools beneath the mirror ball and sip Desperados beer while listening to '80s tracks.

**SÍNCOPA** Map pp64–5 Bar  
Carrer d'Avinyó 35; ☎ 6pm–2.30am; ☑ Liceu  
Lovers of self-conscious grunge will want to pop in here for the mellow music and conversation. It's a saunter from Plaça de George Orwell (or Plaça del Trippy to those who hang around here taking drugs).

**SUGAR** Map pp64–5 Bar  
www.sugarbarcelona.com; Carrer d'En Rauric 21; ☎ 8pm–2.30am Sun–Thu, 8pm–3am Fri & Sat; ☑ Liceu

This funky cave is proof that you can go a long way with very little. Throw a few cushions around the entrance cubby hole and benches, add bar, DJ, red lighting, cocktails and stir. A fun (and often jammed) place to hang about before clubbing.

**CLUB FELLINI** Map pp64–5 Club  
☎ 687 969825; www.clubfellini.com; La Rambla 27; ☎ 12.30–5am Mon–Sat May–Sep, Thu–Sat Nov–Apr; ☑ Drassanes

This place comes into its own on those slow Monday nights when there's nothing happening elsewhere. Pop along for rock 'n' roll and indie rock at the Nasty Mondays session. The club has three spaces: the Bad Room for house, electro and punk; the Red Room for pop and rock; and the Mirror Room, a bigger more chilled space, dedicated to anything from house to disco. It has an appealingly tacky feel and shares its entrance with a strip joint. That doesn't put off a mixed, relaxed crowd. There's no particular dress code.

**KARMA** Map pp64–5 Club  
☎ 93 302 56 80; www.karmadisco.com, in Spanish; Plaça Reial 10; admission €8; ☎ midnight–5.30am Tue–Sun; ☑ Liceu

Sick of the metallic sounds of the new century? What about some good, mainstream indie music (during the week)? At weekends it becomes unpredictable, with anything from rock to 1980s disco fever. The odd Madonna track even pops up. A golden oldie in Barcelona, tunnel-shaped Karma is small and becomes quite tightly packed with a good-natured crowd of locals and out-of-towners.

**LA MACARENA** Map pp64–5 Club  
Carrer Nou de Sant Francesc 5; admission up to €5; ☎ 11pm–4am Sun–Thu, 11pm–6am Fri & Sat; ☑ Drassanes

You simply won't believe this was once a tile-lined Andalusian flamenco musos' bar. Now it is a very dark dance space, of the kind where it is possible to sit at the bar, meet people around you and then stand up for a bit of a shake to the DJs' electro and house offerings, all within a couple of square metres.

**NEW YORK** Map pp64–5 Club  
☎ 93 318 87 30; Carrer dels Escudellers 5; admission €10; ☎ midnight–6am Thu–Sat; ☑ Drassanes

This one-time dive has converted itself into a grunge club with a big following. The age group is basically 18 to 30 and the music mix is broad. Friday night is best, with anything from reggae to Latin rhythms.

## A LEGENDARY LEGIONNAIRES' DRINK

Carrer Ample was once lined by a motley lot of grubby, ill-lit but timeless bars. A couple of rough-and-ready Asturian taverns remain and they offer *leche de pantera* (panther's milk). Huh? This is a mix of liquor (various high-octane drinks can be used) and condensed milk and originated with the North Africa-based Spanish foreign legion. Legionnaires, they say, add a smidge of gun powder to give the drink further oomph!

### HARLEM JAZZ CLUB Map pp64-5 Live Music

☎ 93 310 07 55; Carrer de la Comtessa de Sobradell 8; admission up to €10; 🕒 8pm-4am Tue-Thu & Sun, 8pm-5am Fri & Sat; 📍 Drassanes This narrow, smoky, old-town dive is one of the best spots in town for jazz. Every now and then it mixes it up with a little rock, Latin or blues. It attracts a mixed crowd who maintain a respectful silence during the acts. Get in early if you want a seat in front of the stage.

### JAMBOREE Map pp64-5 Live Music & Club

☎ 93 319 17 89; www.masimas.com/jamboree; Plaça Reial 17; 🕒 9.30pm-6am; 📍 Liceu Since long before Franco said *adiós* to this world, Jamboree has been bringing joy to the jivers of Barcelona, with headline jazz and blues acts of the calibre of Chet Baker and Ella Fitzgerald. Concerts usually start around 11pm, and after all the live stuff finishes at about 2am, Jamboree takes on a different hue, as a club. Sounds under the low arches range fairly inevitably from hip-hop through funk to R&B. It's a labyrinthine place, with various, low-ceilinged, interconnecting spaces and attracts a mostly foreign mixed-age crowd.

### SIDECAR FACTORY CLUB

Map pp64-5 Live Music

☎ 93 302 15 86; www.sidecarfactoryclub.com; Plaça Reial 7; admission €7-15; 🕒 10pm-3am Tue-Thu, 10pm-6am Fri & Sat; 📍 Liceu With its entrance on Plaça Reial, you can come here for a meal before midnight or a few drinks at ground level (which closes by 3am at the latest), or descend into the red-tinged, brick-vaulted bowels for live music most nights. Just about anything goes here, from UK indie through to coun-

try punk, but rock and pop lead the way. Most shows start at 10pm (Thursday to Saturday). DJs take over to keep you dancing until dawn on weekends.

## EL RAVAL

What happened in the El Born area in the mid-1990s may be happening here now – new bars and clubs are opening up along the long, slummy alleys. Beside them, some great old harbour-style taverns still thrive – dark, wood-panelled and bare except for the odd mirror and vast arrays of bottles behind the bar. The area around Carrer de Sant Pau retains its edgy feel, with drug dealers, pick-pockets and prostitutes mingling with the streams of nocturnal hedonists.

### BAR LA CONCHA Map pp76-7 Bar

☎ 93 302 41 18; Carrer de la Guàrdia 14; 🕒 5pm-3am; 📍 Drassanes

If it were a theme bar, the theme would be actress Sara Montiel: there are more than 250 photos of her here. This kitsch fetish unites a largely gay and transvestite crowd. The music ranges from *paso dobles* (a kind of lively ballroom dance music) to modern Spanish.

### BAR MARSELLA Map pp76-7 Bar

Carrer de Sant Pau 65; 🕒 10pm-2am Mon-Thu, 10pm-3am Fri & Sat; 📍 Liceu

Hemingway used to slump over an *absenta* (absinthe) in this bar, which has been in business since 1820. It still specialises in absinthe, a drink to be treated with some respect. Your glass comes with a lump of sugar, a fork and a little bottle of mineral water. Hold the sugar on the fork, over your glass, and drip the water onto the sugar so that it dissolves into the absinthe, which turns yellow. The result should give you a warm glow.

### BAR MUY BUENAS Map pp76-7 Bar

☎ 93 442 50 53; Carrer del Carme 63; 🕒 7.30am-2.30am; 📍 Liceu

This bar started life as a late-19th-century corner store. The Modernista décor and relaxed company make this a great spot for a quiet *mojito*. You may catch a little live music or even a poetry reading, and can nibble on a limited menu of Middle Eastern tidbits.

### BAR PASTÍS Map pp76-7 Bar

☎ 93 318 79 80; Carrer de Santa Mònica 4; 🕒 7.30pm-2am Sun-Fri, 7.30pm-3am Sat; 📍 Drassanes

A French cabaret theme (with lots of Piaf in the background) dominates this tiny, cluttered classic. It's been going, on and off, since the end of WWII. You'll need to be in here before 9pm to have a hope of sitting, getting near the bar or anything much else. On some nights it features live acts, usually performing French *chansons*.

### BETTY FORD Map pp76-7 Bar

☎ 93 304 13 68; Carrer de Joaquín Costa 56; 🕒 6pm-2am Mon-Thu, 6pm-3am Fri & Sat; 📍 Universitat

This enticing corner bar is one of several good stops along the student-jammed run of Carrer de Joaquín Costa. They do some nice cocktails and the place fills with an even mix of locals and foreigners, generally not much over 30 and with an abundance of tats and piercings.

### BOADAS Map pp76-7 Bar

☎ 93 318 88 26; Carrer dels Tallers 1; 🕒 noon-2am Mon-Thu, noon-3am Fri & Sat; 📍 Catalunya One of the city's oldest cocktail bars, Boadas is famed for its daiquiris. The bow-tied waiters have been serving up unique drinkable creations since Miguel Boadas opened it in 1933. Joan Miró and Hemingway drank here. Miguel was born in Havana, where he was the first barman at the immortal La Floridita. He passed on in 1967, but the bar remains in the family. They specialise in short, intense drinks such as the Joan Miró, a whisky with a drop of Dubonnet and Grand Marnier, and the house special is the sweetish Boadas, with rum, Dubonnet and Curaçao. Or try a nice, dry Giorgio (vodka, a few drops of Calvados and a hint of whisky). Skip the *mojitos*.

## KICKING ON

The magic word is 'afters'. While the law imposes a closing time of 3am at the latest for bars in Barcelona, those in need of further fun and not in the mood for clubs do not necessarily have to head home for a beer from the fridge. Indeed, those still in need of fun even after the clubs disgorge their punters at 6am can find succour. Ask around for the nearest 'afters' (which may not be near, but hey, taxis are affordable). A handful of these mysterious places, with locked doors and spyholes, are scattered about the city. We can't give away any names – by their very nature (in the legal twilight zone) they don't advertise themselves. But take heart – if you find one you'll be able to drink away until 8am or later. It's no wonder some people confuse day with night in Barcelona!

### CASA ALMIRALL Map pp76-7 Bar

☎ 93 318 99 17; Carrer de Joaquín Costa 33; 🕒 7pm-2.30am; 📍 Universitat

In business since the 1860s, this unchanged corner bar is dark and intriguing, with Modernista décor and a mixed clientele. There are some great original pieces in here, like the marble counter, and the cast-iron statue of the muse of the World Fair, held in Barcelona in 1888.

### KENTUCKY Map pp76-7 Bar

☎ 93 318 28 78; Carrer de l'Arc del Teatre 11; 🕒 10pm-3am Tue-Sat; 📍 Liceu

A haunt of visiting US Navy boys, this exercise in smoke-filled Americana kitsch is the perfect way to finish an evening – if you can squeeze in. All sorts of odd bods from the *barri* and beyond gather. An institution in the wee hours, this place often stays open as late as 5am.

### LA CONFITERÍA Map pp76-7 Bar

☎ 93 443 04 58; Carrer de Sant Pau 128; 🕒 11am-2am; 📍 Paral.lel

This is a trip into the 19th century. Until the 1980s it was a confectioner's shop, and although the original cabinets are now lined with booze, the look of the place has barely changed in its conversion into a laid-back bar. A quiet enough spot for a cuppa and chat during the day, it fills with theatre-goers and local partiers later at night.

### LONDON BAR Map pp76-7 Bar

☎ 93 318 52 61; Carrer Nou de la Rambla 34-36; 🕒 7.30pm-3am Tue-Sun; 📍 Liceu

Open since 1909, this Modernista bar started as a hang-out for circus hanks and was later frequented by the likes of Picasso, Miró and Hemingway (didn't they have any work to do?). At the time of writing, renovations were being carried out to allow the return of off-the-wall music acts out the back. As popular as it was in Picasso's time,

## SMOKE SCREEN

Although national smoking laws in place since January 2006 mean that in any bars or clubs bigger than 100 sq metres smoking should be restricted to specific areas or banned altogether, this seems to be observed rather more in the breach. So for now, at least, you will still emerge from a big night out smelling like an ashtray.

this place fills to the brim with punters at the long front bar and rickety timber tables.

## RESOLÍS

☎ 93 441 29 48; Carrer de la Riera Baixa 22;

🕒 10am-1am Mon-Sat; 📍 Liceu

Long a drab dive, the bar is a tasteful image of its former self. The timber panelling, mirror-back bar and teeny tables all hark back to other times, but without the grime.

## MOOG

☎ 93 301 72 82; www.masimas.com/moog; Carrer de l'Arc del Teatre 3; admission €12; 🕒 midnight-6am; 📍 Drassanes

This fun and minuscule club is a standing favourite with the downtown crowd. In the main dance area, DJs dish out house, techno and electro, while upstairs you can groove to a nice blend of indie and occasional classic pop throwbacks.

## JAZZ SÍ CLUB

☎ 93 443 43 46; www.tallerdemusics.com; Carrer de Requesens 2; admission €4-8; 🕒 6-11pm; 📍 Sant Antoni

A cramped little bar run by the Taller de Músics (Musicians' Workshop) serves as the stage for a varied programme of jazz through to some good flamenco (Friday nights). Thursday night is Cuban night, Sunday is rock and the rest are devoted to jazz and/or blues sessions. It makes for a mellow start to a long night in El Raval. Concerts start around 9pm but the jam sessions can get going as early as 6.30pm.

## LA RIBERA

Along and near Passeig del Born you'll find stacks of possibilities. Since the early 1990s, when you could find little more than a couple of sad old bars for sad old punters, the place has been completely transformed.

## ALMA

☎ 93 319 76 07; Carrer de Sant Antoni dels Sombrerers 7; 🕒 8.30pm-2.30am Tue-Sat; 📍 Jaume I

Doc Martins boots, tats and mullets are part of the unofficial dress code in this easy-going back-lane bar. The music and lighting are kept low, and there's erotic art on the brick walls. Mixed drinks and cocktails cost €4 during happy hour (8.30-10.30pm).

## DIOBAR

☎ 93 319 56 19; Avinguda del Marquès de l'Argentera 27; 🕒 10pm-3am; 📍 Barceloneta

Downstairs from an indifferent Greek restaurant, this basement DJ bar is worth a few gyros sandwiches beforehand. Generally the vibe is house and deep house. A few of the friends you make here will no doubt head off to *Catwalk* (p204) later after closing.

## GIMLET

☎ 93 310 10 27; Carrer del Rec 24; 🕒 10pm-3am; 📍 Jaume I

Transport yourself to a Humphrey Bogart movie. White-jacketed bar staff with all the appropriate aplomb will whip you up a gimlet or any other classic cocktail (around €8) your heart desires.

## LA FIANNA

☎ 93 315 18 10; www.lafianna.com; Carrer dels Banys Vells 15; 🕒 6pm-1.30am Sun-Wed, 6pm-2.30am Thu-Sat; 📍 Jaume I

There is something medieval about this bar, with its bare stone walls, forged iron candelabras and cushion-covered lounges. But don't think chill-out. This place heaves and as the night wears on it's elbow room only. Earlier in the evening you can indulge in a little snack food too.

## LA VINYA DEL SENYOR

☎ 93 310 33 79; Plaça de Santa Maria del Mar 5; 🕒 noon-1am Tue-Sun; 📍 Jaume I

Relax on the *terrasa*, which lies in the shadow of Santa Maria del Mar, or crowd inside at the tiny bar. The wine list is as long as *War and Peace* and there's a table upstairs for those who opt to sample by the bottle rather than the glass.

## MIRAMELINDO

☎ 93 319 53 76; Passeig del Born 15; 🕒 8pm-2.30am; 📍 Jaume I

A spacious tavern in a Gothic building, this is a classic for mixed drinks, while soft jazz and soul sounds float overhead. Try for a comfy seat at a table towards the back before it fills to bursting. Several similarly barn-sized places line this side of the *passeig*.

## MUDANZAS

☎ 93 319 11 37; Carrer de la Vidrieria 15;

🕒 10am-2.30am; 📍 Jaume I

This was one of the first bars to get things into gear in El Born and it still attracts a faithful crowd. It's a straightforward place for a beer, a chat and perhaps a sandwich. Oh, and they do a nice line in Italian gappas.

## MAGIC

☎ 93 310 72 67; Passeig de Picasso 40; 🕒 11pm-6am Wed-Sun; 📍 Barceloneta

Although it sometimes hosts live acts in its sweaty, smoky basement, it's basically a straightforward, subterranean dance club offering rock, mainstream dance faves and Spanish pop.

## PORT VELL & LA BARCELONETA

A bevy of bars open until the wee hours in the Maremàgnum complex, which proves particularly popular in July and August. Options range from Irish pubs to salsa spots.

## CHILLIN' ON THE BEACH

Summer lounging on the beach is not just about towels on the sand. Scattered along Barcelona's strands is a series of hip little beach bars bringing chilled club sounds to the seaside. Sip on your favourite cocktail as you take in the day's last rays. There's no need to head straight home at sundown either, as these places keep humming from about 10am until midnight-1am (Easter to October), depending on the forces of law and order and how good business is. Along the beaches of La Barceloneta (from Platja de Sant Miquel up to Port Olímpic), there are five spots. A good one is *Chiringuito del Mar* (Map p93).

Better are those northeast of Port Olímpic. There are three on Platja de Nova Icària, including *Dockers* and *Inercia* (Map pp98-9; http://dockersbcn.com, Spanish). The Pachá club people have one on Platja de Bogatell, *El Chiringuito* (Map pp98-9; www.elchiringuitogroup.com). The zaniest of these beach bars are probably those on Platja de la Mar Bella, starting with *El Dulce Deseo de Lorenzo Club de Mar* (Map pp98-9). It and *El Misterioso Secreto de Amparo* (Map pp98-9) attract a body beautiful crowd of bronzed gays and lipstick lesbians. One more, *Mochima* (Map pp98-9; www.mochimabar.com, in Spanish), is also popular with a more mixed hetero crowd. Finally, three further beach bars, *Nueva Ola*, another *Mochima* & *El Chiringuito* (Map pp98-9), line Platja de la Nova Mar Bella.

But by far the best beach booty experience takes place outside Barcelona, a train ride to the northeast in Mataró. *Lasal* (www.lasal.com; 🕒 May-Sep), on Platja Sant Simó (northeast of the marina), offers top local DJs, food and a great party atmosphere.

Otherwise a couple of notable venues await on La Barceloneta waterfront.

## CDLC

☎ 93 224 04 70; www.cdclbarcelona.com;

Passeig Marítim de la Barceloneta 32; 🕒 noon-3am; 📍 Ciutadella Vila Olímpica

Seize the night by the scruff at the Carpe Diem Lounge Club, where you can lounge in quasi-Asian surrounds. Ideal for a slow warm-up before heading to the nearby clubs, if you can be bothered lifting yourself back up onto your feet, that is. You can come for the food or wait until about midnight, when they start to roll up the tables and the DJs and dancers take full control.

## LEKASBAH

☎ 93 238 07 22; www.ottotuzt.es; Plaça de Pau Vila s/n; 🕒 11pm-2.30am Sun-Thu, 11pm-3am Fri & Sat; 📍 Barceloneta

From the narghiles to the Moroccan furniture, everything here is designed to induce a chilled feel, aided by the slow music (anything from reggae on a Monday to electro beats on Sunday). On warmer nights you may prefer the *terrasa*.

## SANTA MARTA

☎ 93 238 07 22; www.ottotuzt.es; Plaça de Pau Vila s/n; 🕒 11pm-2.30am Sun-Thu, 11pm-3am Fri & Sat; 📍 Barceloneta,

☎ 45, 57, 59 & 157

Foreigners who have found seaside nirvana in Barcelona hang out in this chilled bar back from the beach. A curious crowd of

lonelyplanet.com

rastas, beach-bums and switched-on dudes chat over light meals and beer inside or relax outside over a late breakfast.

**SHÔKO** Map p93 Bar  
☎ 93 225 92 00; [www.shoko.biz](http://www.shoko.biz); Passeig Marítim de la Barceloneta 36; ☎ 8pm-3am Tue-Sun; **M** Ciutadella Vila Olímpica

Too cool for anything really, let alone school, this chilled restaurant and bar is all far-out concepts. Wafting over your mixed Asian-Med food is an opiate mix of Shinto music and Japanese electro. As the food is cleared away, the place turns into a funky beat kinda place, into which you may or may not enter without dinner, depending on the bouncer's mood.

**SUGAR CLUB** Map p93 Bar  
☎ 93 508 83 25; Moll de Barcelona; ☎ 11pm-3am Wed-Sat; **M** Drassanes

Set inside the World Trade Center, this is a dapper restaurant-club with DJ sounds and a snappily dressed crowd. The food is fusion funky and skipped without remorse, but the music served up can be top class, with local DJs such as David Mas at the turntables.

**Vaixell Luz de Gas** Map p93 Bar  
☎ 93 209 77 11; moored on Moll del Dipòsit; ☎ noon-3am Mar-Nov; **M** Barceloneta

Sit on the top deck of this boat and let go of the day's cares. Sip wine or beer, nibble tapas and admire the yachts. On shore they play some good dance music at night.

**CATWALK** Map p93 Club  
☎ 93 224 07 40; [www.dubcatwalk.net](http://www.dubcatwalk.net); Carrer de Ramon Trias Fargas 2-4; admission €15; ☎ midnight-6am Thu-Sun; **M** Ciutadella Vila Olímpica

A well-dressed crowd piles in here for good house music, occasionally mellowed down with more body-hugging electro and funk. Alternatively, you can sink into a fat lounge for a quiet tittle and whisper. Popular local DJ Jekey leads the way most nights.

**OPIUM MAR** Map p93 Club  
☎ 902 267486; [www.opiummar.com](http://www.opiummar.com); Passeig Marítim de la Barceloneta 34; ☎ 8pm-6am; **M** Ciutadella Vila Olímpica

Whites, shimmering silver and dark contrasts mark the décor of this seaside dance

## MAKING A SPLASH

Guys and gals board their metal steeds on hot summer nights to bear down on one of the top outdoor club scenes in town (or rather out of town since it's in neighbouring L'Hospitalet de Llobregat). **Liquid** (☎ 670 221209; [www.liquidbcn.com](http://www.liquidbcn.com); Complex Esportiu Hospitalet Nord, Carrer de Manuel Azaña 21-23; ☎ Jun-Sep) says what it is. A palm-studded islet is surrounded by a bottom-lit azure moat that tempts surprisingly few folks to plunge in while dancing the night away in this megaclub. Local and foreign DJs keep the punters, a mixed crowd from all over town, in the groove in a series of different internal spaces, as well as poolside.

place. While much of the action (accompanied by the thumping beat of house and techno) revolves around the central bar, there are plenty of separate spaces to sneak off to as well. It only begins to fill with a 20- and 30-something crowd from about 3am and is best in summer, when you can spill outside overlooking the beach. The beachside outdoor section works as a chilled restaurant-café by day (1-8pm).

**MONASTERIO** Map p93 Live Music  
☎ 93 319 19 88; [www.salamonasterio.com](http://www.salamonasterio.com), in Spanish; Passeig d'Isabel II 4; ☎ 9pm-3am; **M** Barceloneta

Wander downstairs to the brick vaults of this jamming basement music den. There's a little of everything, from a fine flamenco session followed by samba on Sunday night, blues jams on Thursdays and an anything-goes talent night on Mondays. They have Murphy's on tap, along with several other imported beers.

## PORT OLÍMPIC, EL POBLENOU & EL FÒRUM

Several options present themselves along the coast. The line-up of raucous bars along the marina at Port Olímpic is one. More chilled are the beach bars (see the boxed text, p203). In deepest Poblenou you'll find some clubs, among them one of Barcelona's classics, Razzmatazz.

**RAZZMATAZZ** Map pp98-9 Club & Live Music  
☎ 93 272 09 10; [www.salarazzmatazz.com](http://www.salarazzmatazz.com); Carrer dels Almogàvers 122 or Carrer de Pamplona 88; admission €15-30; ☎ 1-6am Fri & Sat; **M** Marina or Bogatell

Bands from far and wide occasionally create scenes of near hysteria in this, one of the city's classic live music and clubbing venues. Five different clubs in one huge post-industrial space attract people of all dance persuasions and ages. The main space, the Razz Club, is a haven for the latest international rock and indie acts. The Loft does house and electro, while the Pop Bar offers anything from garage to soul. The Lolita room is the land of techno pop and deep house, and upstairs in the Rex Room, guys and girls sweat it out to high rhythm electro-rock.

**SALA MEPHISTO** Map pp98-9 Live Music  
☎ 659 163652; [www.mephistobcn.com](http://www.mephistobcn.com); Carrer de Roc Boronat 33; ☎ 10pm-5am Fri & Sat; **M** Llacuna

Heavy metal, Gothic and hard-rock fans converge on this one-time workshop for concerts by groups from all over Europe. The music determines the crowd, so expect pale people in theatrically dark clothing. Long-haired lads with tats and leather mingle with pale wraiths in flowing black dresses and heavy make-up. It's all in the name of good fun.

## L'EIXAMPLE

Much of middle-class l'Eixample is dead at night, but several streets are exceptions. Noisy Carrer de Balma is lined with a rowdy adolescent set. Much more interesting is the cluster of locales lining Carrer d'Aribau between Avinguda Diagonal and Carrer de Mallorca. They range from quiet cocktail bars to '60s retro. Few get going much before midnight and are generally closed or dead Sunday to Wednesday. Lower down, on and around Carrer del Consell de Cent and Carrer de la Diputació, is the heart of Gaixample, with several gay bars and clubs (see the boxed text, p198).

**ÁTAME** Map pp108-9 Bar  
☎ 93 454 92 73; Carrer del Consell de Cent 257; ☎ 7pm-3am; **M** Universitat  
Cool for a coffee in the early evening, Àtame (Tie Me Up) heats up later in the

night as the gay crowd comes out to play. There is usually a raunchy show on Friday night and a happy hour on Thursdays.

**BACON BEAR** Map pp108-9 Bar  
Carrer de Casanova 64; ☎ 6pm-2.30am; **M** Urgell  
Every bear needs a cave to go to, and this is a rather friendly one. It's really just a big bar for burly gay folk. On weekends the music cranks up enough for a bit of bear-hugging twirl.

**DRY MARTINI** Map pp108-9 Bar  
☎ 93 217 50 72; Carrer d'Aribau 162-166; ☎ 1pm-2am Sun-Thu, 1pm-3am Fri & Sat; **M** FGC Provença

Waiters with a discreetly knowing smile will attend to your cocktail needs here. The house drink, taken at the bar or in one of the plush green leather lounges, is a safe bet. The gin and tonic comes in an enormous mug-sized glass – a couple of these and you're well on the way! Out the back is a restaurant, **Speakeasy** (p181).

**LA CAMA 54** Map pp108-9 Bar  
☎ 93 325 91 20; Carrer de Sepúlveda 178; ☎ 6pm-3am Tue-Sat, 5.45-11am Sat & Sun; **M** Urgell

Welcome to the city's cheerful, gay karaoke bar, a curious place that attracts a very mixed crowd in terms of age and sexual orientation. The biggest attraction is its dawn sessions on Saturday and Sunday mornings, perfect if you want to kick on after the clubs.

**LA CHAPELLE** Map pp108-9 Bar  
☎ 93 453 30 76; Carrer de Muntaner 67; ☎ 6pm-2am Mon-Thu, 6pm-3am Fri & Sat; **M** Universitat  
A typical, long, narrow Eixample bar with white-tiled walls like a 1930s hospital, it houses a plethora of crucifixes and niches that far outdoes what you'd find in any other 'chapel'. This is a relaxed gay meeting place that welcomes all comers. No need for six-pack bellies here.

**LA FIRMA** Map pp108-9 Bar  
[www.lafiradub.com](http://www.lafiradub.com), in Spanish; Carrer de Provença 171; admission €8-12; ☎ 10.30pm-3am Thu-Sat; **M** FGC Provença

A designer bar with a difference. Wander in past distorting mirrors and ancient fair-ground attractions from Germany. Put in

coins and listen to hens squawk. Speaking of squawking, the music swings wildly from whiffs of house through '90s hits to Spanish pop classics.

### LES GENS QUE J'AIME Map pp108-9 Bar

☎ 93 215 68 79; Carrer de València 286; ☎ 6pm-2.30am Sun-Thu, 6pm-3am Fri & Sat; **M** Passeig de Gràcia

This intimate basement relic of the 1960s follows a deceptively simple formula: chilled jazz music in the background, minimal lighting from an assortment of flea-market lamps and a cosy, cramped scattering of red velvet-backed lounges around tiny dark tables.

### LIKA LOUNGE Map pp108-9 Bar

☎ 93 467 26 11; [www.likalounge.com](http://www.likalounge.com); Passatge de Domingo 3; ☎ 6pm-3am; **M** Passeig de Gràcia The publicity noise about Barcelona's only 'ice bar' (a bar with a strip of ice to sit your drinks on) is a bit of a distraction. But this backstreet cocktail lounge is a low-lit, fashionable place to sip on creative combinations. The Pornstar Martini, with Cointreau, passionfruit and a side glass of *cava*, hits the spot. Through the back is a second smaller bar, and DJ sounds cover a broad, mainstream spectrum.

### MEDITERRÀNEO Map pp108-9 Bar

☎ 678 211253; Carrer de Balmes 129; ☎ 11pm-3am; **M** Diagonal

This smoky jam joint is a great hang-out that few tourists seem to bother with. Order a beer and chat at one of the tiny tables while waiting for the next act to tune up at the back. Sometimes the young performers are surprisingly good.

### MICHAEL COLLINS PUB Map pp102-3 Bar

☎ 93 459 19 64; Plaça de la Sagrada Família 4; ☎ noon-2am Sun-Thu, noon-3am Fri & Sat; **M** Sagrada Família

Locals and expats alike patronise this place, one of the city's best-loved Irish pubs. To be sure of a little Catalan-Irish *craic*, this barn-sized storming pub is just the ticket.

### NEW CHAPS Map pp108-9 Bar

☎ 93 215 53 65; Avinguda Diagonal 365; ☎ 9pm-3am; **M** Llorens

Leather lovers get in some close-quarters inspection on the dance floor and more,

especially in the dark room, downstairs past the fairly dark loos in the vaulted cellars.

### PREMIER Map pp108-9 Bar

☎ 93 532 16 50; Carrer de Provença 236; ☎ 6pm-2.30am Mon-Thu, 6pm-3am Fri & Sat; **M** FGC Provença

A little cross-pollination has happened in this funky little French-run wine bar. The rather short wine list is mostly French, or you can opt for a Moritz beer or a *mojito*. Hug the bar, sink into a lounge or hide up on the mezzanine. One warning – it gets smoky in here.

### PUNTO BCN Map pp108-9 Bar

☎ 93 453 61 23; Carrer de Muntaner 63-65; ☎ 6pm-3am; **M** Universitat

It's an oldie but a goodie. A big bar over two levels with a crowd ranging from their 20s to their 40s and beyond, this place fills to bursting on Friday and Saturday nights. It's a friendly early stop on a gay night out, and you can shoot a round of pool if you feel so inclined.

### QUILOMBO Map pp102-3 Bar

☎ 93 439 54 06; Carrer d'Aribau 149; ☎ 7pm-2.30am daily Jun-Sep, Wed-Sun Oct-May; **M** FGC Provença

Some formulas just work, and this place has been working since the 1970s. Set up a few guitars in the back room, which you pack with tables and chairs, add some cheapish pre-prepared *mojitos* and plastic tubs of nuts, and let the punters do the rest. They pour in, creating plenty of *quilombo* (fuss).

### SWEET CAFÉ Map pp108-9 Bar

[www.sweetbcn.com](http://www.sweetbcn.com), in Spanish; Carrer de Casanova 75; ☎ 8pm-3am Wed-Sun; **M** Urgell

This tunnel of a bar is like the lining inside a long illuminated stick of fluorescent lipstick-red candy. Gay-friendly in the Gaixample, but open to all and sundry, it occasionally hosts live music, expositions and other events. Themed parties, from trans to bears, are a regular feature.

### TOSCANO ANTICO Map pp102-3 Bar

☎ 93 225 50 91; Carrer d'Aribau 167; ☎ 8pm-2am Tue-Thu, 8pm-3am Fri & Sat; **M** Diagonal

Bored with running the family Tuscan restaurant in Milan, the young Italian owners

of Toscano have transported the classy Milanese *aperitivo* to Barcelona, mixing it with local energy. On the bar are snacks *alla Milanese*, to be taken (free) with generous cocktails. Let the bar staff fix you a special, unlisted concoction and grab one of the handful of tiny tables out back.

### AIRE Map pp108-9 Club

☎ 93 487 83 42; [www.arenadisco.com](http://www.arenadisco.com), in Spanish; Carrer de València 236; ☎ 11pm-3am Thu-Sat; **M** Passeig de Gràcia

A popular locale for lesbians, the dance floor is spacious and there is usually a DJ in command of the tunes, which range from hits of the '80s and '90s to techno. As a rule, only male friends of the girls are allowed entry, although in practice the crowd tends to be fairly mixed. Things can heat up on Thursday nights with live music.

### ANTILLA BCN Map pp108-9 Club

☎ 93 451 45 64; [www.antillasalsa.com](http://www.antillasalsa.com), in Spanish; Carrer d'Aragó; ☎ 11pm-6am; **M** Urgell

The *salsateca* in town, this is the place to come for Cuban *son*, merengue, salsa and a whole lot more. If you don't know how to dance any of this, you may feel a little silly (as a guy) but women will probably get free lessons. The guys can come back at another time and pay for classes (see p272).

### ARENA CLASIC Map pp108-9 Club

☎ 93 487 83 42; [www.arenadisco.com](http://www.arenadisco.com), in Spanish; Carrer de la Diputació 233; admission €6-12; ☎ 12.30-6am Fri & Sat; **M** Passeig de Gràcia

Around the corner from Arena Madre, this place is a little more sedate than its partner, and tends to get more of a mixed crowd. The dominant sound is commercial house music.

### ARENA MADRE Map pp108-9 Club

☎ 93 487 83 42; [www.arenadisco.com](http://www.arenadisco.com), in Spanish; Carrer de Balmes 32; admission €6-12; ☎ 12.30-6am; **M** Passeig de Gràcia

Popular with a hot young crowd, Arena Madre is one of the top clubs in town for boys seeking boys. Keep an eye out for the striptease shows on Mondays, drag queens on Wednesdays and a combination of disco and Latin music to get those butts moving. Heteros are welcome but a minority.

### CITY HALL Map pp108-9 Club

☎ 93 238 07 22; [www.ottozutz.es](http://www.ottozutz.es), in Spanish; La Rambla de Catalunya 2-4; admission €12; ☎ midnight-5.30am Wed-Sun; **M** Catalunya A corridor leads to the dance floor of this place, located in a former theatre. House and other electric sounds dominate, including a rather forward-sounding session of electroclash called *Fucked!* on Wednesdays. Look forward to deep house on Saturdays and the more chilled Zen Club, an electronic Sunday session.

### DBOY Map pp108-9 Club

[www.dboyclub.com](http://www.dboyclub.com); Ronda de Sant Pere 19-21; ☎ midnight-6am Fri-Sun & holidays; **M** Urquinaona Once known as Salvation and a key club on the gay circuit, it has been given a complete overhaul (as well as the new name), with stunning lighting. Electronic music dominates the dance nights here. The Sunday night La Madame sessions are highly popular.

### DIETRICH GAY TEATRO CAFÉ Club

Map pp108-9  
☎ 93 451 77 07; Carrer del Consell de Cent 255; ☎ 10.30pm-3am; **M** Universitat

It's show time at 1am, with at least one drag-queen gala each night in this cabaret-style locale dedicated to Marlene Dietrich. Soft house is the main musical motif and the place has an interior garden.

### DISTRITO DIAGONAL Club

Map pp108-9  
☎ 607 113602; [www.districtodiagonal.com](http://www.districtodiagonal.com); Avinguda Diagonal 442; admission after 4am €15; ☎ 11pm-8.30am Fri & Sat; **M** Diagonal

A huddle of tables offers quiet time at the front of this red-hued club. To move your booty to deep house and garage, slide past the long bar to the raised dance area out the back. All sorts of strange nocturnal beasts wind up in this club, one of the precious few locations available to all-nighter drinkers. After all, it's open even after most have turfed out their punters!

### LA BASE Map pp102-3 Club

Carrer de Casanova 201; ☎ 10pm-3am Mon-Fri, midnight-5am Sat & Sun; **M** Hospital Clínic This heavy, heated gay bar and club has something for just about everyone: nude



## HOTEL HANG-OUTS

Hanging out in certain hotel bars has become cool in Barcelona. So much so that locals like to hang out in some of them too! The ground-floor lounge **Bar Moodern** in **Hotel Omm** (p236) is one of *the* places for beautiful people to preen and be seen. When you're finished lounging around upstairs, you can head into the basement **Ommsession Club** (☎ 93 445 40 00; 🕒 11.30pm-3am), a smallish but *fashion* dance venue, straight downstairs from Bar Moodern.

Other options worth considering include the **East 47** bar-restaurant (downstairs) and rooftop terrace bar-restaurant at the **Hotel Claris** (p236), the too-cool-for-school gay options (the **Chillout** cocktail bar and the summer rooftop **Skybar**) at **Hotel Axel** (p236) and the poolside rooftop cocktail bar at **Hotel Majestic** (p236). On La Rambla, **Hotel 1898** (p231) runs **Bar Lobo** out the back.

nights, rude nights, leather cruising evenings and dark rooms. There's even music!

## METRO Map pp108-9

Club

☎ 93 323 52 27; [www.metrodiscobcn.com](http://www.metrodiscobcn.com); Carrer de Sepúlveda 185; 🕒 midnight-5am Sun-Thu midnight-6am Fri & Sat; 📺 Universitat

Metro attracts a casual gay crowd with its two dance floors, three bars and very dark room. Keep an eye out for shows and parties, which can range from parades of models to bingo nights (on Thursday nights, with sometimes interesting prizes). On Wednesday nights there's a live sex show.

## OPIUM CINEMA Map pp102-3

Club

☎ 93 414 47 99; Carrer de París 193-197; 🕒 9pm-3.30am Wed-Sat; 📺 Diagonal

Reds, roses and yellows dominate the colour scheme in this wonderful former cinema. Barcelona's beautiful people, from a broad range of ages, gather to drink around the central rectangular bar, dance a little and eye one another up. Some come earlier for a bite. Wednesday nights are for R&B and Brazilian music, while Thursday is models night, when the bouncers might be a little tougher on whom they let in.

## ZAC CLUB Map pp102-3

Live Music

☎ 657 918555; [www.zac-club.com](http://www.zac-club.com), in Spanish; Avinguda Diagonal 477; admission €12-15; 🕒 9pm-6am Thu-Sat; 📺 Hospital Clínic

In what was originally Barcelona's classic La Boîte, the Zac Club has now emerged as a live-music venue, with a broad range of concerts held on most nights of the week. The small stage is occupied by bands from 9pm to about midnight, from which point the place converts into a small, somewhat congenial club.

## GRÀCIA & PARK GÜELL

Gràcia is a quirky place. In many ways it's its own world, with rowdy young beer-swillers who should probably be studying, trendy music bars and a couple of the city's big clubs.

## ALFA Map p118

Bar

☎ 93 415 18 24; Carrer Gran de Gràcia 36; 🕒 11pm-3.30am Thu-Sat; 📺 Diagonal

Aficionados of good old-fashioned rock with a mix of '90s hits love this unchanging bar-cum-miniature disco, a Gràcia classic. Take up a stool for a drink and chat or head for the no-frills dance area just beyond.

## BAR CANIGÓ Map p118

Bar

☎ 93 213 30 49; Carrer de Verdi 2; 🕒 5pm-2am Mon-Thu, 5pm-3am Fri & Sat; 📺 Fontana

Especially welcoming in winter, this corner bar overlooking Plaça de la Revolució de Setembre de 1868 is an animated spot to simply sip on an Estrella beer around rickety old marble-top tables, as people have done here for decades. There's also a pool table.

## LA BAIGNOIRE Map p118

Bar

Carrer de Verdi 6; 🕒 4pm-3am; 📺 Fontana

This inviting, tiny wine bar is always packed. Grab a stool and high table and order fine wines by the glass (beer and cocktails available too). It's perfect before and after a movie at the nearby Verdi cinema.

## LA CIGALE Map p118

Bar

☎ 93 457 58 23; Carrer de Tordera 50; 🕒 6pm-2.30am Sun-Thu, 6pm-3am Fri & Sat; 📺 Joanic

A very civilised place for a cocktail (or two for €8 before 10pm). Prop up the zinc

bar, sink into a secondhand lounge chair around a teeny table or head upstairs. Music is chilled, conversation lively and you're likely to see Charlie Chaplin in action on the silent flat-screen TV. You can also snack on wok-fried dishes. The same brothers run **La Fourmi** (Map p118; Carrer de Milà i Fontanals 58; 📺 Joanic) around the corner, which is just as pleasant and equally good for breakfast.

## LE JOURNAL Map p118

Bar

Carrer de Francisco Giner 36; 🕒 6pm-2.30am Sun-Thu, 6pm-3am; 📺 Fontana

Students love the conspiratorial basement air of this narrow bar, whose walls and ceiling are plastered with newspapers (hence the name). Read the headlines of yesteryear while reclining in an old lounge. For a slightly more intimate feel, head upstairs to the rear gallery. It's a smokers' paradise.

## MUSICAL MARIA Map p118

Bar

Carrer de Maria 5; 🕒 9pm-3am; 📺 Diagonal

Even the music hasn't changed since this place got going in the late 1970s. Those longing for rock 'n' roll crowd into this animated bar, listen to old hits and knock back beers.

## NOISE I ART Map p118

Bar

☎ 93 217 50 01; Carrer de Topazi 26; 🕒 6pm-2.30am Tue-Wed, 7pm-3am Thu-Sat, 6pm-1.30am Sun; 📺 Fontana

Step back into the 1980s in this retro den. Red, green and other primal colours dominate the décor in a place where you might encounter Boney M on the video music play. Drape yourself on the circular red lounge, have a light meal (served up on old LPs) at red-lit tables alongside floor-to-ceiling glass windows, or perch yourself at the bar. The daiquiris may not be the best you've ever had, but probably the biggest!

## NUIT Map p118

Bar

Carrer de Ferrer de Blanes 3; 🕒 7pm-3am Tue-Sun; 📺 Diagonal

Low-key mood music, silent video projections, a little psychedelic lighting and a generally dark atmosphere in a generous space make this a tempting option, away from the typically claustrophobic bars of

Gràcia. Watch for their happy hours and cocktails of the day at around €4.

## RAÏM Map p118

Bar

Carrer de Progrés 34; 🕒 1pm-2am; 📺 Diagonal The walls in Raïm are alive with black-and-white photos of Cubans and Cuba. Tired old wooden chairs of another epoch huddle around marble tables, while grand old timber-lined mirrors hang from the walls. They just don't make old Spanish taverns like this anymore.

## SABOR A CUBA Map p118

Bar

☎ 600 262003; Carrer de Francisco Giner 32; 🕒 10pm-2.30am Mon-Thu, 10pm-3am Fri & Sat; 📺 Diagonal

Ruled since 1992 by the charismatic Havana-born Angelito is this home of *ron y son* (rum and sound). A mixed crowd of Cubans and fans of the Caribbean island come to drink *mojitos* and shake their stuff in this diminutive, good-humoured hang-out.

## SOL SOLER Map p118

Bar

☎ 93 217 44 40; Plaça del Sol 21-22; 🕒 noon-1am; 📺 Fontana

A pleasant place with old tile floors, timber panelling and little marble tables perfect for an early beer, glass of red and chat. Drop by earlier in the day for wi-fi (available to 6.30pm) and, if hunger strikes, order in some bar snacks (the chicken wings are delicious).

## MARTIN'S Map p118

Club

☎ 93 218 71 67; [www.martins-disco.com](http://www.martins-disco.com); Passeig de Gràcia 130; admission Sat €12; 🕒 midnight-6am Tue-Sun; 📺 Diagonal

Martin's is theoretically for men only, although the occasional lady slips in. It's not quite the daring place it once was – after all, how risqué can a gay bar get nowadays? – but local queers of all ages feel comfortable here.

## LA ZONA ALTA

North of Avinguda Diagonal, the *pijos* (cashed-up mamma's boys and papa's girls) are in charge. Whether you sample the bars around Carrer de Marià Cubí (and surrounding streets) or try the clubs around Carrer

d'Aribau or Tibidabo, expect to be confronted by perma-tanned Audi and 4WD-driving folks in designer threads. What do you care? The eye candy more than compensates for the snobby. Late-night transport to some clubs (such as Mirablau and Rosebud) is easiest by taxi.

### ARS Map pp122-3

Bar

☎ 93 414 36 90; Travessera de Gràcia 40; ☎ 11pm-3am Thu-Sat; **M** Diagonal

An attractive cocktail lounge is squeezed like toothpaste into this long locale (that's how they build things here!). Décor is predominantly white, with split levels (each level with its own bar) and a smattering of leather lounges and stools. Drinks are a little pricey but the casually cool 30-something crowd loves it. They offer wi-fi and sometimes have art exhibitions.

### BERLIN Map pp122-3

Bar

☎ 93 200 65 42; Carrer de Muntaner 240; ☎ 10am-1am Mon-Wed, 10am-3am Thu-Sat; **M** Diagonal or Hospital Clinic

This elegant corner bar offers views over Avinguda Diagonal. There is a cluster of tables outside on the 1st floor and designer lounges downstairs. Service can be harried but the location is excellent for starting an uptown night. All ages and creeds snuggle in and many kick on to **Luz de Gas** (p211), virtually next door, afterwards.

### BIKINI Map pp122-3

Club &amp; Live Music

☎ 93 322 08 00; www.bikinibcn.com; Carrer de Déu i Mata 105; admission €10-20; ☎ midnight-6am Wed-Sun; **M** Entença **6**, 7, 33, 34, 63, 67 or 68

This grand old star of the Barcelona nightlife scene has been keeping the beat since the darkest days of Franco. Every possible kind of music gets a run, depending on the night and the space you choose, from Latin and Brazilian hip-jigglers to 1980s disco. It frequently stages quality local and foreign acts, ranging from funk guitar to rock. Performances generally start around 9pm or 10pm (the club doesn't happen until midnight).

### BOCAYMA Map pp122-3

Bar

☎ 93 237 94 08; Carrer de l'Avenir 50; ☎ 11pm-2am Tue-Wed, 11pm-3am Thu-Sat; **M** FGC Muntaner

Bocayma starts in quiet fashion with patrons gathered around its low tables lined up on one side of the rear bar area. Two backlit bars also keep the drinks coming to this low-lit honey pot of good-looking 20- and 30-somethings. After 1am the music takes off and punters rev up for an outing to nearby clubs. It often opens beyond its official hours.

### BUBBLIC BAR Map pp122-3

Bar

☎ 93 414 54 01; www.bubblicbar.com; Carrer de Marià Cubí 183; ☎ 11pm-2am Tue-Wed, 11pm-3am Thu-Sat; **M** FGC Muntaner

Many bars around here are tight on space, and the nonsmoking section upstairs in this bar is not much different. In the smoke-filled dungeon, however, several bars run alongside dance areas where you can shake your moving parts to a mixed medley of anything from rock to house and trance.

### LA FEMME Map pp122-3

Bar

Carrer de Plató 13; ☎ 7pm-2am Mon-Thu, 7pm-3am Fri & Sat; **M** FGC Muntaner

One of the few spots in town that gay women can call their own, this basement music bar for lesbians and their friends is simple enough but something of a classic on the (limited) scene.

### MARCEL Map pp122-3

Bar

☎ 93 209 89 48; Carrer de Santaló 42; ☎ 10am-2am Mon-Thu, 10am-3am Fri & Sat; **M** FGC Muntaner

A classic meeting place, Marcel has a homey but classy old-world feel, with a timber bar, black and white floor tiles and high windows. They offer a few snacks and tapas as well. Space is somewhat limited and customers inevitably spill out onto the footpath.

### BÚCARO Map pp122-3

Club

☎ 93 209 65 62; Carrer d'Aribau 195; admission Fri & Sat €10; ☎ 11pm-4am Sun-Wed, 11pm-6am Fri & Sat; **M** Diagonal

Take a 'quiet' drink at the lounges scattered at the front end of the bar, and be regaled with anything from 1980s hits through to Latin pop. Out the back are two more bars and a swirl of people moving between them and the tiny dance floor, with sounds ranging from Spanish pop to house.

### ELEPHANT Map pp122-3

Club

☎ 93 334 02 58; www.elephantbcn.com, in Spanish; Passeig dels Til·lers 1; admission Wed, Thu & Sun free, Fri & Sat €15; ☎ 11pm-3am Wed, 11pm-5am Thu-Sun; **M** Palau Reial; **P** Getting in here is like being invited to a private fantasy party in Beverly Hills. Models and wannabes mix with immaculately groomed lads who most certainly didn't come by taxi. A big tent-like dance space is the main game here, but smooth customers slink their way around a series of garden bars in summer too. There's also a two-storey 'tower'.

### LUZ DE GAS Map pp122-3

Club &amp; Live Music

☎ 93 209 77 11; www.luzdegas.com; Carrer de Muntaner 244-246; admission up to €20; ☎ 11.30pm-6am; **M** Diagonal then **6**, 7, 15, 27, 32, 33, 34, 58 or 64

Several nights a week this club, set in a grand former theatre, stages concerts ranging through soul, country, salsa, rock, jazz or pop. You can hang back in the relative obscurity of the bars or plunge down into the pit and boogie away before the grand stage. It's like being at a rock concert of old. From about 2am, the place turns into a club that attracts a well-dressed crowd with varying music taste, depending on the night. It gets a little sweaty in the dedicated club room Sala B, which opens on Friday and Saturday nights only.

### MIRABLAU Map pp122-3

Club

☎ 93 418 58 79; Plaça del Doctor Andreu; ☎ 11am-6am

Gaze out over the entire city from this privileged balcony restaurant on the way up to Tibidabo. Wander downstairs to join the folk in the tiny dance space. In summer you can step out on to the even smaller terrace for a breather.

### OTTO ZUTZ Map pp122-3

Club

☎ 93 238 07 22; www.ottozutz.es; Carrer de Lincoln 15; admission €15; ☎ midnight-5.30am Tue-Sat; **M** FGC Gràcia

Beautiful people only need apply for entry to this three-floor dance den. Downstairs, shake it all up to house, or head upstairs for funk and soul. DJs come from the Ibiza rave mould and the top floor is for VIPs (although at some ill-defined point in the evening the barriers all seem to come down). Wednesday and Thursday nights

## RETURN OF THE HOLE IN THE WALL

For decades from 1912, the **Kiosco La Cazalla** (Map pp76-7; Carrer de l'Arc del Teatre; ☎ 10am-9pm Mon-Wed, 10am-2.30am Thu-Sat; **M** Drassanes) served passers-by beer, wine or a glass of morello cherry-based firewater known as *cazalla*. This little-known Andalusian beverage, often served with a few raisins floating in it, is an acquired taste (some Italians claim it is similar to sambuca). After years closed up, the hole in the wall just off La Rambla (claiming to be Barcelona's smallest bar) is back in business. A shot of 50-proof *cazalla* costs €1.50.

tend to be dominated by hip-hop, R&B and funk. Friday and Saturday it's house.

### PACHÁ Map pp122-3

Club

☎ 93 334 32 33; www.clubpachabcn.com; Avinguda del Doctor Gregorio Marañón 17; admission €15; ☎ midnight-6am Wed-Sun; **M** Palau Reial A huge metallic dance hall with raised sides (the better to observe fellow patrons from), a back bar and an ever-changing menu of resident DJs makes this Spain-wide classic a magnet for a combination of the best dressed and young rebels. Upstairs is a more exclusive restaurant with lounge club and terrace. Exchange students have their night on Wednesdays, while the first Sunday of each month has a chilled Ibiza import, the Sundown Tea Dance sessions.

### ROSEBUD Map pp122-3

Club

☎ 93 418 88 85; www.rosebud.es, in Spanish; Carrer d'Adrià Margarit 27; ☎ 11pm-4am Wed-Thu, 11pm-6am Fri & Sat Inspired in name only by the film *Citizen Kane*, Rosebud is an assault on the senses, with blaring music (mostly '80s and '90s) and flashing lights. Go-go dancers keep punters in rhythm and three bars operate inside downstairs, with another upstairs on the balcony and bar service in the garden. Those under 30-something may find it a little, well, 'old'. From Tibidabo it looks like an enormous glasshouse.

### SALA BECOOL Map pp122-3

Club

☎ 93 362 04 13; www.salabecool.com; Plaça de Joan Llongueras 5; admission €12; ☎ 10pm-6am Thu-Sat; **6** 27, 32, 59, 66, 67 or 68

Electro is the leitmotif in this middle-sized dance place dominated by a single giant mirror ball at the stage end, where earlier in the night you might catch a concert. The secondary Redrum space runs at a slower pace, with indie music to the fore. A mixed but largely good-looking crowd from the surrounding La Zona Alta area pack it in.

### SUTTON THE CLUB Map pp122-3 Club

☎ 93 414 42 17; [www.thesuttonclub.com](http://www.thesuttonclub.com); Carrer de Tuset 13; admission €15; ☎ 11.30pm-6am Tue-Sat; **M** Diagonal

A classic disco with mainstream sounds on the dance floor, some hopping house in a side bar and a fair spread of eye candy, this place inevitably attracts just about everyone pouring in and out of the nearby bars at some stage of the evening. The main dance floor is akin to a writhing bear pit. Jump in!

### UP & DOWN Map pp122-3 Club

☎ 93 254 51 94; [www.updownbarcelona.com](http://www.updownbarcelona.com); Carrer de Numància 179; admission after 3am €15; ☎ midnight-6am Tue-Sat; **M** Maria Cristina

An uptown club that has its moments, Up & Down attracts a mixed crowd, tending more to 30s and above. Upstairs is for drinking and revival music while downstairs you can dance to a mainstream mix of international tracks. Leather sofas and even leather padding on the pillars recalls an age when clubs were called discos. Although it can feel passé, this place gets packed early in the week when other venues can be limp.

### ESPAI MOVISTAR Map pp122-3 Live Music

[www.espacio.movistar.es](http://www.espacio.movistar.es), in Catalan/Spanish; Carrer de Pascual i Vila s/n; **M** Palau Reial This giant big top, complete with a stage and space for 2000 punters, is an interesting concert space that attracts some major Spanish and foreign acts (Bryan Adams played here in spring 2008). It also offers an internet café, bar, exhibition space and more.

### JAZZROOM Map pp122-3 Live Music

☎ 93 319 17 89; [www.masimas.com/jazzroom](http://www.masimas.com/jazzroom); Carrer de Vallmajor 33; admission €10-20; ☎ 9pm-3am; **R** FGC Muntaner

Run by the Mas i Mas group that owns Jamboree, this is a good if awkwardly

located spot for occasional jazz sessions: be sure to look up the programme before heading there as it is not always open. Start times vary – often nothing happens before 11pm. On weekends it can stay open as late as 5am.

## MONTJUÏC, SANTS & POBLE SEC

A couple of curious bars in Poble Sec (literally 'Dry Town!') make a good prelude to the clubs that hold sway up in the wonderfully weird fantasy world of the Poble Espanyol. A couple of clubs on the lower end of Avinguda del Paral.lel are worth seeking out too.

### BARCELONA ROUGE Map pp140-1 Bar

☎ 93 442 49 85; Carrer del Poeta Cabanyes 21; ☎ 11pm-2am Tue-Thu, 11pm-3am Fri & Sat; **M** Poble Sec

Decadence is the word that springs to mind in this bordello-red lounge-cocktail bar, with acid jazz, drum 'n' bass and other soothing sounds drifting along in the background. No, you're not addled with drink and drugs, the corridor leading out back to the bar really is that crooked. The walls are laden with heavy-framed paintings, dim lamps and mirrors, and no two chairs are alike. Stick to simple drinks, as the €10 glamour cocktails are on the watery side.

### GRAN BODEGA SALTÓ Map pp140-1 Bar

Carrer de Blesa 36; ☎ 7pm-3am Wed-Sat, noon-2am Sun; **M** Paral.lel

You can tell by the ranks of barrels that this was once an old-fashioned wine store. Now, after a little homemade psychedelic redecoration, with odd lamps, figurines and old Chinese beer ads, this is a magnet for an eclectic barfly crowd. Mohicans and tats abound, but the crowd is mixed and friendly.

### LA CASETA DEL MIGDIA Map pp140-1 Bar

☎ 93 301 91 77 or 617 956572; [www.lacaseta.org](http://www.lacaseta.org); Mirador del Migdia; ☎ 6pm-2.30am Thu-Sat, 10am-1am Sun Jun-Sep, 10am-7pm Sat & Sun Oct-May; **M** Paral.lel then Funicular

The effort of getting to what is, to all intents and purposes, a simple *chiringuito* (makeshift café-bar) is well worth it. Walk below the walls of the Montjuïc castle

along the dirt track or follow Passeig del Migdia (watch out for signs for the Mirador del Migdia). Stare out to sea over a beer or coffee by day. As sunset approaches the atmosphere changes, as lounge music (from sambas to funk) wafts out over the hammocks. If the cocktails don't inebriate you, the smell of the pines will.

### MAUMAU UNDERGROUND Bar

Map pp140-1  
☎ 93 441 80 15; [www.maumauunderground.com](http://www.maumauunderground.com); Carrer de la Fontrodona 33; ☎ 11pm-2.30am Thu & Sun, 11pm-3am Fri & Sat; **M** Paral.lel

Funk, soul, hip-hop – you never know what you might run into in this popular Poble Sec music and dance haunt, housed in a former factory. Above the backlit bar, a huge screen spews forth weird and wonderful images, which contribute to the relaxed lounge effect. On occasion it might transmit the latest Barça match instead.

### TINTA ROJA Map pp140-1 Bar

☎ 93 443 32 43; [www.tintaroja.net](http://www.tintaroja.net), in Spanish; Carrer de la Creu dels Molers 17; ☎ 8.30pm-2am Thu, 8.30pm-3am Fri & Sat; **M** Poble Sec

A succession of nooks and crannies, dotted with what could be a flea market's collection of furnishings and dimly lit in violets, reds and yellows, makes the 'Red Ink' an intimate spot for a drink and the occasional show in the back – with anything from actors to acrobats. Tango aspirants can take class here on Wednesday nights. You never quite know what to expect in this one time *vaqueria*, where they kept cows out the back and sold fresh milk at the front!

### PLATAFORMA Map pp140-1 Club

☎ 93 329 00 29; Carrer Nou de la Rambla 145; admission €10; ☎ midnight-6.30am Thu-Sat; **M** Paral.lel

With two adjoining dance halls, 'Platform' has the sense of a slightly clandestine location in an otherwise quiet residential street. Inside this friendly, straightforward dance dive, far from the glittery Ibiza look, popular tunes from the 1980s and 1990s

(along with timeless rock and drum 'n' bass on Thursdays) attract nostalgics in their 30s and younger partiers with a taste for the 'old fashioned'.

### SALA APOLO Club & Live Music

Map pp140-1  
☎ 93 441 40 01; [www.sala-apollo.com](http://www.sala-apollo.com), in Catalan/Spanish; Carrer Nou de la Rambla 113; admission €6-12; ☎ 12.30am-6am Wed-Sat, 10.30pm-3.30am Sun; **M** Paral.lel

This is a fine old theatre where red velvet dominates, and you feel as though you're in a movie-set dancehall scene featuring Eliot Ness. The team provides house, techno, funk and break-beat sounds from Thursday to Sunday nights in both the main theatre and adjacent Sala 2 dance space. Earlier in the evening, concerts generally take place. Tastes are as eclectic as possible, from local bands to name international acts.

### SPACE Map pp140-1 Club

☎ 93 426 84 44; [www.spacebarcelona.com](http://www.spacebarcelona.com); Carrer de Tarragona 141; admission €15; ☎ midnight-6am Thu-Sun; **M** Tarragona

Inspired by the eponymous megaclub in Ibiza, this is one of the big-hitters. House is the main baseline in this sprawling designer club, where the nights can get rather hot and scantily clad. Check out the Sunday session with local star DJ Toni Bass.

### TERRRAZZA Map pp140-1 Club

☎ 687 969825; [www.latterrazza.com](http://www.latterrazza.com), in Spanish; Avinguda del Marqués de Comillas s/n; admission €18; ☎ midnight-6am Fri & Sat May-Oct; **M** Espanya

One of the most popular summertime dance locations, inside the fantasy land of Poble Espanyol this outdoor club attracts bright young things from around the city for Ibiza-style nights of pure hedonism. Wacky dress or undress rules and the main danger is not passing bouncers' muster. If you're in, you're in for a wild night. The latest in electronic music, with a techno and house base, is pumped out by local and international DJs.

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