

# Entertainment

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# Entertainment

Cape Town didn't become known as the 'Tavern of the Seven Seas' for nothing. Head out on a Friday or Saturday night to Long St, the Waterkant or Camps Bay for an eye-opening experience of how the locals like to party (or 'jol', as they say in South Africa).

Curiously, on other nights – with the exception of Wednesday – Cape Town's nightspots can be less than pumping, although during the long, warm summer nights chances are you'll always find some convivial place to while away the evening. There's certainly no shortage of bars with stunning views of either beach or mountain and, if getting a workout on the dance floor is more your thing, then there's bound to be a club to suit.

It's not all about drinking and dancing. Cape Town has a decent range of cinemas and theatres, while live music spans the gamut from classical to rock via jazz and marimba. Free live music is a feature of the Waterfront, in particular.

Check the weekly arts guide in the *Mail & Guardian* ([www.chico.mweb.co.za/art/daily/menu-guide.htm](http://www.chico.mweb.co.za/art/daily/menu-guide.htm)) to find out what's going on, and the daily *Cape Argus*' *Tonight* ([www.tonight.co.za](http://www.tonight.co.za)) section, too. The bimonthly magazine *Cape etc* ([www.capeetc.com](http://www.capeetc.com)) is also good for listings.

## Tickets & Reservations

### COMPUTICKET

☎ 083 915 8000; [www.computicket.co.za](http://www.computicket.co.za);

🕒 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm Sat

Cape Town's computerised booking agency handles ticketing for all major sporting events. There are outlets in the **Golden Acre Centre** (Map pp248-9; Adderley St, City Bowl), at the **Waterfront** (Map pp252-3; Victoria Wharf), in the **Gardens Centre** (Map p254; Mill St, Gardens) and in **Sea Point's Adelphi Centre** (Map p255; Main Rd, Sea Point), as well as other places.

## DRINKING

As in other major party cities, the line between bar and club in Cape Town has become increasingly blurred; long opening hours (until 4am on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday) and DJs can be found at both. Generally, though, clubs will charge an entrance fee. Long and Kloof Sts, the Waterkant (where you'll find the bulk of Cape Town's gay bars) and Camps Bay pump late into the night on summer weekends, as does the Waterfront. Rest assured though, there are still plenty of regular pubs where you can have a quiet drink. Most open around 3pm and close after midnight, but some stay open much later. Where opening times do not fit these standards, we have listed them in the reviews in this chapter.

## CITY BOWL

**CAFÉ DU SÜD** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-422 0500; 107-109 Loop St, City Bowl;

🕒 10am-11pm Mon-Sat

With its quirky mix of wall maps, globes and retro furnishings (all for sale), Café du Süd is a mecca for the style set. The food is unmemorable but the drinks divine – sink into the leather sofa for afternoon tea or late-night cocktails.

**CASTLE HOTEL** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-461 4946; cnr Canterbury & Constitution Sts, City Bowl

This historic pub, dating from 1900, has three rooms once frequented by the lawyers, police and criminals who lived and worked in the area that it once bordered: District Six. Expect political incorrectness, nicotine-stained walls and cheap booze. There's a surprisingly smart restaurant upstairs (see p125).

### TOP FIVE BARS & PUBS

- Marvel (opposite)
- Café du Süd (above)
- Relish (p139)
- Nose Wine Bar (p138)
- Alba Lounge (p139)

**CAVEAU** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-422 1367; [www.caveau.co.za](http://www.caveau.co.za); Heritage Sq, 92 Bree St; 🕒 7am-11.30pm Mon-Sat

Cape Town should have more wine bars, so this one is a welcome addition to the handsome Heritage Sq. It has a goodly selection of local drops. The tapas dishes are tasty, too.

**COOL RUNNINGS** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-426 6584; 227 Long St, City Bowl

Now with a café at street level, the reggae-themed bar's long balcony on the 1st floor remains the chill-out place of choice for the backpacker set. Catch the breeze and the Caribbean vibe. The original branch is in **Observatory** (Map p256; ☎ 021-448 7656; 96 Station St, Observatory).

**FIREMAN'S ARMS** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-419 1513; 25 Mechau St, City Bowl

Boxed in by new apartment blocks, this old-time survivor (here since 1906) is likely to be around for a while longer. Inside, the Rhodesian and old South African flags remain pinned up alongside a collection of firemen's helmets. Come to watch rugby on the big-screen TV, grab some seriously tasty pizza or just down a lazy pint or two.

**GALLERY BAR** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-423 2086; [www.urbanchic.co.za](http://www.urbanchic.co.za);

cnr Long & Pepper Sts, City Bowl

The chic, urban black set gather beneath the Urban Chic hotel at this sophisticated bar with squishy sofas, windows opening onto Long St and a nice line in cocktails. It's one of the more-relaxed inner-city bars.

**JO'BURG** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-422 0142; 218 Long St, City Bowl

You haven't really partied on Long St until you've moved to the Jo'burg beat. Little has changed here in years – there's still the pool table at the back, there's still that cheeky Bart Simpson light sculpture on the wall, and there's still that infectious blend of funky music, groovy patrons and free-flowing drinks.

**M BAR** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-423 7247; [www.metropolehotel.co.za](http://www.metropolehotel.co.za);

38 Long St, City Bowl

Did someone mention Versace? The glitzy Italian designer would be proud of how his fabric designs on the sofa blend into the

brush bordello opulence of the M Bar. A DJ is on hand to keep the posing models entertained.

**MARVEL** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-426 5880; 236 Long St, City Bowl;

🕒 1pm-4am

Stuffed as a sardine, Marvel is a fantastic bar where cool kids of all colours rub shoulders (not to mention practically everything else). If you can, grab one of the cosy booths at the front, or linger on the pavement and enjoy the foot-tapping grooves from the DJ.

**ORCHARD BANK** Map pp248-9

[www.orchardbank.co.za](http://www.orchardbank.co.za); 229B Long St, City Bowl

One of Long St's more interesting and laid-back venues, with a roster of events including stand-up comedy. The comfy sofas are a good place from which to put a dent into the jugs of cocktail mixes.

**PO NA NA SOUK BAR** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-423 4889; Heritage Sq, 100 Shortmarket

St, City Bowl; 🕒 noon-2am Mon-Sat year-round, 5pm-1am Sun Dec-Mar

Head inside Heritage Sq to discover a sultry slice of Marrakech at this trendy bar. It has plump cushions, low tables and balconies overlooking the restored courtyard.

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**SAINTS** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-424 1007; 110 Bree St, City Bowl;

🕒 5pm-2am Wed-Sat

At the southern end of St Stephen's Church, a flight of stone steps leads up to this sophisticated cocktail bar decorated with colourful graphic paintings. It sometimes hosts live jazz and comedy performances.

**SHOGA** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-426 2369; 121 Castle St, Bo-Kaap;

🕒 6pm-2am Mon-Sat

This bar and Asian brasserie is cut from the same classy mould as *Ginja* (p126) on the ground floor. Order a cocktail and a snack at the long bar or relax in the oversized chairs and low sofas.

**WATERKANT****BAR CODE** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-421 5305; www.leatherbar.co.za;

18 Cobern St, Waterkant; 🕒 10pm-3am Sun-Thu, 10pm-4am Fri &amp; Sat

Into leather and latex? Then this is the bar for you. Dress appropriately otherwise you won't be let in, and don't be shocked if you stumble into something stronger than the drink in the dark room.

**BRONX** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-419 9219; www.bronx.co.za;

35 Somerset Rd, Waterkant; 🕒 8pm-4am

People of all shapes, sizes and sexual persuasions pack out this fun bar, where buff bare-chested barmen and DJs keep patrons dancing until dawn. Flex your vocal chords at the Monday-night karaoke session.

**CAFE MANHATTAN** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-421 6666; www.manhattan.co.za;

74 Waterkant St, Waterkant; 🕒 9.30am-2am

Give thanks to the far-sighted proprietor of Cafe Manhattan since he kick-started the gay quarter a decade or so ago by opening this popular bar and restaurant. An enlarged deck makes it even easier to check out the area's human traffic.

**CAPELLA** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-425 0439; 21 Somerset Rd, Waterkant;

🕒 noon-midnight

From the same stable as the equally lavish Cruz and Opium comes this Afro-chic venue with ostrich-egg chandeliers, zebra-

**TOP FIVE GAY & LESBIAN BARS & CLUBS**

- Bronx (left)
- Cruz (below)
- Cafe Manhattan (left)
- Sliver (p143)
- Capella (left)

hide upholstery and an intricately carved Indian doorway. Avoid the so-so food and head to the bar for the excellent cocktails.

**CRUZ** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-421 5401; www.cruzcapetown.co.za;

21B Somerset Rd, Waterkant; 🕒 8pm-4am

They may tell you that it's the glitzy décor and handsome clientele that make this the hot gay bar of the moment, but we know that the real draw is its troupe of brief-clad go-go boys shaking their stuff on the podiums. How else could you endure dancing to a disco version of the theme from *The Love Boat*?

**LIPSTICK LOUNGE** Map pp248-9

☎ 082 738 3612; www.lipstickcapetown.co.za;

2 Lelie Lane, Waterkant; 🕒 5pm-2am Fri, 8pm-3pm Sat

At last, a stylish, exclusively female hang-out in the Waterkant. Find it behind 54 Waterkant St, and check the website for details of the special events it hosts around town.

**NOSE WINE BAR** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-425 2200; www.thenose.co.za;

Cape Quarter, Dixon St, Waterkant

No longer the city's only wine bar, but still a great place to pass an evening. Match around 40 of the Cape's best wines with some top-notch cooking, which includes inventive use of local ingredients (carpaccio of giraffe is lovely). It also runs wine-tasting courses (see p40).

**ROSIE'S** Map pp248-9

☎ 021-421 6666; 125A Vos St, Waterkant

There's no room for airs and graces, or need for fashionable attire, at this cosy pool bar, which attracts an older, racially mixed crowd.

**GARDENS & SURROUNDS****CAFÉ VESPA** Map p254

☎ 021-426 5042; www.cafevespa.com;

108 Kloof St, Tamboerskloof; 🕒 9am-midnight

As well as hiring out Vespas (see p211), this hipster hang-out does a mean line in cocktails, coffee and tapas, all of which can be enjoyed on the terrace, which has a grandstand view of Table Mountain.

**PERSEVERANCE TAVERN** Map p254

☎ 021-461 2440; 83 Buitenkant St, Zonnebloem

Flickering candles in a dim interior give plenty of atmosphere to the heritage-listed pub Cecil Rhodes called his local. There are four beers on draught and you can order decent pub grub, such as a grill (R52) or fish and chips (R32).

**PLANET** Map p254

☎ 021-483 1864; Mount Nelson Hotel,

76 Orange St, Gardens

The old Nellie goes for contemporary cool in its silver-coated champagne and cocktail bar. Join the fashion crowd to enjoy some 250 different bubbly and 50-odd alcoholic concoctions.

**RAFIKI'S** Map p254

☎ 021-426 4731; 13B Klook Nek Rd, Tamboerskloof

A long, wrap-around balcony, with its view out to Table Bay, draws the crowds to this relaxed bar and restaurant, where you can occasionally catch live music shows.

**RELISH** Map p254

☎ 021-422 3584; www.relish.co.za;

70 New Church St, Tamboerskloof; 🕒 noon-2am Mon-Fri, 5pm-2am Sat &amp; Sun

Few bars afford such a panoramic view of Table Mountain and Lion's Head as this trendy place. It rises up three glass-fronted floors, leading onto a wide balcony. The food is good and during happy hour (6pm to 7pm) cocktails are only R12.

**RICK'S CAFÉ AMERICANE** Map p254

☎ 021-424 1100; 2 Park Lane, Gardens

No Sam to play it again, but everything else looks like it could be straight from Casablanca (including the famous neon sign) at this movie-themed bar and restaurant. Wear a fedora and make like Bogie and Bergman.

**SHACK** Map p254

☎ 021-461 5892; 43-45 De Villiers St, Zonnebloem

A laid-back hang-out for a young, studenty crowd. It's a bit of a maze, spread across several levels, and includes a pool hall and a room for table football, all part of a complex of venues.

**GREEN POINT & WATERFRONT****ALBA LOUNGE** Map pp252-3

☎ 021-425 3385; www.albalounge.co.za; 1st fl,

Hildegards, Pierhead, Waterfront

Easily the most stylish place for cocktails at the Waterfront. The views across the harbour are seductive, the cocktails inventive and there's a roaring fire in winter to add to that inner alcoholic glow.

**BASCULE BAR** Map pp252-3

☎ 021-410 7082; Cape Grace, West Quay,

Waterfront; 🕒 11am-1am

Some 480 varieties of whisky are served at the Grace's sophisticated bar, and there're still a few slugs of the 50-year-old Glenfiddich (just R15,200 a tot) left. Outdoor tables facing onto the marina are a pleasant spot away from the madness of the Waterfront.

**BELTHAZAR** Map pp252-3

☎ 021-421 3753; www.belthazar.co.za; Shop 153,

Victoria Wharf, Waterfront

Claiming to be the world's biggest wine bar, Belthazar offers 600 different South African wines, 170-odd of which you can get by the (Riedel) glass. The restaurant specialises in top-class Karan beef and it also does plenty of seafood dishes, too.

**BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CAFÉ** Map pp252-3

☎ 021-433 0611; Exhibition Bldg, 81 Main Rd,

Green Point

A nice mojito is mixed at this Cuban-themed bar and restaurant, which takes its inspiration from the famous CD. Book a seat on the airy balcony and come on Sunday if you want to salsa dance.

**MITCHELL'S SCOTTISH ALE HOUSE & BREWERY** Map pp252-3

☎ 021-419 5074; www.mitchellsbreweries.co.za;

East Pier Rd, Waterfront; 🕒 11am-2am

Check all pretensions at the door of this traditional pub, which shares a building with the Ferryman's Tavern and serves a variety of freshly brewed beers and good-value meals.

**MONK BAR** Map pp252-3

☎ 021-439 6306; Zero Nine Three Two, 79 Main Rd, Green Point

Work your way through the many bottled Belgium brews, or the Hoegaarden, Leffe and Stella beers on tap, at this stylish DJ bar over the trendy 0932 Belgian restaurant.

**TOBAGO'S** Map pp252-3

☎ 021-441 3412; Radisson Hotel Waterfront, Beach Rd, Granger Bay; ☎ 6.30am-10.30pm

Walk through the hotel to the spacious deck bar with a prime Table Bay position. It's a great place to enjoy a sunset cocktail and you can take a stroll along the break-water after.

**ATLANTIC COAST BEACHES & SUBURBS****BARAZA** Map p256

☎ 021-438 1758; www.blues.co.za; the Promenade, Victoria Rd, Camps Bay

Inspired by the chilled vibe of Zanzibar, this cocktail bar overlooking the beach is an understandably popular spot. The electro-jazz duo Goldfish play here on Thursday.

**BLUE PETER**

☎ 021-554 1956; Popham St, Bloubergstrand; ☎ 11am-11pm

At this perennial favourite, around 15km north of the city centre, the deal is grab a beer, order a pizza and plonk yourself on the grass outside to enjoy the classic views of Table Mountain and Robben Island.

**CAFÉ CAPRICE** Map p256

☎ 021-438 8315; 37 Victoria Rd, Camps Bay; ☎ 9am-2am

The bronzed and beautiful gather at this café-bar, which is as popular for breakfast as it is for sundowner drinks. Grab a pavement table for the best view.

**CHAPMAN'S PEAK HOTEL** Map p258

☎ 021-790 1036; Main Rd, Hout Bay

If the drive along Chapman's Peak Dr has made you a little weak at the knees, rest at this convivial historic pub and restaurant. There's a broad outdoor deck overlooking the bay and decent hotel rooms (single/double including breakfast R600/800) if you decide to linger longer.

**IGNITE** Map p256

☎ 021-438 7717; 2nd fl, the Promenade, Victoria Rd, Camps Bay

New name and a slight makeover for this slick venue, with a broad terrace and dress-circle views of the beach. Events are often held here, including stand-up comedy.

**LA MED** Map p256

☎ 021-438 5600; Glen Country Club, Victoria Rd, Clifton

This eternal alfresco bar gets its cred from its killer view down the length of the Twelve Apostles. Sinking a sundowner here is a Cape Town rite of passage. Keep an eye out for the easily missed turn-off, on the way to Clifton from Camps Bay.

**LA VIE** Map p255

☎ 021-439 2061; 205 Beach Rd, Sea Point; ☎ 7.30am-midnight

One of the very few places you can have anything from breakfast to late-night cocktails within sight of Sea Point promenade. Lounge on the outdoor terrace and enjoy the thin-crust pizza.

**SOUTHERN SUBURBS****A TOUCH OF MADNESS** Map p256

☎ 021-448 2266; www.cafeatom.co.za; 12 Nuttall Rd, Observatory; ☎ noon-late Mon-Sat, 7pm-late Sun

This long-running bar and restaurant offers an eclectic art-house atmosphere, dressed up in purple with lace trimmings. Wannabe poets should check out the Monday-night open-mike poetry fests.

**BARRISTERS** Map pp246-7

☎ 021-674 1792; cnr Kildare Rd & Main St, Newlands; ☎ 9.30am-10.30pm

Upmarket Newlands' favourite watering hole offers up a series of cosy rooms hung with an eye-catching assortment of items in ye-olde-country-pub style. Has a very decent menu, too (mains R70).

**CAFÉ CARTE BLANCHE** Map p256

☎ 021-447 8717; 42 Trill Rd, Observatory; ☎ 6pm-2am

Candles, cosy nooks and crannies, and avant-garde music set the scene at this tiny café-bar, a favourite with the Obs alternative set.

**CAFFÉ VERDI** Map pp244-5

☎ 021-762 0849; 21 Wolfe St, Wynberg This handsome café-bar, set in a 110-year-old house with a pretty courtyard, is a pleasant place to retire for a drink after exploring Maynardville and Chelsea Village.

**DON PEDRO'S** Map pp246-7

☎ 021-447 4493; 113 Roodebloem Rd, Woodstock It's a longtime favourite with white liberals for a boozy late night out, and is now popular with the yuppies moving into the area.

**FORRESTER'S ARMS** Map pp246-7

☎ 021-689 5949; 52 Newlands Ave, Newlands; ☎ 11am-11pm Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm Sun

The very-English-style pub Forries has been around for over a century. It offers a convivial atmosphere, good pub meals, including wood-fired pizza, and a pleasant beer garden.

**PEDDLERS ON THE BEND** Map pp244-5

☎ 021-794 7747; Spaanschemat River Rd Cool off with a beer in the shaded garden of this lively pub. If you don't fancy all that highfalutin wine-estate fodder, the hearty dishes (mains R50 to R60), such as chicken pie and *eisbein* (pork knuckle), should suit you fine.

**SOBHAR** Map pp246-7

☎ 021-674 3377; www.sobhar.co.za; 1 Letterstedt House, Main Rd, Newlands; ☎ 4pm-2am Mon, Tue & Sat, noon-2am Wed-Fri There are comedy shows every Thursday (R20; booking essential) and salsa classes (usually on Monday and Wednesday) at this lively cocktail bar that's big with the preppy Newlands set.

**FALSE BAY & SOUTHERN PENINSULA****BRASS BELL** Map p257

☎ 021-788 5455; Kalk Bay train station, Main Rd, Kalk Bay; ☎ 11am-10pm Take the tunnel beneath the train tracks to reach this Kalk Bay institution overlooking the fishing harbour. On a sunny day there are few places better to drink and eat (mains R50 to R80) by the sea.

**COBBS** Map pp244-5

☎ 021-780 1480; www.cobbs.co.za; Main Rd, Scarborough; ☎ 9am-10pm Tue-Thu, 9am-11pm Fri & Sat, 9am-8pm Sun Don't rush back to the city after your visit to Cape Point. Swing by this welcoming bar and restaurant where you can relax on the upper level with a view of the Atlantic surf.

**POLANA** Map p257

☎ 021-788 7162; Kalk Bay harbour, Kalk Bay Yet another very tempting reason to hang out in Kalk Bay is this great-looking bar, right on the water. It serves Portuguese-style seafood – sardines, langoustines and *lulas* (baby calamari).

**SKEBANGA'S BAR** Map pp244-5

☎ 021-789 1783; cnr Beach & Pine Rds, Noordhoek If you're down this way, say after a drive along Chapman's Peak Dr, the bar above the Red Herring restaurant is a pleasant place for a drink or a bite to eat. There's a good view of the beach from the terrace.



Drinking by the ocean at Brass Bell (left)

## CLUBBING

House, R&B and hip-hop – these are the sounds you're most likely to hear in Cape Town's clubs. Break beats, lounge and electronica are also popular. Local DJs of note include Craig da Souza (tech house), Ready D (hip-hop), Leighton Moody (deep house), as well as the fantastic electro-jazz mixmasters Goldfish. Cape Town's club scene is also firmly plugged into the global dance network, so expect star appearances by the likes of Basement Jaxx and Paul Oakenfield.

Long St and its immediate surroundings are the epicentre of the city's club scene, with Waterkant also a busy clubbing area. Trance parties, such as Vortex and Alien Safari, held outdoors an hour or so from the city centre, still happen through summer; check the websites [www.3am.co.za](http://www.3am.co.za) and [www.aliensafari.co.za](http://www.aliensafari.co.za) for details or make inquiries at the main backpacker hostels.

Admission charges range from R10 to R50 and most places don't really get going until after midnight, with a notional 4am closing time. Check listings in the *Cape Argus* **Tonight** ([www.tonight.co.za](http://www.tonight.co.za)) section and in the *Mail & Guardian* ([www.chico.mweb.co.za/art/daily/menu-guide.htm](http://www.chico.mweb.co.za/art/daily/menu-guide.htm)), as well as the *Thunda.com* ([www.thunda.com](http://www.thunda.com)) and *Rage* ([www.rage.co.za](http://www.rage.co.za)) websites for details of coming events and the latest venues.

### DELUXE Map pp248-9

☎ 021-422 4832; **Unity House, cnr Long & Longmarket Sts, City Bowl**; admission R40

Come on Friday and Saturday night to join the musically sophisticated, mixed and gay crowd at this long-running minimalist venue that specialises in house and tribal trance.

### GALAXY Map pp244-5

☎ 021-637 9132; **College Rd, Ryelands, Athlone**; admission R30

Get down to R&B, hip-hop and live bands at this longtime Cape Flats dance venue, which attracts a black and coloured crowd. The equally legendary jazz venue **West End** (p145) is next door.

### GALLERY Map pp246-7

☎ 021-461 9649; [www.thegalleryonline.co.za](http://www.thegalleryonline.co.za); **84 Sir Lowry Rd, Zonnebloem**; admission R40-80

Only open Friday and Saturday, the Gallery has cornered the market on hard dance and is the place to catch visiting big-shot DJs from the UK and Germany.

### HECTIC ON HOPE Map p254

☎ 021-465 4918; **69 Hope Lane, Gardens**; admission R10

Studiedly untrendy, school-hall-style venue above an old boozier. New wave, electronica and alternative dance hits from recent decades are what draw the studenty, screw-fashion crowd.

### HEMISPHERE Map pp248-9

☎ 021-421 0581; [www.hemisphere.org.za](http://www.hemisphere.org.za); **31st fl, ABSA Centre, Riebeeck St, City Bowl**; admission R50;

🕒 9pm-3am Tue-Sat

Twinkling views of the city are part of the deal at this super-stylish club atop the ABSA Centre. It's real velvet-roped-and-glamour-model stuff, so dress to the nines and pack that shoulder chip of attitude and you'll fit in fine. While up here also check out the equally swank bar at **Antique** (Map pp248-9; ☎ 021-419 0762; 🕒 7pm-midnight).

### LUSH Map pp248-9

☎ 082 565 6174; [www.lushcapetown.co.za](http://www.lushcapetown.co.za);

**Sliver, 27 Somerset Rd, Waterkant**; admission R20;

🕒 9pm-2am every second Sat

Veteran party organiser Myrna runs this Sapphic dance night. Lush takes place every second Saturday of the month and is held upstairs at Sliver. Well-behaved gay men will also be let in with their lesbian sisters.

### MERCURY LOUNGE Map p254

☎ 021-465 2106; [www.mercuryl.co.za](http://www.mercuryl.co.za);

**43 De Villiers St, Zonnebloem**; admission R10  
Friday's 'Shaken not Stirred' offers relaxed lounge sounds with the occasional foot-tapping hit from the '70s and '80s. A similarly funky vibe reigns at the Saturday night's 'Straight no Chaser' session. Also watch out for the 'What a Feeling' '80s DJ nights.

### MIAN MIAN Map pp248-9

☎ 021-422 5823; **196½ Long St, City Bowl**; admission R30

Lofty palms, twinkling fairy lights and a spacious bar and dance space are hidden in a narrow alley between 196 and 198 (hence the ½ in the address). It aims for a sophisticated vibe but somehow the try-too-hard crowd doesn't fit.

### OPIUM Map pp248-9

☎ 021-425 4010; [www.opium.co.za](http://www.opium.co.za); **6 Dixon St, Waterkant**; admission R40

With three dance floors, big bars, plush décor and a too-cool-for-school attitude, it's no surprise that Opium has been such a big hit on the Cape Town clubbing scene. Come to see model types practise their catwalk strut and pout.

### QUE PASA Map pp248-9

☎ 083 556 7466; [www.quepasa.co.za](http://www.quepasa.co.za); **7-9 Bree St, City Bowl**; admission R20-40

Salsa is all the rage in Cape Town and this is one of the top clubs at which to practise. Classes are held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, when the club has a regular party night, too.

### RHODES HOUSE Map pp248-9

☎ 021-424 8844; [www.rhodeshouse.com](http://www.rhodeshouse.com);

**60 Queen Victoria St, City Bowl**; admission R50

Not quite as hot as it once was, this luxurious venue, spread over a grand old house, can still provide a good dance night out. Thursday is R&B night.

### SLIVER Map pp248-9

☎ 021-421 4798; [www.sliver.co.za](http://www.sliver.co.za);

**27 Somerset Rd, Waterkant**; admission R20

A gay and gay-friendly crowd fill this spacious, fun venue with a fairy-light-festooned courtyard and rooftop chill-out areas. Upstairs thudding-hard house and bare chests are the go, while downstairs, house and anthems keep the dance floor crowded.

### SNAP Map pp248-9

☎ 083 940 3983; **6 Pepper St, City Bowl**; admission R20

Dance to music from across Africa at this urban African club. It has a welcoming, predominantly black audience.

### ZULA SOUND BAR Map pp248-9

☎ 021-424 2442; **194 Long St, City Bowl**; admission R20

Hosts an interesting range of events including live bands, DJs and even open-mike poetry sessions. The long balcony is the place to watch Long St go by.

## LIVE MUSIC

Music in all its forms is the very fabric of Cape Town. There are plenty of free or cheap opportunities to enjoy music all over the city, from buskers at the Waterfront or in Greenmarket Sq to the much celebrated Sunday-afternoon concerts at Kirstenbosch (p11). Live bands play in many restaurants and bars, and concerts don't get any bigger than those held at Green Point Stadium, location of 2003's huge Nelson Mandela concert and 2006's South African debut by Robbie Williams.

## JAZZ

It's no accident that many world-renowned jazz artists began their careers in Cape Town. The free-flowing nature of jazz is well suited to the relaxed, cosmopolitan nature of the city. Although there are few permanent jazz venues, the music is performed frequently around the city.

## EVOLUTION OF THE MCQP

It's a safe bet to say that there's no costume party in the world quite like the Mother City Queer Project (MCQP). What began in 1994 as a small-scale tribute by 'party architect' André Vorster (who really is an architect) to his deceased lover has grown into one of Cape Town's major annual events, held every December and attracting some 4500 revellers.

Every party has a theme and is always held in an interesting venue: in 2005 it was 'It's a Circus' and the location Ratanga Junction (p148). You have to come in costume (if you don't you won't be let in) which means everyone – gay, straight and everything in-between – joins in the fun with abandon.

In 2005 Vorster sold the MCQP brand to a quintet of local movers and shakers who aim to grow the event from one night into a week-long happening. Innovations already include more non-dance-type activities at the party and major sponsorship that has allowed big-time prizes for winners of the costume competition. The new promoters are keen for the party to keep its original community edge, though. You can buy tickets online, or get them in their collectable 3-D-design form from outlets around the city: see [www.mcqp.co.za](http://www.mcqp.co.za) for details.

A night at a Cape Flats jazz club, such as **Duma's Falling Leaves** (☎ 021-426 4260) in Guguletu, is an unforgettable experience, but you are strongly advised not to go alone. Contact companies organising township tours, eg **Coffee Beans Routes** (p82), which has a Monday-night jazz safari to Swingers.

Jazz-festival highlights include January's **Standard Bank Cape Town Jazzathon** (www.jazzathon.co.za; p9), a free event at the Waterfront, and the two-day **Cape Town International Jazz Festival** (www.capetownjazzfest.com; p10) held at the end of March at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, with a free concert in Greenmarket Sq.

### DISTRIX CAFÉ ON HANOVER Map pp248-9

☎ 021-426 7118; 106 Darling St, Zonnebloem;  
☎ 9am-10pm Mon-Sat

This revitalised café-bar, on the edge of District Six, has jazz and other live music events in the evenings. It's also worth visiting to admire its imaginatively designed rock garden courtyard.

### DIZZY'S JAZZ CAFÉ Map p256

☎ 021-438 2686; www.dizzys.co.za; 41 the Drive, Camps Bay; admission on weekends R20

There's live jazz on Friday and Saturday, and other types of music the rest of the week at this restaurant (specialising in seafood platters). It's also getting a reputation as a backgammon venue – competitions are held on Monday nights during the low season (March to November).

### GREEN DOLPHIN Map pp252-3

☎ 021-421 7471; www.greendolphin.co.za; Victoria & Alfred Arcade, Pierhead, Waterfront; obstructed/unobstructed view R20/25

This upmarket jazz venue and restaurant at the Waterfront holds the *Guinness Book of Records* award for highest number of consecutive nights of jazz. Shows kick off at 8.15pm. If you don't mind an obstructed view, the admission charge is a little lower.

### HANOVER STREET Map pp244-5

☎ 021-505 7777; www.grandwest.co.za; GrandWest Casino, 1 Vanguard Dr, Goodwood; admission R30; ☎ 9pm-late Wed, Fri & Sat It aims to re-create the jazz spirit of New Orleans (as if Cape Town's wasn't strong enough) at this classy venue in the casino. Jazz fans, however, appreciate its programme of top acts.

### MANNENBURG'S JAZZ CAFÉ

Map pp252-3

☎ 021-421 5639; Clock Tower Centre, Waterfront; admission R30-80

Swing to jazz and African jive at this famed jazz club that seems to have survived its move to the Waterfront. On Friday and Saturday it's free to see bands playing the sundowner set from 5pm to 7pm, but an admission charge kicks in later.

### MARIMBA Map pp248-9

☎ 021-418 3366; www.marimbasa.com; Cape Town International Convention Centre, City Bowl; diners/nondiners R20/30

Yes, there is a marimba band playing occasionally at this slick Afro-chic venue that's part of the Cape Town International Convention Centre. There's also a packed schedule of other jazz artists. The food is good and music sets kick off at 8pm.

### SWINGERS Map pp244-5

☎ 021-762 2443; Dolphin Way, Lansdowne; admission R20

While it's 'grab a granny' most nights of the week, you'll need to book ahead for a table at the renowned Monday-night jam sessions hosted by Alvin Dyers, leader of the house jazz band, at this legendary Cape Flats venue.



Musician, Green Dolphin (left)

### WEST END Map pp244-5

☎ 021-637 9133; Cine 400 Bldg, College Rd, Ryelands; admission R30; ☎ 8pm-late Fri & Sat Mainstream jazz is the name of the game here. One of the city's top venues, it attracts a well-heeled clientele and top performers. There's plenty of security, if you drive.

## ROCK & AFRICAN

### ACOUSTIC MUSIC CAFÉ Map p257

☎ 021-788 1900; www.acousticcafe.co.za; 120 Main Rd, Muizenberg; admission R20 At South Africa's only totally vegetarian pub, drumming workshops are hosted every Monday at 7pm (R30 lesson, R20 drum hire), and there's an open-mike night on Tuesday. The rest of week there's usually a live rock band playing.

### DRUM CAFÉ

☎ 021-462 1064; www.thedrumcafe.com; admission plus drum hire Mon, Wed & Fri R60/80 Check the website or call for details of where this long-established drumming circle will be holding its regular sessions now that it's had to move out of its old home.

### MAMA AFRICA Map pp248-9

☎ 021-426 1017; 178 Long St, City Bowl; diner/nondiner R10/15 Live marimba and other swinging African sounds fuel the atmosphere at this eternally popular tourist venue, where you can dine on a range of game dishes (mains R70). Bookings are essential at weekends, otherwise squeeze into a spot by the bar.

### MARCO'S AFRICAN PLACE Map pp248-9

☎ 021-423 5412; 15 Rose Lane, Bo-Kaap; admission R10; ☎ noon-11pm Marco Radebe's African restaurant feels a whole lot more authentic than Mama Africa. The food's good (mains R60 to R70) and when the band starts expect to start dancing with the waiters.

### MERCURY LIVE Map p254

☎ 021-465 2106; www.mercuryly.co.za; 43 De Villiers St, Zonnebloem; admission R20-40 Cape Town's premier rock venue plays host to top South African bands and overseas visitors. The sound quality is good and if you don't like the band, there's always the DJ bar Mercury Lounge, below, and the Shack bar, next door.

## CLASSICAL

As well as performing many concerts at all kinds of venues throughout the year, the **Cape Philharmonic Orchestra** (www.cpo.org.za) has been working hard to ensure its musicians will reflect the ethnic breakdown of the Western Cape more closely. To this end it has formed the Cape Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and the Cape Philharmonic Youth Wind Ensemble, with around 80% of members coming from disadvantaged communities. As if that wasn't enough, the Philharmonic also teams up with **Cape Town Opera** (www.capetownopera.co.za) and **Cape Town City Ballet** (www.capetowncityballet.org.za), both of which usually perform at Artscape. There also are a couple of monthly classical recitals at the **Joan St Leger Lindbergh Arts Centre** (p107) in Muizenberg, which are very popular, so book well ahead.

### ARTSCAPE Map pp248-9

☎ 021-410 9800; www.artscape.co.za; 1-10 DF Malan St, Foreshore Consisting of three different-sized auditoriums (including the studio On The Side), this is the city's premier arts complex. You can catch regular classical concerts here, as well as ballet, opera, theatre and cabaret shows. Walking around this area at night is not recommended; book ahead for a nonshared taxi since there are none to be found on the streets. There's plenty of secure parking.

### CITY HALL Map pp248-9

☎ 021-410 9809; www.cpo.org.za; Darling St, City Bowl Every Thursday the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra plays in the auditorium of the grand 1905 former City Hall. There are good acoustics (particularly in the main balcony seats), but no air conditioning so expect to sweat it out. Concerts often sell out, but it's usually possible to get a space on the choir benches behind the orchestra at the last minute.

### ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL Map pp248-9

☎ 021-424 7360; www.stgeorgescathedral.com; Wale St, City Bowl Check the website for the programme of classical music performed at the people's cathedral, including orchestral works by the greats, usually on the last Sunday of the month. It's worth coming to hear the cathedral's magnificent organ.

## THEATRE, CABARET & COMEDY

What Cape Town's theatre scene lacks in size it certainly makes up for in ambition. There's often something interesting to catch beyond the blockbusters that check into **Art-scape** (p145) and the Cape Town International Convention Centre. See p36 for more about Capetonian theatre. For details of the theatre festivals at Spier and Oude Libertas in Stellenbosch, see the boxed text, p192.

There isn't a dedicated venue for comedy in town at present, but shows do happen regularly at places such as On Broadway, home of the hilarious drag duo Mince, Muizenberg's Masque Theatre and Obz Café. There's also **Theatresports** ([www.improvision.co.za](http://www.improvision.co.za)), a local version of *Whose Line Is It Anyway*, held Tuesday and Thursday at Artscape's On The Side venue.

Good comedians whose shows you should keep an eye out for include TV star **Marc Lottering** ([www.marclottering.com](http://www.marclottering.com)); **Mark Sampson** ([www.samp.co.za](http://www.samp.co.za)), a founder of the Cape Comedy Collective whose show *Missing Links* scored a hit at the 2005 Edinburgh Fringe Festival; tattooed funny guy Cokey Falkow; and international sensation Pieter-Dirk Uys (see the boxed text, below).

### BAXTER THEATRE Map pp246-7

☎ 021-680 3989; [www.baxter.co.za](http://www.baxter.co.za); Main Rd, Rondebosch

Since the 1970s the Baxter has been the focus of Capetonian theatre. There are three venues here – the main theatre, the concert hall and the studio – and between them they cover everything from kids' shows to African dance spectaculars.

### SOUTH AFRICA'S MOST FAMOUS WHITE WOMAN

Regardless of their political views, most South Africans (and many foreigners) have a soft spot in their hearts for Evita Bezuidenhout, the republic's own Dame Edna Everage, or as she'd prefer to be known, 'the most famous white woman in Africa'. Quite the cultural icon, Evita has had her own TV chat show, as well as a perfume and wine named after her.

Evita is one of several wonderful comic creations of actor and writer **Pieter-Dirk Uys** ([www.pdu.co.za](http://www.pdu.co.za)). An audience with her is granted in the long-running show *Tannie Evita Praat Kaktus* (Aunty Evita Talks Cactus), regularly performed at Uys' wonderfully kitsch theatre in Darling. It's an understandable and very funny mixture of English and Afrikaans, covering a variety of pertinent topics, not least her own role in the end of apartheid and the process of reconciliation.

A longtime campaigner for civil and gay rights, Uys' many shows fearlessly tackle all the hot-button issues of South Africa, including AIDS – his AIDS awareness show *For Facts Sake!* has been performed at over 500 schools to more than one million school kids. To find out more about Uys' fascinating career – not to mention that of Evita – read his memoir *Between the Devil and the Deep*.

### CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE Map pp248-9

CTICC; ☎ 021-410 5000; [www.cticc.co.za](http://www.cticc.co.za);

1 Lower Long St, City Bowl; P

The CTICC has been so successful since it opened in mid-2003 that it's busy adding a further 1200 sq metres of exhibition space to the existing 10,000 sq metres. As well as big theatre productions, major events such as the **Cape Town International Jazz Festival** (p10) and the **Design Indaba** (p9) are held here. If nothing else, step inside to admire the giant relief sculpture in the main hall, *Baobabs, Stormclouds, Animals and People*, a collaboration between Brett Murray and the late San artist Tuoi Steffaans Samcuia.

### EVITA SE PERRON

Evita's Platform; ☎ 022-492 2851;

[www.evita.co.za](http://www.evita.co.za); Darling; tickets R50-80;

☎ performances 2pm & 8pm Sat, 2pm Sun

This cabaret-style theatre and dining venue in Darling, 75km north of Cape Town, is where you can see the frequently hilarious and often thought-provoking shows of satirist Pieter-Dirk Uys. His characters touch on everything from South African politics and history to ecology. Nothing is off-limits, including the country's struggle with racism. See the boxed text, below, for more.

### INDEPENDENT ARMCHAIR THEATRE Map p256

☎ 021-447 1514; [www.armchairtheatre.co.za](http://www.armchairtheatre.co.za);

135 Lower Main Rd, Observatory

This bar and casual theatre-cum-lounge has an eclectic range of other events, including comedy, short dramas and band gigs. Monday night see a movie and eat pizza for R30; doors open 8pm, movie starts 9pm.



Sign for Independent Armchair Theatre (opposite)

### LITTLE THEATRE & ARENA THEATRE

Map p254

☎ 021-480 7129; [www.drama.uct.ac.za](http://www.drama.uct.ac.za); University

of Cape Town Hiddingh Campus, Orange St, Gardens  
Read the reviews before going to see the productions of widely varying quality and content from students at the University of Cape Town's drama department, which are staged in these two small venues.

### MASQUE THEATRE Map p257

☎ 021-788 1898; [www.muizenberg.info](http://www.muizenberg.info);

37 Main Rd, Muizenberg

The programme at this small theatre changes on a pretty regular basis, veering from one-man comedy shows to musical reviews and more-serious plays.

### MAYNARDVILLE OPEN-AIR THEATRE

Map pp244-5

☎ 021-421 7695; [www.artscape.co.za](http://www.artscape.co.za);

cnr Church & Wolfe Sts, Wynberg

It wouldn't be summer in Cape Town without a visit to Maynardville's open-air theatre to see Shakespeare; 2006's *Much Ado About Nothing* was excellent. Bring a blanket, pillow and broly, though, as the weather can be dodgy and the seats are none too comfy. At other times of the year, dance, jazz and theatre performances also take place here.

### OBZ CAFÉ Map p256

☎ 021-448 5555; [www.obzcafe.co.za](http://www.obzcafe.co.za);

115 Lower Main Rd, Observatory; admission R20-50  
As if the human theatre of Lower Main Rd wasn't enough, inside this spacious café-

bar is a separate performance space where you can catch all manner of shows, including comedy and cabaret.

### OLD ZOO Map pp246-7

☎ 083 915 8000; Groote Schuur Estate,

Princess Anne Ave, Newlands

The wonderfully inventive Theatre of Africa has started using the lion's den in the ruins of Cecil Rhodes' zoo on the southern slopes of Devil's Peak as a highly atmospheric venue for its music, mime and drama works. Don't miss the chance to catch a performance here, which may even include dinner beforehand in the former animal cages!

### ON BROADWAY Map pp248-9

☎ 021-424 0250; [www.onbroadway.co.za](http://www.onbroadway.co.za);

88 Shortmarket St, City Bowl; tickets R70-75;

☎ shows 8.30pm

A move into spacious and slickly decorated premises in the City Bowl has done wonders for this hugely popular cabaret-supper venue. Certainly book well ahead for resident drag and comedy duo Mince, who strut their glamorous stuff Sunday and Monday nights. Other nights see a variety of musical and comedy acts.

### THEATRE ON THE BAY Map p256

☎ 021-438 3301; [www.theatreonthebay.co.za](http://www.theatreonthebay.co.za);

1 Link St, Camps Bay

Camp's Bay is the last place where you'd expect anything avant-garde or challenging on stage to have a ready audience, so the programme here sticks with the conventional play or a one-person show.

## CINEMAS

There's no shortage of cinemas in Cape Town showing all the latest international releases, as well as a decent selection of art-house movies. Big multiplexes – run by Ster Kinekor and Nu Metro – can be found at the **Waterfront** (Map pp252–3), **Cavendish Square** (Map pp246–7; Cavendish St, Claremont), **Canal Walk** (Map pp244–5) and **Longbeach Mall** (Map pp244–5; Sunnysdale Rd, Sun Valley) near Noordhoek. For the multiplexes the best night to go is Tuesday when the usual R35 entry price drops by half to R18. See the local press for listings of films and where they are showing.

### CAVENDISH NOUVEAU

Map pp246–7  
☎ 086 130 0444; Cavendish Sq, Cavendish St, Claremont; tickets R35

With its sibling Cinema Nouveau Waterfront (Map pp252–3; Victoria Wharf), this classy multiplex showcases the best of independent and art-house movies. The facilities are good, but check first whether the same movies are playing at the Labia, since tickets are much cheaper there.

### CINE 12

Map p256  
☎ 021-437 9000; www.12apostleshotel.com; Victoria Rd, Camps Bay; admission free with dinner  
There are just 16 luxurious red-leather-upholstered seats in the Twelve Apostles Hotel's private cinema, where one of some 240-plus DVDs are screened each night. If you want, you can hire the whole place out. Otherwise, come to the hotel's restaurant for dinner and check out what's screening afterwards.

### LABIA

Map p254  
☎ 021-424 5927; www.labia.co.za; 68 Orange St, Gardens; tickets R25

Now stop that sniggering! This lifeline to the nonmainstream movie fan is named after the old Italian ambassador and local philanthropist Count Labia. It is Cape Town's best cinema in terms of price and programming. The African Screen programme is one of the rare opportunities

## FILM FESTIVALS

Apart from at the Labia's African Screen, it's uncommon for locally made films to be screened generally in Cape Town. One opportunity you will have to see African cinema, though, is at the following film festivals:

**Encounters** (www.encounters.co.za) A documentary film festival held in July.

**Out in Africa: SA International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival** (www.oia.co.za) Usually in February or March.

**South African World Film Festival** (www.sithengi.co.za) Held in November/December.

you'll have to see locally made films. Also check out what's playing at the two-screen **Labia on Kloof** (☎ 021-424 5727), in the Lifestyles on Kloof centre around the corner.

## CASINO

### GRANDWEST CASINO

Map pp244–5  
☎ 021-505 7174; www.suninternational.com/resorts/grandwest/; 1 Vanguard Dr, Goodwood  
Cape Town's long-gone Victorian post office served as the model for the florid façade of this casino. Even if gambling isn't your thing, there's plenty to keep you entertained, including a state-of-the-art cinema, many restaurants, a food court, an Olympic-sized ice rink (p152), a kids' theme park and music shows.

## AMUSEMENT PARK

### RATANGA JUNCTION

Map pp244–5  
☎ 021-550 8504; www.ratanga.co.za; Century City, Milnerton; adult/child R95/45; ☎ 10am–5pm  
Fri–Sun, all week during school holidays  
Open from November to July, this African-themed amusement park is next to Canal Walk shopping centre. The entry fee covers all rides, which include the usual collection of roller coasters and stomach churners. You'll pay R35 extra per ride for the Slingshot.

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