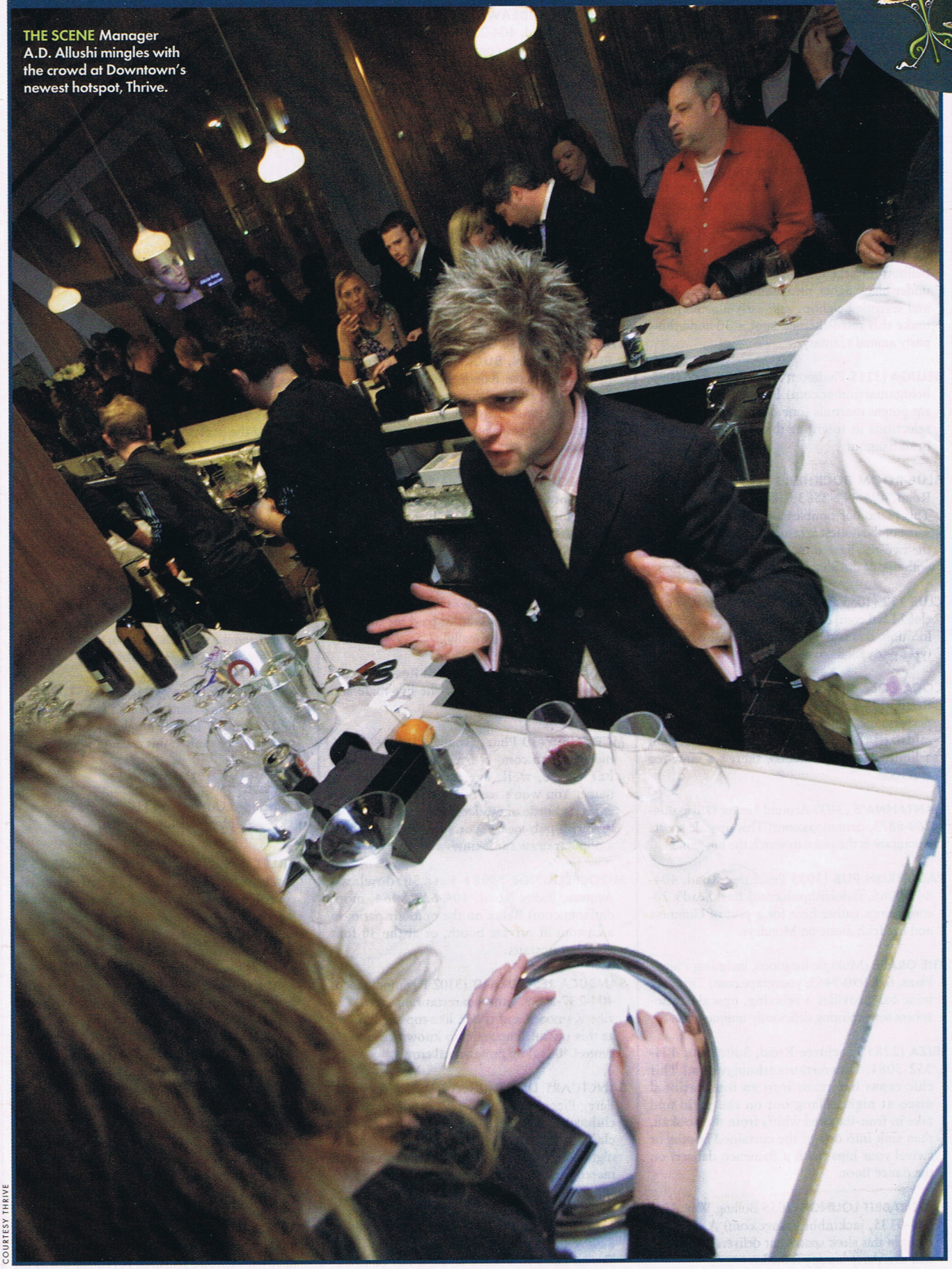


THE SCENE Manager A.D. Allushi mingles with the crowd at Downtown's newest hotspot, Thrive.

COURTESY THRIVE



NIGHTLIFE

BUCKHEAD

AIKO (128 East Andrews Drive, 404-869-4800, aikoatlanta.com) Come early for half-price sushi rolls and stick around until the restaurant turns into a dance club at 10:30.

ANDREWS UPSTAIRS (56 East Andrews Drive, Suite B, 404-467-1600, andrewsupstairs.com) Music junkies get their fixes in this intimate setting with some of Atlanta's favorite regional acts like Slippery When Wet (a Bon Jovi tribute band) and The Breakfast Club.

BELL BOTTOMS (225 Pharr Road, 404-816-9669, bellbottomsatl.com) Psychedelic neon posters under black lights, an illuminated dance floor, and seventies, eighties, and early-nineties music make this retro-themed spot a 30-something party animal's fantasy.

BELUGA (3115 Piedmont Road, 404-869-1090, belugamartinibar.com) Enjoy live music and sip potent martinis (one of the most extensive selections in town) at this old-school Buckhead hangout.

BLUE ROOM BUCKHEAD (2359-B Peachtree Road, 404-844-2583, sidebarbuckhead.com) This piano bar doubles as a concert venue for some of the hottest jazz artists around. Dance on the two-tier lighted dance floor or enjoy tapas with one of the Blue Room's signature martinis.

CLUB 112 (1055 Peachtree Street, 404-607-7277, club112atl.com) Now in its new Peachtree Street location, this is the place where flashy hip-hop types party till the wee hours.

COCA-COLA ROXY THEATRE (3110 Roswell Road, 404-233-7699, livenation.com) Catch performances by big-name acts at this classic midsized theatre. With a slanted floor and a limited-seating balcony, there's a view for everyone.

DANTANNA'S (3400 Around Lenox Drive, 404-760-8873, dantannas.com) This upscale sports restaurant is the place to watch the big game.

FADO IRISH PUB (3035 Peachtree Road, 404-841-0066, fadoirishpub.com) Buckhead's 20-somethings gather here for a pint of Guinness and live Irish music on Mondays.

THE GRAPE (Multiple locations, including Phipps Plaza, 678-990-9463, yourgrape.com) This cozy wine bar provides a relaxing, upscale atmosphere for exploring deliciously unique wines.

IBIZA (2285 Peachtree Road, Suite 100, 404-352-3081, ibizarestaurantlounge.com) This chic tapas bar turns into an international disco at night. Hang out on the patio and take in fruit-flavored whiffs from the hookah, then sink into one of the curtained booths or swivel your hips (with a flamenco dancer) on the dance floor.

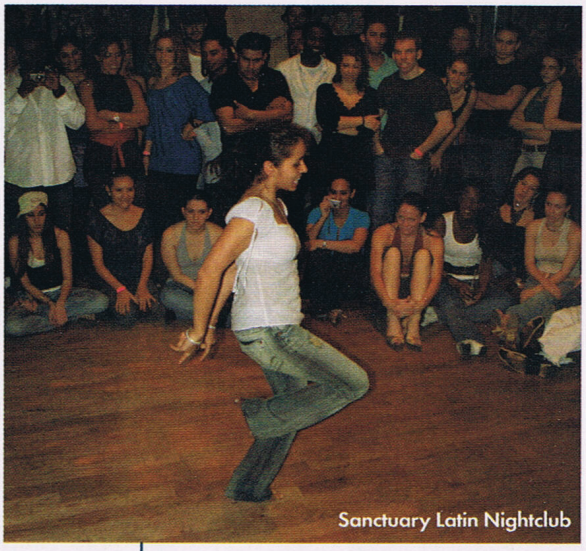
JACK RABBIT LOUNGE (3055 Bolling Way, 404-264-0135, jackrabbitlounge.com) A DJ spins tunes in this sleek space that delivers a touch of chic to a party-hungry crowd.

JOHNNY'S HIDEAWAY (3771 Roswell Road, 404-233-8026, johnnyshideaway.com) This is where 50-somethings sip cocktails and dance the night away to Sinatra.

JUSTIN'S RESTAURANT & BAR (2200 Peachtree Road, 404-603-5353) Atlanta's buppies crowd this hostpot owned by Sean "Diddy" Combs.

LANDMARK DINER (3652 Roswell Road, 404-816-9090, landmarkdiner.com) Late-night dining and celebrity spotting is the draw here.

THE LOBBY LOUNGE AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, BUCKHEAD (3434 Peachtree Road, 404-237-2700, ritzcarlton.com) Settle into one of the plush sofas, sip an expensive glass of champagne, and wait for the A-listers to arrive.



Sanctuary Latin Nightclub

LOTUS LOUNGE (565 Main Street, 404-869-3445, lotusatlanta.com) This hot addition to the Lindbergh City Center brings sexy back to the ATL's club scene, with its breathtaking Asian decor set off by a massive 12-foot lotus bloom. Get your groove on with hip-hop, Top 40, house, and high-energy dance music, then take in the sights from the exclusive second level, reserved for patrons who've paid for membership ($250–$1,000 annually).

MAXIM CABARET (5275 Roswell Road, themaximcabaret.com) Check out the live male and female revues.

MCTIGHE'S (30 Pharr Road, 404-816-3300, mctighespub.com) A friendly neighborhood bar where, well, everybody knows your name. You won't see Norm sipping beer, but expect a horde of Steelers fans on game day at this Irish pub-meets-sports bar. Poker night is a popular draw three times a week.

MOOD LOUNGE (3081 East Shadowlawn Avenue, Pharr Road, 404-627-8464, moodatlanta.com) Relax on the outdoor patio, in a custom lit private booth, or at the 30-foot glass bar upstairs.

SAMBUCA RESTAURANT (3102 Piedmont Road, 404-237-5299, sambucarestaurant.com) The vibe is smooth and classy, like top-shelf liquor, at this upscale supper club known to draw a genteel 40-and-up professional crowd.

SANCTUARY LATIN NIGHTCLUB (3209 Paces Ferry Place, 404-262-1377, sanctuarynightclub.com) This spacious nightspot, self-proclaimed to be the city's oldest "true Latin nightclub," delivers heaping servings of salsa, merengue, bachata, and cumbia as well as a splash of house music.

THE TAVERN AT PHIPPS (Phipps Plaza, 404-814-9640, thetavernatphipps.com) You'll feel like an extra in a scene straight out of *Cocktail* as you watch bartenders pull off a show during the packed happy hour at this popular restaurant.

TONGUE & GROOVE (3055 Peachtree Road, 404-261-2325, tongueandgrooveonline.com) Shake your groove thing as a mix of hip-hop and Latin beats blasts from huge speakers. Don't forget the free Wednesday night salsa lessons.

THE TREEHOUSE (7 Kings Circle, 404-266-2732, treehouseatlanta.com) Eat on the deck or enjoy one of three cozy fireplaces in this Peachtree Hills hangout that is hugely popular with Buckhead's young professional crowd.

TWIST (Phipps Plaza, 404-869-1191, heretoserverestaurants.com) Atlanta's fashion-forward and upwardly mobile singles schmooze over sushi and cocktails at this restaurant/lounge.

DOWNTOWN

(includes Castleberry Hill and Sweet Auburn Historic District)

BARLEY'S SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE (338 Peachtree Street, 404-522-7177, barleysbilliards.com) This two-story sports bar has live music on weekends.

DAILEY'S DOWNSTAIRS (17 Andrew Young International Boulevard, 404-681-3303, daileysrestaurant.com) At this after-work bar, gray-templed executives and tourists enjoy live music, martinis, and 20 different cigars.

ENDENU (393 Marietta Street, 404-522-8874, endenu.com) Live jazz or blues provides the soundtrack at this Downtown bistro, which also features a cozy lounge and airy patio.

FUZZY'S PLACE (2015 North Druid Hills Road, 404-321-6166, fuzzys.com.) One of the best spots in the city for live blues (local legend Francine Reed pops in frequently) and Cajun cuisine.

HARLEM BAR (262 Edgewood Avenue, 404-588-0014) This Downtown hangout with an uptown attitude features seventies-era films

COURTESY SANCTUARY

projected on the walls (think *Super Fly*), house and hip-hop beats, and super-trendy 20- and 30-somethings enjoying soul food, cocktails, and conversation.

THE HOUSE NIGHTCLUB (Kenny's Alley, Underground Atlanta, 678-528-7732, thehousenightclub.com) This nightclub is a replica of a home, allowing guests to hang out in the living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, and patio while listening to DJs spin.

IRISH BRED PUB & GRILL (Kenny's Alley, Underground Atlanta, 404-521-6199) The Guinness flows at this Downtown Irish pub.

JAMAICA JAMAICA (Kenny's Alley, Underground Atlanta, 404-526-6467) Caribbean transplants and wannabes retreat to this dimly lit hideaway to savor authentic native cuisine and "butterfly" all night to the island beats.

LENNY'S BAR (486 Decatur Street, 404-577-7721, lennysbar.com) The self-proclaimed CBGB of Atlanta—where local bands like the Selmanaires often play—is now twice the size of its former location on Memorial Drive.

M BAR & LOUNGE (257 Peters Street, 404-523-1555, mbaratlanta.com) M is for martinis, margaritas, mojitos, and music at this sliver of a lounge that packs a lot of punch with its shiny metallic tables and halo of blue lighting.

THE MARK ULTRALOUNGE (79 Poplar Street, 678-904-0050, themarkatlanta.com) Expect to hear hip-hop, eighties pop, reggae, and house music at this ultrahip Fairlie-Poplar enclave.

MOTION (Kenny's Alley, Underground Atlanta, 678-886-6920) Formerly known as Latin Sol, this club now has a hip-hop vibe tinged with a little R&B and house. Minor renovations have updated the club's look, and the massive dance floor is still a major perk.

RARE (554 Piedmont Avenue, 404-541-0665, rareatl.com) Acid jazz, creative cocktails, and soul food tapas make this intimate SoNo district lounge—the latest creation by the owners of Harlem Bar—a unique and, ahem, rare find.

THE ROYAL (255 Trinity Avenue, 404-653-1644, theroyalatlanta.com) Atlanta's lounge boom lives on with this laid-back Downtown destination filled with ornate Victorian furniture, glitzy chandeliers, and a steady stream of unusual DJs.

STUDIO 281 (281 Peters Street, 404-524-7247, studio281.com) Sip on a cocktail named for Miles Davis and enjoy jazz at this intimate club in Castleberry Hill.

SUGARHILL (Kenny's Alley, Underground Atlanta, 404-658-0068, sugarhillatl.com) Dress to party at this casual nightspot where hip-hop, reggae, house, and, of course, Dirty South jams pulsate through the state-of-the-art sound system.

THE TABERNACLE (152 Luckie Street, 404-659-9022) The setting is intimate, considering marquee names like Etta James and Bob Dylan have performed at this converted church. The funky interior is highlighted by the psychedelic hand-painted ceilings and antique furniture.

THRIVE (101 Marietta Street, 404-389-1000, thriveatl.com) A cross between an upscale restaurant and a hip lounge, this new addition to the city's social scene is jockeying to become Downtown's hottest hangout.

BEST OF THE BURBS

Cafe 290 (290 Hilderbrand Drive, Sandy Springs, 404-256-3942) Big-name performers such as Peabo Bryson and Rachelle Ferrell often pop in for impromptu performances at this sports bar/jazz lounge.

Cowboys Atlanta (1750 North Roberts Road, Kennesaw, 770-426-5006, cowboysatlanta.com) Live music and line dancing make this sprawling club a true country music lover's haven.

The Stage Door (4431 Hugh Howell Road, Tucker, 678-488-8042, thestagedoor.biz) Drag shows, karaoke showdowns, and lots of dancing make this Tucker gay bar a real hoot.

Velvet Room (3378 Chamblee Tucker Road, 404-874-4460, velvetatl.com) If you loved Vision, you'll love this barely ITP incarnation of the legendary superclub that once reigned supreme in the heart of Midtown. Think plasma TVs, hot bartenders, sexy partygoers, and pulsating beats—only this location is open until 4 a.m!

Wild Bill's (2075 Market Street, Duluth, 678-473-1000, wildbillsatlanta.com) Live music, line dancing, and hot waitresses help this saloon (purportedly the largest of its kind in the country) live up to its name.

—Chandra R. Thomas

INTOWN

(includes Cabbagetown, Cheshire Bridge, Decatur, East Atlanta, Little Five Points, Virginia-Highland, Westside)

10 HIGH (816 North Highland Avenue, 404-873-3607, tenhighclub.com) The ruckus coming from the depths of this ominous, dimly lit club evokes the punk rock spirit. If you didn't expel all of your demons over the weekend, show up for Metalsome Mondays—karaoke in front of a live metal band!

ATKINS PARK (794 North Highland Avenue, 404-876-7249, atkinspark.com) This tavern is a happening hotspot for happy hour and late-night crowds.

AZUL 141 Sycamore Street, Decatur, 404-377-3311) The main event here is the weekly Friday night dance party, called Decatur Social Club, which draws an unpretentious but hip crowd for cheap drinks and music ranging from indie rock to electro to hip-hop.

BLIND WILLIE'S (828 North Highland Avenue, 404-873-2583, blindwilliesblues.com) This juke joint is a standout with its kitschy decor and (often interactive) live blues performances.

BRICK STORE PUB (125 East Court Square, Decatur, 404-687-2521, brickstorepub.com) It's all about the beer at this Old World–style pub, with 17 rotating taps, 65 more in bottles, and a separate Belgian beer bar that has the best selection in the city.

THE CAVERN (1035 North Highland Avenue, 404-873-4449) Usually considerably less crowded than other nearby bars, patrons come here for the cheap but exquisite house margaritas, available by the pitcher.

THE CLERMONT LOUNGE (789 Ponce de Leon Avenue, 404-874-4783, clermontlounge.net) More Atlanta institution than trendy hotspot, this strip club/disco is home to Blondie and her infamous beer can–crushing techniques.

COMPOUND (1008 Brady Avenue, 404-872-4621, compoundatl.com) Perhaps it's the picturesque outdoor Tenshi garden. Maybe it's the seasoned DJs and ultracontemporary decor in the MB1 lounge. Or it could be the 60 massive video screens. It's hard to pinpoint, but there's something about this Westside hotspot that makes you feel crazy, sexy, and cool.

CRÜ LOUNGE (620 Glen Iris Drive, Unit 101, 404-551-2361, cruurbanlounge.com) Sink into a cozy leather booth at this converted two-story Poncey-Highland loft. Enjoy fine wine, premium liquor, and international beer while taking in the rotating exhibition of artwork by local artists.

DARK HORSE TAVERN & GRILL (816 North Highland Avenue, 404-873-3607, darkhorseatlanta.com) This place is known for its singles scene, but if mingling isn't your thing, head downstairs for live music at 10 High.

THE EARL (488 Flat Shoals Avenue, 404-522-3950, badearl.com) Crack open a PBR, jostle through the tattoo-laden hipsters, and you'll stumble upon a narrow hallway leading to this East Atlanta music club, home to top touring indie and college rock bands.

EASTSIDE LOUNGE (485-A Flat Shoals Avenue, 404-521-9666, eastsidelounge.net) East Atlanta's artsy crowd hangs out in this sleek, modern nightspot, where DJs spin Monday through Saturday and eighties rap videos are projected on the crimson walls.

EDDIE'S ATTIC (515-B North McDonough Street, Decatur, 404-377-4976, eddiesattic.com) The Indigo Girls, Shawn Mullins, and Sugarland all got their start on the tiny Eddie's stage, known as the South's premier venue for acoustic folk music. Monday's open mic nights are popular with both amateurs and touring artists.

EL BAR (939 Ponce de Leon Avenue, 404-881-

6040) You'll feel like you need a password to slip behind the unmarked door leading to this tiny, smoky enclave tucked beneath the El Azteca restaurant on Ponce. Inside, you'll find dim lighting, mirrored walls, and an intoxicating mix of pounding hip-hop beats.

E.S.S.O. (1599 Memorial Drive, 404-378-1095, essoatlanta.com) Atlanta's original hip-hop haunt is back, but with a trendier upscale ambience in its new East Atlanta location.

FEVER (1789 Cheshire Bridge Road, 404-214-0151, feveratl.com) There's lots of room (and *rooms*!) in this 15,000-square-foot club. With names like White, Aztec, Martini, Viper, and Bed, each theme room has its own vibe, and VIPs enjoy private cabanas in the Uber Lounge.

THE FIVE SPOT (1123 Euclid Avenue, 404-233-1100, fivespot-atl.com) Located in Little Five Points, this homage to the legendary NYC club has recently diverged from jazz to genres like funk, reggae, bluegrass, and some jam bands. Check out the Tuesday night open jazz sessions (often highlighted by GSU School of Jazz recitals) and Reggae Sundays.

FONTAINE'S OYSTER HOUSE (1026½ North Highland Avenue, 404-872-0869) This long, narrow space is filled with Va-Hi's posh and beautiful. Mingle inside or retreat to the patio.

HAND IN HAND (752 North Highland Avenue, 404-872-1001, dereklawfordpubs.com) Expect pints galore and a crowded bar at this Brit-pub.

HIGHLAND TAP (1026 North Highland Avenue, 404-875-3673, highlandtapatlanta.com) Atlanta's hip 20-somethings gather around the bar to get their martini fix—mimicking the experienced 30-something crowds elsewhere.

ISP SPACE (494 Flat Shoals Avenue, isp-music.com) This live music venue is all-ages (alcohol-free), and the "suggested" cover-charge warmly welcomes the empty-pocketed music fan.

JAVA VINO (579 North Highland Avenue, 404-577-8673, javavino.com) This cozy, Nicaraguan-themed coffeehouse/wine bar is a welcome alternative to the usual bar scene.

LIMERICK JUNCTION (822 North Highland Avenue, 404-874-7147, limerickjunctionpub.com) Va-Hi pub crawlers stop into Atlanta's oldest Irish pub for live Celtic music, traditional Irish food and beer, shooters, and free popcorn.

MANUEL'S TAVERN (602 North Highland Avenue, 404-525-3447) An Atlanta institution for more than 50 years.

MARY'S (1287-B Glenwood Avenue, 404-624-4411, marysatlanta.com) Live DJs and VJs, "Maryoke" on Thursdays and Saturdays, and eighties theme nights make this East Atlanta gay bar fun for all.

THE MASQUERADE (695 North Avenue, 404-577-8178, masq.com) This tri-level dance club housed in a turn-of-the-century mill building was once a stopping point for bands like Beck, Björk, Radiohead, and Pearl Jam. Nowadays, most shows are all-ages, and you can bang your head and *oi!* to the latest punk, emo, screamo, and hard-core metal bands.

MOE'S & JOE'S (1033 North Highland Avenue, 404-873-6090) For years, this was a cash-only, beer-only joint. Now accepting credit cards and serving wine, locals still flock to the worn, wooden booths.

NEIGHBOR'S (752 North Highland Avenue, Suite C, 404-872-5440, neighborsatlanta.com) Comfortable and casual—like your favorite pair of old jeans—this full-service bar is stocked with 20 beers on tap and 21 bottled ales.

NORTHSIDE TAVERN (1058 Howell Mill Road, northsidetavern.com) Once a rowdy blue collar/biker hangout, Atlanta's preeminent blues bar is now popular with Buckhead businessmen and college students, who gather to catch local blues icons like Danny "Mudcat" Dudeck.

SMITH'S OLDE BAR (1578 Piedmont Avenue, 404-875-1522, smithsoldebar.com) Lenny Kravitz, R.E.M., and David Bowie all graced the venerable stage at Smith's before gaining arena-rock status. The music calendar is filled with newly signed and veteran major-label talent. Don't miss 3 For 5 Nights (three bands for $5) and the new Atlanta Room downstairs, reserved for songwriter showcases and acoustic shows.

STAR COMMUNITY BAR (437 Moreland Avenue, 404-681-9018, starbar.net) "Fifteen Minutes of Fame" karaoke, live stand-up comedy, live heavy metal, and $2 PBRs are hallmarks of this popular Little Five Points neighborhood bar.

TACO MAC (1006 North Highland Avenue, 404-873-6529, tacomac.com) Although there are more than 20 metro area locations of this sports bar, Virginia-Highland is where it all started. With 24 beers on tap and 125 in bottles, Taco Mac helped define this area's nightlife scene.

UNDER THE COUCH (840 McMillan Street, underthecouch.org) This all-ages, alcohol-free music venue allows kids to mosh without the humiliating wristband. Operated by Georgia Tech's student-run Musicians Network, the gamut is mostly indie rock, hard-core, screamo, and hip-hop.

UTOPIA LOUNGE (840 Marietta Street, 404-898-8788, utopiaatlanta.com) Expect sensory overload as you step into this spacious restaurant/lounge splayed with splashes of vibrant hues and contemporary furnishings. If you're lucky you'll land one of the ultrasexy private booths.

VARIETY PLAYHOUSE (1099 Euclid Avenue, 404-524-7354, variety-playhouse.com) This converted Little Five Points movie house is one of the best midsized music venues in Atlanta. There's no niche sound here—popular and rising rock, indie, jazz, folk, and world artists take the stage, which is wonderfully accessible to fans on the standing-room-only dance floor.

VINO LIBRO (933 Garrett Street, 404-624-3644, vinolibro.com) This independently owned lounge in East Atlanta's Glenwood Park offers more than 60 wines available by the glass.

MIDTOWN

APACHE CAFE (64 Third Street, 404-876-5436, apachecafe.info) Feel like you walked right into a scene from *Love Jones* as you enjoy a sampling of some of the best spoken-word performances, poetry, and live music Atlanta has to offer.

APRÉS DIEM (931 Monroe Drive, 404-872-3333, apresdiem.com) Stop by this Euro-chic coffeehouse for a drink after a movie or enjoy the free jazz performances on Wednesday nights.

BAZZAAR (654 Peachtree Street, 404-885-7505, bazzaaratlanta.com) This cozy European-themed lounge next door to the Fox Theatre is great for cocktails and mingling after a show.

BLAKE'S ON THE PARK (227 10th Street, 404-892-5786, blakesontheparkatlanta.com) Fun pop music, almost-daily drag shows, and beautiful men everywhere make this spot near Piedmont Park the consummate boy bar.

BULLDOGS (893 Peachtree Street, 404-872-3025, bulldogsbar.com) This Midtown gay bar attracts both hip-hop and dance music fans.

CHEETAH LOUNGE (887 Spring Street, 404-892-3037, thecheetah.com) Not your typical strip joint, this gentlemen's club features glamorous dancers and a gourmet restaurant, Alluvia.

CHURCHILL GROUNDS (660 Peachtree Street, 404-876-3030, churchillgrounds.com) This cozy club located beside the Fox Theatre is the perfect place to cap off an evening, with live music by artists like Joe Gransden and Freddy Cole. Try your luck (or just watch) at Tuesday's jam session for amateurs.

COSMOPOLITAN (45 13th Street, 404-873-6189, cosmolava.com) Midtown hipsters meet here to sip martinis on the Tropical Deck.

DJANGO GYPSY KITCHEN & SALOON (495 Peachtree Street, 404-347-8648, djangoatlanta.com) This eclectic eatery features an intimate basement lounge pulsating with hip-hop, house, and neo-soul tunes.

ELEMENT (1051 West Peachtree Street, 404-745-3001, elementmidtown.com) Enjoy a romantic rendezvous in this cafe-style restaurant that features a grottolike patio with a waterfall, Koi pond, and terrace. Sip on a signature cocktail and people-watch in the hip upstairs lounge.

ENO (800 Peachtree Street, 404-685-3191, enoatlanta.com) Jazz plays as patrons enjoy Mediterranean cuisine and an extensive wine menu.

FOX SPORTS GRILL (261 19th Street, Atlantic Station, 404-207-1369, foxsportsgrill.com) This popular sports bar has beer, pizza, and plasma TVs broadcasting the big game (in just about every sport) all in one.

HALO (817 West Peachtree Street, Suite E-100, 404-962-7333, halolounge.com) Here, under-



Lobby at Twelve

neath the historic Biltmore, Atlanta's beautiful people enjoy a varied soundtrack as they mingle and sip expensive martinis.

HOEDOWNS (931 Monroe Drive, 404-876-0001, hoedownsatlanta.com) This country and western–themed gay bar, whose unofficial motto is "Can't Keep a Good Hoe Down," is more dance hall than watering hole, with a split-rail fence corralling a floor where gays and straights two-step and line dance the night away.

LAVA LOUNGE (57 13th Street, 404-873-6189, cosmolava.com) More glitzy than its sister club, Cosmopolitan, the futuristic Lava Lounge attracts a similar crowd. Dance to resident DJs or lounge on the plush velvet sofas.

LEOPARD LOUNGE (84 12th Street, 404-874-2704, leopardlounge.biz) Leopard spots set the stage for DJs spinning Top 40, techno, and hip-hop upstairs and downstairs, but head out onto the deck for mingling.

LOBBY AT TWELVE (361 17th Street, Atlantic Station, 404-961-7370, lobbyattwelve.com) This restaurant/lounge (located in the lobby of the Twelve Hotel & Residences) is *the* hangout for Atlanta's sophisticates.

LOCA LUNA (114 Sixth Street, 404-875-4494, loca-luna.com) "Viva, Atlanta!" Sip fruity cocktails, enjoy Latin tapas, and wriggle your hips to the salsa beats.

MJQ CONCOURSE (736 Ponce de Leon Avenue, 404-870-0575, mjqatlanta.com) It's hard to figure out what's the bigger draw at this underground club: the laid-back loungy feel or the two DJs in separate areas simultaneously spinning hip-hop and disco.

OPERA (1150 Crescent Avenue, 404-874-3006, operaatlanta.com) Formerly known as Eleven 50, this club underwent a $2 million renovation and reopened in June as Opera. Building on the venue's history as a 1920s theater, the club now has an opera house feel, with sky boxes on the second floor. The dance floor is larger, and the poolside cabanas are still out back.

PARK 75 LOUNGE & TERRACE AT THE FOUR SEASONS HOTEL ATLANTA (75 14th Street, 404-253-3840) You might run into one of the high-profile celeb (hotel) guests as you sip cocktails at this posh hotel bar.

RED LIGHT CAFE (553 Amsterdam Avenue, 404-874-7828, redlightcafe.com) A fire almost destroyed this listening room/restaurant/bar that features local, regional, and national bands seven nights a week. Local pickers will feel right at home on Bluegrass Thursdays, an open jam session that invites Atlanta's top players to call out a classic number and play it on a whim.

SHOUT (1197 Peachtree Street, 404-846-2000, heretoserverestaurants.com) Hipsters flock to the trendy restaurant that helped put the "cool" back in Colony Square. VIPs are known to mingle among the rooftop cabanas.

SUTRA LOUNGE (1136 Crescent Avenue, 404-607-1160, sutraloungeatl.com) Chill with a cocktail or dance the night away at this posh Midtown hangout.

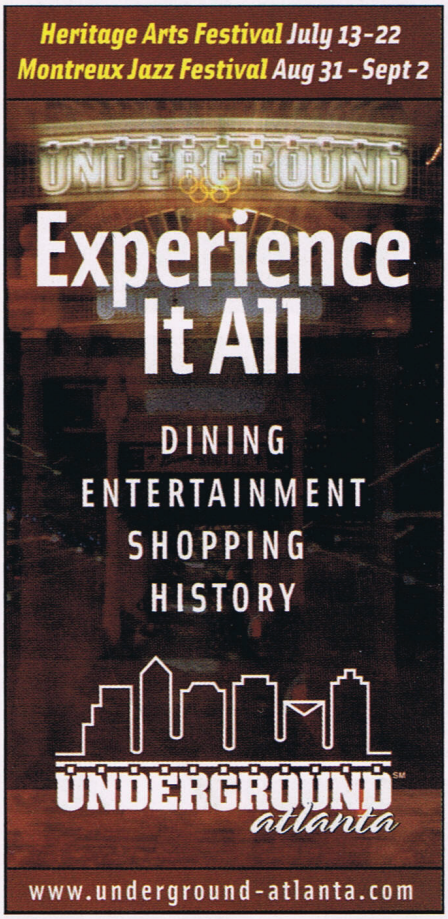
TEN PIN ALLEY (261 19th Street, Atlantic Station, 404-872-3364, dolcegroup.com) This glitzy, $80-per-hour (for six people) bowling alley is one of Ashton Kutcher's three Dolce Group hotspots at Atlantic Station.

VERVE LOUNGE (511 Peachtree Street, 404-888-8880, verveatlanta.com) It's South Beach meets Studio 54 at this tri-level Midtown hotspot. After you've worked up a sweat gyrating to the hip-hop or Latin beats, retreat to the exclusive rooftop deck to take in the skyline view.

WETBAR (960 Spring Street, 404-745-9494, wetbaratlanta.com) A cascading water wall greets crowds at this industrial-themed gay bar.

—Chandra R. Thomas and Mark Tillman

COURTESY OPERA



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