

8 OF OUR FAVORITE GIRL CLUBS

"Women love the bar because the staff is friendly and sexy, and make an effort to engage with the customers." It's a great place for a first date. A \$105 bottle of Hanzell Vineyards Chardonnay and a flatbread pizza with apples, brie, goat cheese and glazed walnuts is sure to impress. Features: an indoor space, a great outdoor patio and a Nintendo Wii.

5. Verve Wine Bar & Cellar, Seattle: Owner Kate Bond, who mentions that she "lives alone, drives a truck and has a dog," creates a welcoming atmosphere for the lesbian wine-lover and food connoisseur. Verve's menu is more extensive than that of the average wine bar, with highlights like bacon and leek flan and wild boar tenderloin, and the winelist is extensive, featuring wines from all over the world—from Austria to the Yakima Valley. Features: a weekly Tuesday evening wine tasting, during which all the inventory is 10 percent off. ■



HIP CHICKS DO WINE

The urban winery Hip Chicks Do Wine in downtown Portland, Ore., is not exactly a wine bar per se, but it is located in a repurposed warehouse and focuses on including Generation X customers in the sometimes snooty pastime of wine tasting. Partners in wine and life Laurie Lewis and Renee Neely "purchase grapes from vineyards located throughout Oregon and Washington and do all of the crushing, fermentation, blending and bottling." Features: The tasting room is open seven days a week and their wine club is open to customers, many of whom are queer.

SUE ELLEN'S

3014 Throckmorton, Dallas

You gotta love a lesbian bar named after a character from the campy '80s soap opera *Dallas*. Like the soap, Sue Ellen's began in the late '70s, and is known for its sexy setting and abundant drama. This year it moved into gleaming, spacious digs, complete with three stories, multiple bars, the Lipstick Lounge and a state-of-the-art DJ booth and sound system. Sue Ellen's is part cosmopolitan, part country. If you go, you'll see some line dancing—but it'll be to Jay-Z. — *Jonanna Widner*

T'S BAR AND RESTAURANT

5025 North Clark St., Chicago

Though you wouldn't guess it from the thickly lathered yellow paint on the exterior, or the twisty letter on the sign, T's is the long-standing mainstay of Andersonville, Chicago's lesbian 'hood. The front room is heavy on gay boys, so weave your way toward the darker—and, um, friendlier—back room, where the girls hang out and party up. — *Alicia Eler*

WILD SIDE WEST

424 Cortland Ave., San Francisco

On the edge of San Francisco, in the lesbian outpost of Bernal Heights, sits Wild Side West, a classic Western bar, complete with beer-warped floorboards and dim lighting. Step outside and you'll enter a garden oasis teeming with artsy dykes, bohemian neighbors and enough instruments to start an impromptu band. A favorite hangout for Janis Joplin in the '60s (she regularly had sex on the pool table), Wild Side West is still the preferred spot for outlaw dykes. — *Kristin A. Smith*

THE MIX AT LOTUS HOTEL

455 Abbott St., Vancouver, BC

The nickname, Lick, says it all. Officially, it's known as The Mix in the Lotus Hotel. The only lezzie bar in town, this underground nightclub is where the girls go to get their drink on and jam out to eclectic music. — *Gina Daggett*

SISTERS

1320 Chancellor St., Philadelphia

Sisters has been the only lesbian nightclub and restaurant in the Philadelphia area for over a decade. It's got three floors of entertainment—one each for billiards, the dance floor and the main bar and restaurant. There's a good mix of ages, genders and styles, including the inner-city hipsters you'll find here every weekend.

— *Marcie Bianco*

TRUCK STOP AT HERE LOUNGE

696 North Robertson Blvd., West Hollywood, Calif.

On Friday nights in West Hollywood the interior of Here Lounge glows pink with neon lights and the exposed flesh of the young and the sexy. The Truck Stop Girls (FUSEvents' answer to *Coyote Ugly*) don hot pants, lingerie and strap-ons before getting up on the bar and shaking their money makers to '80s pop and glam rock for the hungry patrons. Like most places in WeHo, there's always a line, so arrive early and don't wear flannel.

— *Melany Walters-Beck*



THE NORTH STAR MUSIC CAFÉ

225 Congress St., Portland, Maine

The bottom of Munjoy Hill is where you'll find Portland, Maine's lesbian hotspot. There's no coat room or pool table, no intimidating looking butch waiting to pounce on you for your ID and you will not be offered a plastic test tube of sticky-sweet liqueur by a femme fatale in fishnets. This place is a different kind of hotspot. Owners Anna Maria Tocci and Kim Anderson—one straight, one gay—have created a live music venue, café, java joint and comfortable, well-appointed hangout that welcomes women from all walks of life and is open seven days a week. — *Aimsel L. Ponti*

TOUCH AT RICH'S

1051 University Ave., San Diego

Though San Diego no longer has a dedicated lesbian bar, the hottest night is Touch at Rich's, a packed weekly event with guest celebrities and DJs. — *Margie M. Palmer*