

## Best of Our Valley 2012: Nightlife & Cocktails

Written by Written by Melissa Larsen

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Cheers! Cin cin! Salud! Bottom's up to the best in local nightlife and cocktails...



### Best Place to Party

#### Smash Boxx

Featuring sumptuous design, state-of-the-art technology (think dozens of flat-screen TV's) and a revolving list of some of the top local DJ's, Smash Boxx in Scottsdale sure knows how to woo posh party animals. [www.smashboxxaz.com](http://www.smashboxxaz.com).

### Best Cocktails and Most Glamorous Place to Party

#### The Mint

Though it only opened in 2011, The Mint has made fans early on. Thanks to its sleek interiors and ultrahip vibe, revelers—or those just wanting to enjoy some small plates and a delish martini—have made this Scottsdale lounge a go-to spot. Big spenders should sip up the C-Note Margarita, which rings in at a cool \$100. [www.themintaz.com](http://www.themintaz.com).



### Best Speakeasy or Hidden Spot

#### Mabel's on Main

Upon cozying up in a booth or taking a spot at the bar at Scottsdale's Mabel's on Main, you'll expect Frank Sinatra or Sammy Davis, Jr. to come waltzing in at any moment. Hand-crafted cocktails and a delish menu accentuate the restaurant's classic, mid-century appeal. [www.mabelsonmain.com](http://www.mabelsonmain.com).

### Best Arizona Winery

#### Pillsbury Wine Company

With prices that won't empty your wallet and with praise from some of the Valley's top chefs, Cottonwood's Pillsbury Wine Company is a first choice for local imbibers. Must-try bottles include Roan Red and Diva. [www.pillsburywine.com](http://www.pillsburywine.com).



### Best Arizona Craft Beer

#### Best Pub & Brewskis

#### Four Peaks Brewing Company

With Four Peaks Brewing Company's Killlifter gracing nearly every tap in the Valley and its famed Pumpkin Porter selling out every fall, it is no surprise that the brewery is among the Valley's favorites for craft beers. Apart from top beers, Four Peaks also boasts a top-notch menu at its two locations. [www.fourpeaks.com](http://www.fourpeaks.com).

### Best Bartender

#### Sarah Aguirre, The Roxy Lounge

Known for her signature Bloody Mary (which features a few hush-hush ingredients) and her much-ordered concoction of 100-proof root beer vodka, Coke and soda, Sarah Aguirre has been a behind-the-bar fave at The Roxy since it opened. The mixing maven has been a bartender since 2006. [www.roxyaz.com](http://www.roxyaz.com).

### Best Biker Bar

#### Dirty Dogg Saloon

As Arizona Bike Week's official east-side destination with nightly specials and events and killer happy hour deals, Dirty Dogg Saloon in Scottsdale is a top stop for local bikers. [www.dirtydoggsaloon.com](http://www.dirtydoggsaloon.com).

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## Best Comedy Club

### Stand Up Live

Norm Macdonald, Frank Caliendo, David Spade and Dana Carvey are just a few of the top names in comedy who will—or did—take the stage at Phoenix's Stand Up Live in 2012. Next door, Copper Blues Rock Pub and Kitchen has more than 60 beers on tap to enjoy once the curtains close. [www.standuplive.com](http://www.standuplive.com).

## Best Cougar Bar

### Blue Martini-2011 Winner

Women who know how to let their hair down make their way to Phoenix on Wednesday nights for Blue Martini's Ladies' Night, where drinks are half-off after 7 p.m. Busy on Hump Day? Stop by seven days a week for the lounge's super-popular happy hour. [www.bluemartinilounge.com](http://www.bluemartinilounge.com).

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## Best Nightclub or Lounge

### American Junkie-2011 Winner

Bacon-wrapped hot dogs, fried pickles, house-made potato chips, oh my! Scottsdale's American Junkie doesn't just provide a great place to kick back or watch the game; it has a delectable bar menu, to boot. [www.americanjunkieaz.com](http://www.americanjunkieaz.com).

## Best Gay Bar

### BS West

Drag shows, dance parties and the Valley's biggest karaoke songbook can all be found at this Scottsdale hot spot, BS West. (The impressive songbook can even be downloaded online, for partiers who like to be prepared.) [www.bswest.com](http://www.bswest.com).

## Best Happy Hour

### Best Wine Bar

#### Postino Winecafé

With two treasured Phoenix locations and a third on its way in Downtown Gilbert, Postino Winecafé is a top after-work pick for locals. The wine bar boasts an impressive selection of bottles in a non-snobby atmosphere (and at non-snobby prices). Plus, Postino dishes up an incredible reverse happy hour on Mondays and Tuesdays, featuring its claim-to-fame bruschetta board and a bottle of wine for \$20. [www.postinowinecafe.com](http://www.postinowinecafe.com).

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## Best Margarita

### Carefree Station-2011 Winner

Seeking spice? Try the Smok'n Guns. Got a sweet tooth? Sip Thea's Apple Pie, complete with a cinnamon-sugar rim. Whatever you're craving, Carefree Station has a margarita to satisfy it on its impressive cocktail menu. [www.carefreestation.com](http://www.carefreestation.com).

## Best Place to Stock Up on Alcohol

### Total Wine & More

Total Wine & More, with its elegant design and friendly staff, makes it possible to stock up on booze for a big event without making you feel as if you're prepping for a frat party. And there's never a lack of stock as Total Wine has 8,000 different types of wine, 3,000 varieties of spirits and 2,500 different beers at its eight Arizona locations. [www.totalwine.com](http://www.totalwine.com).

## Best Spot for Drinking Activities

### Geisha A Go Go

Geisha A Go Go, the Old Town hot spot, serves up Asian beers, infused sakes and playful hand-crafted cocktails that boast Japanese-inspired monikers like Hello Kitty and Harajuku Lover. [www.geishaagogo.com](http://www.geishaagogo.com).