

Johannesburg

and Surrounds

inyourpocket

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Hidden Joburg

Hunt for treasures
in the City of Gold

Pavement special

Street food on the menu

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4pm at Mesh, Keyes Art Mile, Rosebank

COOL BARS

Five years ago you would have been hard-pressed to choose a cool bar in this city. But today the bar scene is flourishing and offers plenty of options for every taste.

4PM AT MESH

Join the sophisticated business set at this sexy cocktail lounge, housed in a private members' club in the Trumpet building on the art and design-inspired Keyes Art Mile. A new cocktail debuts on the menu each month, using a classic recipe as a base and given a twist. Savour your drink with a fabulous view over Joburg's tree-filled suburbs. We favour the Corpse Reviver, a gin-based cocktail first named in 1889 - equal parts Cointreau, Caperitif (a classy South African fortified wine), Absinthe and orange zest for flavour. ▶ K-12, Trumpet, 19 Keyes Ave, Rosebank, tel. +27 10 594 5545, meshclub.co.za. Open 16:00–23:00.

ACE + PEARL

Don't mind the nondescript location overlooking busy Jan Smuts Avenue, this chic little wine bar has a superb selection of South African boutique wines that you won't find anywhere else. Labels change every few weeks and there are regular meet-the-maker events. Order a bottle (one glass is never enough) and enjoy it with a plate of French nibbles. ▶ K-11, Albans Square, 357 Jan Smuts Ave, Craighall Park, acepearl.com. Open Tue–Thu 17:00–23:00, Fri 15:00–00:00, Sat 17:00–23:00. Closed Sun, Mon.

LENIN'S VODKA BAR

With more than 40 vodka brands this quirky Soviet-themed bar in Maboneng has probably the best vodka selection to be found this side of Russia. On the house cocktail list we particularly like the Vlad (crème de cassis with some Stolli Razberi) and the Caiiroska (vodka, fresh limes, sour mix and Sprite). ▶ G-4, 300 Commissioner St, Maboneng, City Centre, tel. +27 76 030 4200, lenins.co.za. Open 16:00–late, Sun 12:00–late. Closed Mon, Tue.

LIVING ROOM

A covered rooftop garden with one of the best views of the downtown skyline, this is the place to enjoy an urban sunset. The best time to visit this café-bar is for the happening Sundays in the Living Room sundowner party (a cover charge applies). ▶ G-5, 20 Kruger St (the Main Change building 5th floor), Maboneng, City Centre, tel. +27 11 029 0556, livingroomjozi.co.za. Open Mon–Wed 11:00–17:00, Thu–Sat 11:00–22:00, Sun 11:00–19:00. Call ahead to check

THE NINE BARRELS

This downtown wine and tapas bar shares space with a contemporary art gallery and a rooftop whisky and cigar lounge. The carefully chosen wine list showcases a wide selection of excellent local wines and the urban-chic atmosphere is understated and sophisticated, all bare brick walls and chandeliers made from recycled bottles. ▶ G-4, 12 Lower Ross St, Maboneng, City Centre, theninebarrels.com. Open 11:00–02:00. Closed Mon, Tue.

REPUBLIC OF 94 **NEW**

Boasting one of the longest bars (more than 14m) this sophisticated Braamfontein den has low-lit banquette seating, moody murals by graffiti artist Justin Nomad and offers an adult alternative to the area's many student hangouts. The name celebrates South Africa's democracy declared in 1994. A vast courtyard out back operates as a beer garden in fine weather. ▶ C-3, 94 Juta St, Braamfontein. Open 12:30–02:00, Sun 12:30–23:00. Closed Mon–Wed.

SIN & TAXES **NEW**

Behind what appears to be a brass feature wall hidden in the back of the tiny Coalition pizzeria, is a speakeasy-style cocktail bar serving some of the most exclusive drinks in town. The themed menu is seasonal. Given the limited seating and self-consciously 'secret' nature of the place, you'll need to rock up early to get a seat. ▶ Shop 4 Park Corner, 2 Bolton Rd, Rosebank. Open 17:00–01:00. Closed Sun, Mon.



Image: Sphiwe Mhlambi

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LIVE MUSIC AND JAZZ CLUBS

THE GOOD LUCK BAR

Behind a pair of hulking triple-volume doors bearing decades-old warnings against the dangers of dynamite is this spacious warehouse turned live music club named in honour of the early 1890s drinking establishments that were said to have operated from this location during Joburg's gold rush. There are gigs every weekend featuring everything from country and folk to Afrobeat and heavy metal. ▶ B-5, 1 Fox Precinct, 14 Alexander St, Ferreirasdorp, City Centre, tel. +27 84 683 4413, goodluckbar.co.za.

THE ORBIT

All the biggest names in South African jazz can be found both on stage and in the audience at this highly respected jazz club. A slick café-restaurant greets you downstairs, while upstairs the bar and a stage surrounded by tables awaits (bookings essential). As well as jazz gigs, The Orbit also hosts regular cultural events such as the excellent monthly Science & Cocktails evening, a perfect combination of science, jazz music and well-mixed drinks. See **What's On** for the lineup of events and follow us online for updates. The Orbit hosts jazz performances just about every night of the year. ▶ C-3, 81 De Korte St, Braamfontein, tel. +27 11 339 6645/+27 78 398 6250, theorbit.co.za. Open for performances Tue–Sun. Closed Mon. Tickets from R60.

COMEDY CLUBS

Comedy is alive and kicking in Joburg with plenty of special events and regular stand-up. Funnyman Joe Parker's long-running comedy club **Parker's Comedy and Jive** is the site of Comedy Central's live shows and attracts some of South Africa's best known stand-up acts (Montecasino Casino and Entertainment Complex, Cnr William Nicol Dr and Witkoppen Rd, Fourways, tel. +27 11 511 0082, parkerscomedy.com). Melrose Arch is home to **The Goliath Comedy Club and Roast Café**, a huge comedy club run by the highly regarded local duo Goliath and Goliath. Enjoy good food at the Roast Café (M-11, 10A The High St, Melrose Arch, tel. +27 76 856 4215).

NIGHTCLUBS

Serious clubbers should head to minimalist **And Club**, a leading house, techno and drum and bass club in the gritty city (B-4, 39a Gwi Gwi Mrwebi St, Newtown, andclub.co.za. Open Thu–Sat). **Babylon** is a popular gay nightclub with dark lighting, pounding trance music and sexy barmen in nothing but their Y-fronts (Illovo Muse, 198 Oxford Rd, Illovo, tel. +27 11 447 3215, babylonnightlife.com. Open Wed–Sun). The swanky set enjoy **Taboo** for the sounds of top local and international house DJs. Beware the velvet rope – a smart dress code applies (M-8, 24 Central, Cnr Fredman Dr and Gwen Ln, Sandton, tel. +27 11 783 2200, taboo.co.za. Open Fri–Sat).