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Beirut

THE PARTY PLACE Brut is billed as a "boutique club," and once you're down the stairs you'll understand why: It's small but well designed. Getting in is no problem unless you don't look as if you're there to dance. Getting out can be trickier. Aimed at Beirut's ferocious after-hours crowd—doors open after 10 P.M.—Brut is tightly packed by 1 A.M. and violating every fire regulation by 2. The loud music is an energetic mix of house and R&B with the occasional Arabic twist, and the furniture is low and sufficiently stable to allow the Lebanese to do what they do best: dance graceful arabesques on the tabletops (Monot St.).

THE COCKTAIL LOUNGE With its vertical planes, polished-concrete floors, bite-sized tables, and mood lighting (read: dark), **Dessau Liquor Garage**, an industrially chic bijou bar at the hipper (that is, as yet undeveloped) end of Mar Mkhayel, attracts a rowdy young and beautiful crowd that in turn draw in their wake a smattering of older and wealthier followers. Cocktails (including an accomplished Dessau's gin martini), Lebanese wines, and a comprehensive selection of international whiskies ensure that the mood stays lubricated into the early hours (Nahr St., Mar Mkhayel).

THE HOTEL BAR Like the hotel beneath it, **ThreeSixty** at Le Gray is a class act. This snug blue-lit circular rooftop pillbox of a bar is low on lighting but high on ambience, provided by spectacular downtown, mountain, and Mediterranean views through the encircling glass walls, and by the shenanigans of the label-conscious crowd who come here for post-prandial cocktails and a little extramarital flirting. The blue-lacquered piano and glowing glass tables are touches of brilliance; the entrancing post-lounge soundscape encourages lingering (Le Gray, Martyrs' Sq.).

Berlin

THE PARTY PLACE Berlin's impulsive, libertine nightlife scene spawns a new club every week. The latest is **Raum18**, a two-room, two-story venue in on-the-up Neukölln that hosts art installations and dance parties in a constantly transforming white minimalist space: One minute it's an airport, complete with check-in gate; the next, it's swathed in cobwebs with an enormous cake and fantasy figures hanging from the ceiling. The music is equally



Smoking Tunes
DJ collective
Acupuncture plays at
Beijing's Lantern.

unpredictable, from dance and electronica to live Finnish drum and base, and the middle-of-nowhere location means no damper on the decibels (11 Ziegrastrasse).

THE COCKTAIL LOUNGE Clearly drinks sell art: It's almost impossible to find a Berlin cocktail bar that doesn't double as a gallery. The city's arty intellectual crowd currently hits Mitte's **ArtBar71**, a mod cinematic metal, wood, and glass space. The artwork changes regularly, and even the bar itself—with a huge glossy-white egg-shaped facade—seems to be part of an art show, while the live music is suitably eclectic, from acoustic guitarist Diane Cluck to the rock stylings of Gloria Viagra, Germany's tallest drag queen. Thankfully, the mojitos and martinis are straightforward and strong (71 Kronenstrasse).

THE HOTEL BAR Berlin's hipsters are hard to please; hotel bars are too sleek and commercial for their D.I.Y. bohemian tastes. But that's changed with the opening of the Michelberger, a quirky flashpacker-style hotel. A secret party night began in the basement during construction; now the scene has moved to the lobby and the **Baustelle** bar, a large interconnected ground-floor space with flea market-inspired decor by art house—movie stylists Anja Knauer and Sibylle Oellerich and local designer Werner Aisslinger: mismatched chairs, hanging lamps made from books, sectional-bookshelf walls. With a piano on hand and well priced drinks (try The Dude), be prepared for spontaneous jams come the wee hours (39 Warschauer Strasse).

Buenos Aires

THE PARTY PLACE Well-heeled locals drawn to the laid-back vibe and melodic electronic sounds at **Sabbia Liquor Bar's** lounges in glam Punta del Este and party beach resort Pinamar now have somewhere to dance at vacay's end. Sabbia's sofa-lined midnight-till-late space in Recoleta resembles a wind tunnel, its corrugated-metal roof underlit in scarlet, ta-

bles and couches demarcated by white voile curtains. Cocktails are served upstairs (we like the passion fruit *caipiroska*), Med-inspired dishes in the restaurant below. Sabbia heaves on usually beat-starved midweek nights; on weekends, it fills with under-30s warming up on their way to an all-nighter (1240 Ayacucho).

THE COCKTAIL LOUNGE Chilean fun lover Juan Santa Cruz—the driving force behind Casa Cruz, celebs' favorite Palermo dining spot—opted for the same blackened walls and iconic gilt doors at next-door **Bar Isabel**. Glitzy dressing will get you into the seventies-inspired interior, where banks of ceiling lights pulsate to upbeat house, and waiters sell "Isabelinas," casino-type chips used at the bar as scrip. The drink menu varies with the hour, kicking off with the hangover-soothing Bamboo (dry sherry, vermouth, and orange bitters) and aperitifs based on Campari, Cynar, and champagne; heavy-hitting martinis, punches, and pink gins emerge after midnight. Guests grab a plate of octopus carpaccio and retire to the white marble, jasmine-trailed courtyard, where logs crackle in the fireplace even on steamy summer nights (1664 Uriarte).

THE HOTEL BAR Tucked into a corner of the Alvear Palace's colossal interior of towering columns, breccia marble, and gilt ornamentation, the Art Deco-inspired **Cigar Bar** is a delightfully cozy den. Paneled with walnut and beveled mirrors and stuffed with walnut-and-leather chairs, it's snug enough for smokers to eavesdrop on gossiping sultans, business moguls, and upper-crust locals as they puff on Cuba's best. Discreet barmen, who know their gutsy Churchills from their svelte Cohibas—the menu ranks each cheroot by smoking time and girth—offer pertinent comment on the two dozen Cognac and Armagnac bottles behind the black marble bar, and pick out a Lindt chocolate, flavored with South American herbs and fruits, to match your smoke (1891 Av. Alvear).

LOS ANGELES THE TEA ROOM



WHO GOES
Models, industry types, and Katy Perry's pop star ilk.



DRINK
Teas revved up with whiskey, bourbon, or rum.



WEAR
Bright booties by Vince Camuto.