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## STAY THIRSTY

NEW COCKTAIL BARS, COFFEEHOUSES, WINE ROOMS & BEER GARDENS



# STAY THIRSTY, SAN DIEGO

From wine to beer to cocktails to coffee, America's  
Finest City invites you to take a sip.

By SARAH DAOUST

San Diego is brimming, literally, with new places to wet your whistle. Whether you're seeking cocktails, wine, craft beer or a caffeine fix, we've rounded up some exceptional watering holes to explore this spring.

## Get Crafty

In Mission Hills, well-known restaurateur Trish Watlington has transformed The Wellington steakhouse into the 'hood's only bar dedicated to craft cocktails: **Bar by Red Door**. Focusing on small plates and culinary-infused libations, the stylish neighborhood bar (think light woods, hanging plants and a stone-covered bar) showcases locally produced spirits, house-made syrups and bitters, fresh herbs, and other garden-to-table ingredients. (Watlington grows her own produce used in her restaurants.) We love their provocative concoctions such as the Cigarette After Sex—made with Mason Rouge cognac, Kappa pisco and Pedro Ximenez sherry. Also

try the aromatic Smudge & Conjure with smoked sage-infused gin, St. George spiced pear liqueur, blue curacao, lime and salt.

In Little Italy, recently renovated Craft & Commerce remains serious about its cocktails. Grab a seat at the taxidermy-adorned main bar or in the library, and sip delights such as the refreshing Rochelle, Rochelle with grapefruit-infused aperol, rosé, orgeat and fresh strawberry; or the smoky Conejo with mezcal, carrot, green curry, pineapple, curacao, lime and habanero.

Opening this spring, **Hundred Proof**—the brainchild of chef Brad Wise and business partner Steve Schwob—has taken over the former Sausage and Meat space on Park

Boulevard. At this cool 'hood hangout decked out in old-school booths, it's all about the craft infusions and boilermakers—try the Buffalo Trace and Alesmith IPA combo.

## Speak(easy) Up

Easily the biggest cocktail trend of the moment in San Diego: the speakeasy—in particular, tiki-style speakeasies. And a new outpost in Pacific Beach, **The Grass Skirt**, nails it. The kitschy-cool poke bar houses a hidden tiki lounge inside—featuring fire pit tables, swings (yes, swings) and booth seating. Drink master Steven Tuttle has designed a fun menu of creative tiki cocktails. There's the Carmen Miranda with white rum, añejo



The Boozin' Susan's  
World-Famous Chi Chi  
cocktail at The Grass  
Skirt in Pacific Beach.