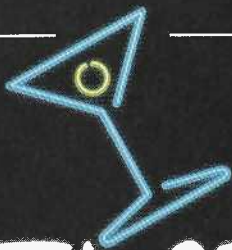


I LOVE THE NIGHTLIFE!



Swinging at
Tongue & Groove

Whether you are interested in a night of cuckoo-crazy swing, a quiet evening of conversation with midnight views of the city, or a few hours of games and fun, Atlanta is a happening place.

SO GET READY TO GROOVE.

LIVING

Photograph by Barton King

LET THE MUSIC PLAY

Gone are the simple days of boy meets girl, both innocent, both demure. The girl of today is a woman in stockings with seams, drinking a dirty martini; the boy, a man in a fedora, smoking a cigar. And, with the permission of Old Blue Eyes, they are having a cuckoo-crazy, happening time, baby. Is this the '40s? No, I'm groovin' to the swanky sounds of be-bop, the swing of the '90s, cat. It's back and Atlanta's diggin' it.

"Swanky is an important word," croons Ken Rickenbaker, co-owner of The Leopard Lounge in Midtown Atlanta. Although this fashionable cocktail lounge has only been open a short while, the rich colored velvet fringe drapes and original '50s furniture give it a funky flair of the past. With its space age '50s and '60s vibe, art deco decor and live swing, it is subtle sophistication at its best. "We're about high balls and cigarettes. We wanted the era of the Rat Pack—the feel of Frank, Dean

and the clan hanging out with suave fellows and beautiful broads," says Rickenbaker.

Competing with several cigar/martini bars in Atlanta, The Leopard Lounge has a jazzy feel, stepping back in time, but not too far, according to Rickenbaker. "We want people to feel it's their own place," he says. "That's why we make it comfortable but a little funky."

Funk is certainly it. The silky spotted leopard print on walls, floors and stairs growls at you, but comfort comes from two fireplaces, candles and familiar faces, such as Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant, on the walls. "The leopard freaks people out. It's in every room. I call it the purring wall," says Gordon Wulff, bartender. There is a "proper dress" dress code at the lounge, but of course, priority is given to those wearing leopard.

There is something for every musical taste at Tongue & Groove, from disco on Saturday and Sunday to today's popular dance hits on Friday. This upscale cocktail



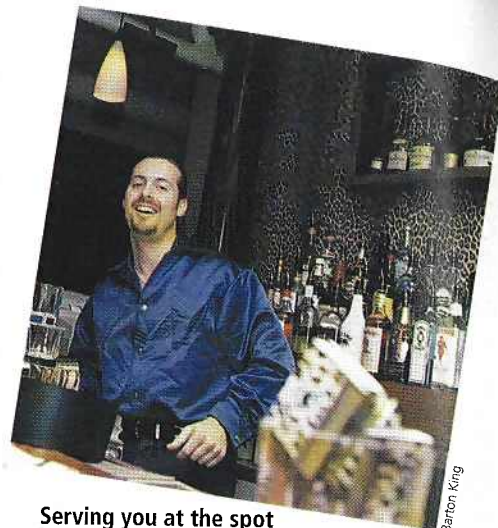
lounge emphasizes style, stimulating conversation and dancing. Thursday night Ultra Lounge gives patrons a chance to learn and then apply their knowledge of Big Band, swing, lounge, cocktail and space age bachelor pad music.

A front open bar area, studded with comfy upholstered benches, straight back chairs and candlelit tables, opens into a dark, funky dance floor, com-

plete with spotlights, a checked tile bar and a side sushi and sashimi bar.

Swing is obviously not the only hot thing on the dance floor. Latin dancing has also swept up the interest, and skirts, of several women and men in Atlanta. Tongue & Groove has Salsa for Gringos on Wednesday nights, with free lessons on the seductive art of salsa. After the lessons, join in Latin Elegance, an evening of Latin dance music.

Another place for dancing to the stirring sounds of a live Latin band, Thursdays through Saturdays, is the Havana



Serving you at the spot with spots: The Leopard Lounge

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Feast on the energy and creative American cuisine at Buckhead Diner – the “ritzest diner in the country.” You’ll find a nostalgic southern setting at the Atlanta Fish Market serving the freshest seafood in town. Period. Enjoy taste sensations from around the world at the funkily European Corner Cafe which offers a fusion menu, gourmet coffees and its own bakery.

Don't know which to choose? Better extend your stay in Atlanta.

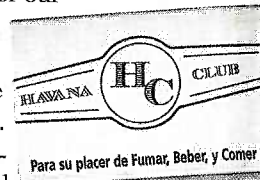
Buckhead Life Restaurant Group



Club in Buckhead. And don't forget to bring your favorite cigar. Or if you want to rely on the advice of cigar aficionados, walk through the large humidor at the club's entrance to choose a cigar, ranging from \$8 to \$25.

“We are known for our cigar selection and atmosphere. The Havana Club is more than just the name. With the trees, wicker furniture and columns, you think you're sitting on a veranda in Cuba having a cigar,” says Antonio Diaz, assistant bar manager.

A blues band assumes control Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday nights. Before or after your evening of dancing, enjoy a drink from the full bar or dinner from a new Cajun dinner menu. All of this is why, the Havana Club is “para su pacer de fumar, beber y comer.”

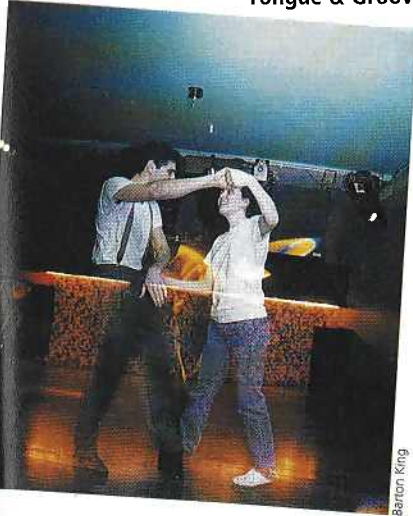


Swing, blues, reggae and concert pianists are on tap at CJ's Landing.

Not far from the seductive sounds of Latin dance is the Tango—and not far from the Havana Club is CJ's Landing. The new Tango Lounge at CJ's is a huge draw, with Tango lessons available for \$10 on Sundays. This hot and

spicy dance is a perfect way to round out a week of other live music at the club. Swing, blues, reggae and concert pianists are heard from the front deck and from the backroom's stage. "We provide an element for everyone," says Colin Allmettt, manager.

Thursday night at the Ultra Lounge at Tongue & Groove

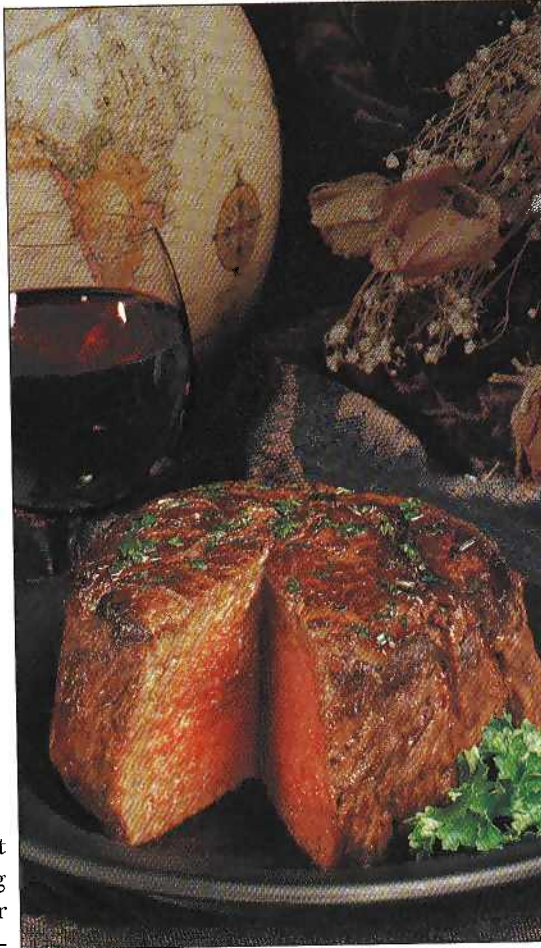


Barton King

Another place to dance the night away is Masquerade on Sunday swing night, lessons starting at 8:30 p.m. for a \$3 cover charge; or catch the swinging sounds and big band boogie of local talents, such as the Lost Continentals or Kingsized, at The Point in Little Five Points. Blind Willie's has smoldering blues sounds in Virginia Highlands; Cafe 290 in Sandy Springs is a jazz lover's paradise; and you can shake your groove thing at Have a Nice Day Cafe to the sounds of the '70s.

If cutting a rug ain't your thing, and you'd rather be sitting on the comfy couch covering that rug, try Midtown's Martini Club. This posh, sophisticated club was conceived from a need for the art of conversation. "The owners had friends in town and they wanted to talk after dinner," says Doreen Hayes, general manager. "There was really nowhere in midtown without long lines and loud music."

Enter the living room-feel of the velvet couches and small glass-topped, wrought iron tables of the Martini Club. The very relaxed atmosphere creates "a party within your own house," according to Hayes. "It's a mix of art deco, and '30s and '40s." Colorful



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LEISURE

LIVING

Dance to the stirring sounds of a live Latin band, Thursdays through Saturdays, at the Havana Club in Buckhead.

framed vintage posters of beautiful women, such as Grace Kelly, champagne glasses and period advertising for alcohol, food and cigars cover the walls. Live music shares the room with you at the Martini Club. From an upstairs piano you will hear swing, jazz and showtunes.

The Martini Club is known mostly for its namesake menu of 54 martinis, as well as having one of the largest cigar selections in the city. Some favorites are Garden Martini, Smirnoff Vodka with olive juice, a pickled asparagus spear and a spicy green bean; Melon Martini, Absolut Vodka with Midori, a lemon twist and a kiwi slice; and the Bond, James Bond, no explanation needed. There is also a fine wine, champagne and beer selection, a brie platter and a shrimp cocktail appetizer.

Keeping with the cigar and martini trend, A Point of View at Nikolai's Roof at the Atlanta Hilton and Towers opened its doors in February as a new upscale lounge, with breathtaking views of the city. "The space features a state-of-the-art cigar bar with built-in humidior, lounge, dance floor and private dining area adjacent to Nikolai's Roof," says



Barton King

general manager Richard Groves. "A fine selection of cigars, such as Macanodo, Royal Jamaica and Prince Phillip, will be displayed in a Spanish mahogany humidior, and a collection of single malt scotches, such as 25-year-old McCahhan, 18-year-old Glenlivet and 10-year-old Glenmorangie, [are] featured."

Guests find a jazzy sophisticated atmosphere—dramatic lighting and elegant furnishing in Himalayan gold granite, anigre and mahogany with textured metals and lush plants. A state-of-the-art

sound system and an enlarged stage set the tone for live jazz performances on Wednesday evenings, from 6 to 10 p.m.

Other Atlanta Nightclubs

There are certainly several other places in Atlanta for a night out on the town. The options and the fun are both limitless.

Don't be too surprised if you hear the pumping techno sounds of "Phantom of the Opera" while a one-man show dances through Cafe Tu Tu Tango.

A Point of View at Nikolai's Roof at the Atlanta Hilton and Towers is a new upscale lounge, with breathtaking views of the city.



This is just a normal Friday or Saturday night at this unique restaurant designed to resemble an artist's loft in Barcelona. Or you may be entertained by a bongo and drum group. Who knows? One thing is for certain—the food is outstanding and the appetizer-sized portions promote a festive atmosphere of sharing. After you've had your meal, carry your drink around and enjoy art from local artists or hand-crafted jewelry. Is the purchase of any of this art in your future? Ask the on-site psychic or tarot card reader.

Or maybe the psychic will be able to tell you who the next celebrity guest bartender is at Planet Hollywood. (Can Tom Cruise really make a good cocktail?) This is the 24th location of the world famous restaurant chain led by shareholders Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis, Sylvester Stallone and Demi Moore. Located in downtown Atlanta, Planet Hollywood is across the street from another well-known memorabilia bar, Hard Rock Cafe. With its strong presence in the club scene, if you don't know anything about Hard Rock, you've been hiding in a hole for the last decade and shouldn't be going out anyway.

With microbreweries becoming more and more popular, the Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery is an upscale-casual restaurant, featuring an innovative menu that is complemented by hand-crafted beers brewed on the premises. The interior design includes a dining room, with warm wood booths and rich upholstery; a large bar area, with four championship-sized billiard tables; separate seating next to a wood-fired pizza oven; a glass-enclosed brewing operation; and

Continued on page 62

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NOTES

LEISURE

Continued from page 125

a large covered patio. The menu is complemented by six house beers, two cask-conditioned brews and two to four specialty beers on tap at all times.

There are two locations of the well-known John Harvard's Brew House in the Atlanta area—Peachtree Road, which was the first microbrewery restaurant licensed in Georgia since the state legislature passed a bill legalizing brew pubs in March 1995, and Holcomb Bridge Road. The decor is reminiscent of an English pub, with dark paneling, exposed brick, antique tables and stained glass. The brewing operation, which is glass-enclosed, is visible to patrons and the 15-barrel (465-gallon) brew house has the capacity to brew up to 5,500 gallons of beer each month. Eight freshly brewed ales and lagers are featured on the tap at all times, including six standard and two seasonal brews.

RW GoodTimes is a 55,000-square-foot, high-tech fun center packed with more than \$1 million worth of the world's most exciting electronic games, attrac-

tions and activities, accented by a top restaurant, party rooms and the largest bar in the South. Choosing from among an astonishing assortment of 175 electronic games and activities, patrons can ski down a mountain, play baseball in the Major Leagues, challenge their driving skills on Gasoline Alley, drive a battle tank or fly like the Rocketeer

with a virtual rocket pack. The 300-seat restaurant serves contemporary American dishes in two dining rooms, and the full-service bar can accommodate nearly 150 thirsty patrons.

Auto racing is no longer limited to watching professional or to "virtual racing." SpeedZone is the first entertainment concept that gives guests a chance to try four different types of racing and get behind the wheel of actual 18-foot-long, 300-horsepower dragsters and custom-built, scale Indy cars to race their friends on tracks designed by top industry experts. After a lap around the track, a worked-up appetite can be satisfied at the SpeedZone cafe, a fully staffed, theme dining room with an assortment of entrees and desserts.

The only way to see Atlanta is to go out and experience its nightlife for yourself. Whether you're a beer guzzler or a brandy sniffer, a couch potato or someone who likes to shake their groove thing, Atlanta's nightlife has something for you. So drop this magazine and get out there. ■

Lounging at the Leopard Lounge



Barton King