



Liven up your nightlife this fall and winter with an infusion of culture. From beer school to the symphony, elegant piano bars to raucous museum fetes, we've got the rundown on what will inspire you to stay up well past your bedtime.

Anthology

Music lovers, take note: this gorgeous, three-story venue in Little Italy caters to you. While the supper club's programming covers a wide variety of sonic territory, Anthology has become the place in town to see traditional, contemporary, and Latin jazz. Up in October: Larry Coryell and Alphonse Muzon (October 12-13) and Amber Whitlock (October 17).

Belly Up Tavern

Probably the best-known music venue in North County (and cited by *Rolling Stone* as one of the hottest clubs on

the West Coast), the Belly Up has been booking a stellar lineup of acts for more than three decades. This month, Joan Osbourne (October 9), Pinback (October 21), Taj Mahal (October 22), and Stereolab (October 24) are just a few of the great shows. (858/481-8140, www.bellyup.com)

House Of Blues

The walls are bedecked with vibrant outsider art culled from the small chain's central collection, and the kitchen serves up zesty Southern cuisine. The place has a "one people, one love" vibe, despite its corporate ownership, and the entertainment lineup ranges from hip indie-rock and blues bands to Sunday's ever-popular Gospel Brunch. (619/299-BLUE, www.hobsandiego.com)

San Diego Symphony/Pops

The much-ballyhooed Summer Pops

may be over, but the San Diego Symphony has plenty more in store for the fall and winter seasons. From the Opus 2008 opening gala concert on October 4 to the Holiday Pops! series December 17-21, San Diegans will have plenty of opportunities to enjoy one of the city's top cultural institutions as the year draws to its grand finale. (619/235-0804, www.sandiegosymphony.com)

San Diego Opera

The 2009 season, opening January 24, features five operatic favorites, Puccini's *Tosca* and *Madama Butterfly*, Massenet's *Don Quixote*, Verdi's *Rigoletto*, and Britten's *Peter Grimes*. If you've never experienced opera (shocking, but it happens), Puccini is the safest bet. You'll quickly learn that the art form has little to do with hefty ladies and Viking hats and everything to do with melodic, heavens-soaring

music and storytelling. (619/533-7000, www.sdopera.com)

Balboa Theatre

This grand ole Gaslamp dame was first built in 1924 and reopened last year after extensive renovations. Since then, the theater has been captivating locals and tourists with its historic trappings (dazzlingly high ceilings, Moorish accents) and engaging lineup. Coming up in the 2008/2009 season: *Defending the Caveman* (November 11-16), *Classics 4 Kids* (January 25), *New Shanghai Circus* (February 1) and *Swan Lake* (February 10). (619/570-1100, www.sdbalboa.org)

Grant Grill

Since 1951, the Grant Grill, the historic U.S. Grant hotel's signature restaurant, has been the domain of downtown's movers and shakers. Pre-theater, dine on contemporary fare in the dining room, or keep it simple and slide into the Grant's mahogany-paneled cocktail lounge, elegantly outfitted with buttery leather lounge chairs, inviting lighting, and a piano man. Here, during the 4-7pm happy hour, savor old-school martinis and satisfy your belly with treats from the half-off bar menu:

truffled steak fries with white cheddar sauce — yes please! (619/744-2077, www.grantgrill.com)

Neighborhood

Haven't you heard? Beer's the new wine. If you don't know hops from a hole in the wall, it's time to get schooled. Good thing this East Village hot spot — famed for its vast inventory of brews, Gruyere-topped house burgers, and heaping plates of sweet-potato fries — offers a new monthly beer school. Here, casual connoisseurs can learn the ABCs of craft brewing. That's Ales, Belgians, and Chimays in case you were wondering. For \$15, you'll sample two flights, each with four 6-ounce beers. The next event is October 7. (619/446-0002, www.neighborhoodsd.com)

UCSD's ArtPower! And The Loft

ArtPower!, which celebrates its fifth anniversary this year, continues to wow with a 2008/2009 lineup featuring innovative chamber music, dance, film, and lectures. Special events include an October 11 performance of Red Fish Blue Fish at the Salk Institute. Led by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and UCSD professor Roger Reynolds, the

ensemble mixes live experimental percussion through real-time computer processing. New this season at the La Jolla campus is The Loft, a super-hip space in the expanded Price Center. It's designed primarily for students (though sometimes is open to the general public) with youthful arts events, a wine bar, and tapa-style nibbles. (858/534-4090, www.artpwr.com)

Scott White Contemporary Art

Little Italy's art scene is white-hot these days, thanks to this highly regarded gallery's new digs on Kalmia Street. White's walls have seen some boldfaced names, including a Willem de Kooning drawing and a massive Frank Stella piece that was once shown at the Centre Pompidou in Paris. On display now is an exhibition of sculptures by Chicago minimalist artist Peter Ambrose. Also check out White's new neighbor, JETT gallery, run by sculptor and furniture designer Joey Vaiasuso. (619/501-5689, www.scottwhiteart.com)

TNT At The Museum Of Contemporary Art San Diego

MCASD's downtown location started San Diego's art-party trend six years »



« ago with its hugely popular Thursday Night Thing event, the first Thursday of every month. October's edition features a screening of Ryan Trecartin's feature-length video *I-Be Area*, which the *New York Times* dubbed "sensationally anarchic." The museum's film curator, Neil Kendricks, will be on hand for a Q&A. Visitors can also check out two new-ish exhibitions, *Human Nature* and *Memory is Your Image of Perfection*, and enjoy all the usual extras: live music, cocktails, and fantastic people-watching. (858/454-3541, www.mcasd.org)

Madison Gallery

The three gallerists behind this La Jolla space really know their high-end stuff. Owner and CEO Lorna York has been a collector and dealer for more than two decades. Director Alex Salazar, Boston College and Harvard-educated in art and religious studies, has been a dealer for a decade. And acquisitions director Kathy Ast also has 20 years in the business under her belt. Oh, and did we mention they throw really great parties? (858/459-0836, www.madisongalleries.com)

Susan Street Fine Art Gallery

A favorite of Solana Beach's Cedros Design District since 1984, this gallery hosts monthly evening events that are as exciting as the contemporary art that fills the space. During October's Cedros Third Thursday Gallery and Shopping Night, swing by Susan Street to check out works by Miguel Osuna, Josh Goldberg, and David Kessler. (858/793-4442, www.susanstreetfineart.com)

Timmons Art Gallery

This Rancho Santa Fe space was voted Best Art Gallery by *Ranch & Coast* readers in 2006. Works from the gallery's collection of paintings, photography, and sculpture grace some of the finest homes in San Diego. Through January, check out New York cityscape oil paintings by Miro Sinovic. (858/756-8488, www.timmonsgalleries.com)

Lux Art Institute

You don't just see art at this innovative, eco-friendly Encinitas museum. You see art happen. In fact, it's not really a museum at all, but an artist-in-residence program where visitors can watch internationally

acclaimed artists do their thing. The third Wednesday of every month, the institute hosts Lux@Night, which features music, refreshments, studio tours, and the chance to interact with the talent. (760/436-6611, www.luxartinstitute.org)

Calypso Café

This laidback Leucadia eatery and bar is as beloved for its menu of seafood and vegetarian dishes as it is for its nightly lineup of live and unplugged music — everything from jazz and blues to salsa and reggae. Ike Turner, The Palladins, and Candye Cane are just a handful of the acts that have graced Calypso's stage. (760/632-8252, www.calypsocafe.net)

Red Tracton's

Racing season is over, but Red Tracton's — right across the street from the Del Mar Fairgrounds — is still as happening as ever. The steaks and lobster are a huge draw, of course, but so is the extensive wine list and the lively piano bar. Tuesdays through Saturdays, settle in for a scotch, neat, and let the piano man sing you a song already. (858/755-6600, www.redtractons.com) — AnnaMaria Stephens

