

1. House of Matching Colours

By Jenna Fuentes

With experience designing outfits for London musicians, Paris Fashion Week and other high-end clients abroad, Argentine-Brazilian, Paula Avellaneda, has come back home to launch her new, fun and 'non-fashionista' store in Buenos Aires. Paula plays with the concepts of masculinity and femininity mixed with fantasy by using minimalist, black and white transparent materials layered with fantastic, bright iridescent colored accents. Her 'edgy, yet soft' collection ranges from multi-functional sporty dresses, silver leather-frilled jackets outlined with safety pins, to sheer, sequined mermaid skirts. House of Matching Colours prides itself for its artisanal, handmade and elaborately detailed designs that cannot be categorized; it has a genre of its own.

Republica de la India 3155, y Libertador (3459 3155). Bus 10, 37, 57, 67, 102. **Open** 11am-6pm Mon-Fri; weekends by appointment only. **Credit** MC, V. **Map**G4.

2. Felix Felicis & Co.

By Jenna Fuentes

Named after Harry Potter's 'lucky potion', Felix Felicis & Co has worked some "magic" into the local coffee scene. Located on a quiet corner a couple blocks away from the buzzing Plaza Serrano, this little café serves the same quality Colombian coffee as fellow coffee connoisseur, Lattente. Highlights include an expertly-made flat white with a pistachio *fustuca* cookie or the *bronzó* brownie bite. On Saturdays, it serves home-made pastrami and vegetarian sandwiches made by local vendors. Styled with a minimalist decor of white counters, black cushion seats and a wooden bar perched up against the window, Felix Felicis offers a unique space to study, "people watch" or *merendar* with friends.

Cabrera 5002, y Serrano (4776 4414). Bus 15, 34, 55, 110, 141. **Open** 9am-8pm Mon-Sat; 10am-8pm Sun. No credit cards. **Map** G2. **Wifi**.

3. Kiboo

By Jenna Fuentes

Mysteriously hidden behind a nameless black door marked only with the illuminated logo, recently opened Kiboo has become Palermo's first and only sake bar. 'Nissei' (second generation Japanese) and Argentine owners present creative Japanese sake and Korean soju concoctions as the next underrated cocktails of choice. The tender pork ribs marinated in *Ichiban* beer, 'Ichiban' meaning the 'best' in Japanese, makes an excellent pair with the refreshing *Go* Cocktail which consists of sake, lime syrup, kiwi, sesame seeds, cucumber, and aloe vera juice. Kiboo's intimate ambience accompanied by hip, tranquil sounds from the in-house DJ makes it a highly recommended dinner date or after office spot. Sample the *Sake Ozeki* and *Jinro Gold* at the bar, dine on the floating deck surrounded by walls adorned with a vertical garden

and waterfalls, sit 'Japanese style' on the ground on the Mezzanine level or grab a drink on the rooftop terrace.

Honduras 5248, y Uriarte (081022054266). Bus 34, 39, 55, 108, 111. Open 8pm-12am Tue-Wed; 8pm-3am Thu-Sat. No credit cards. Map G2. Wifi.

4. Hops

By Jenna Fuentes

Sample some locally-made artisanal beers at Villa Crespo's one and only *cervecería del barrio*. The beer-expert, Argentine owners have carefully selected a wide variety of light to dark beers, ranging in alcohol and 'hops' content, which are brewed in-house and by other local guest breweries. Time Out highly recommends trying the IPA, *Buenos Aires Pale Ale* or the *Ortuzar*, which pairs quite nicely with the *Papas Hops* and homemade Goulash empanadas. Decorated with wooden pallet shelves, all hand-made by the owners, this lively bar gets packed on the weekends and makes a great after-office spot. Stop by and grab a pint for AR\$35 during happy hour from 6pm-9pm every day.

Castillo 422, entre Malabia y Raul Scalabrini Ortiz (www.facebook.com/hopscerveza). Bus 15, 19, 24, 55, 57. Open 6pm-1am Wed-Thu; 6pm-3am Fri-Sat. No credit cards. Map G2.

Two 90 Word Reviews:

Yauss Club

Yauss Club, located in San Telmo, serves an excellent happy hour, wide selection of organic meals, "cerveza artesanal", and an eclectic artistic space. Often greeted by the owners as if you were a "long time friend", the communal tables and complimentary cider and beer tastings create its warm atmosphere where you can easily converse with other international visitors. "Give a plant, get a pint" deal allows guests to donate any plant in exchange for a free pint of beer. Enjoy this unique and intimate artistic cafe and resto-bar.

Pacha Mama

Pacha Mama, Quechua translation for "Mother Earth", is one of the few casa culturales that is known by "word of mouth", an exclusive email list, and by those who share a similar "onda" - "bohemian, hippie, and under". There is no sign outside of the house and you have to ring the doorbell to enter. One of Pacha's interesting "quirks" is that at the end of each performance, the audience does not applaud, but instead, "snaps". Enjoy cheap food, drinks, comfortable couches, as well as theater, improv, poetry, and live music.

Article: Casa Culturales in Buenos Aires

"Casa Culturales" make up the clandestine, "underground" artistic scene that is highly unique to Buenos Aires.

There are a growing number of over 20 Casa Culturales all over the city.

Artists and musicians seem to gravitate towards these bohemian "hole in the wall" spaces. Some casa culturales are over 100 year old colonial houses with several "salons" filled with painting and modern art exhibitions, art installations, different levels, rooftop terraces, and patios.

Similar to the infamous Buenos Aires "milongas", casa culturales are open every night until 4am, serve "cheap drinks and food", and have programmed themed events every night of the week ranging from poetry, live bands, theater, films, open mic, stand up comedy to live performance art. During the day, some casa culturales often offer art, theater, music, and dance workshops, presentations, and classes. Most casa culturales have an "entrada" or cover charge ranging from 20 - 60 pesos per person which you can purchase at the door.

Where else can you enjoy the "onda hippie", feel like you're at a "friend's house party", see art exhibitions, enjoy a cheap drink or meal, watch live performances, and appreciate interesting architecture in an antique home on any day of the week?