

COP'S BOOK SAYS SEAN COMBS AND SUGE KNIGHT ORDERED TUPAC AND BIGGIE SMALLS KILLINGS

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# BEST OF L.A. 2011

I complied. It was just me, my best friend and our panties, scissor kicking and practicing dance moves we'd seen in Major Lazer and Milli Vanilli videos. We did this all night long. Nobody gave a shit—we were invisible. It was perfect. 4356 W. Sunset Blvd., Silver Lake. (323) 665-6810, akbarsilverlake.com.

—Caroline Ryder

**BEST SUPERCLUB NIGHT**

With Las Vegas putting unheard-of cash on the table for top DJs, and with increasing competition from previously “off” nights, such as Monday (Monday Social), Wednesday (Ecco Ultra Lounge) and Friday (Vanguard), it's hard for a dance music pimp. But if anything, the new dance music hysteria that brought more than 200,000 to Las Vegas Motor Speedway for Electric Daisy Carnival last summer has benefited the king of L.A. club nights, **Avaland**. The current radio invasion (David Guetta, et al.), media frenzy (*Spin* magazine's recent dance issue) and ever-larger electronic festivals (*Hard*) only seem to pique the interest of new kids who inevitably want to graduate to core acts found at Avalon Hollywood on Saturdays — Sander Kleinenberg, Sasha, Erick Morillo. While raves have become romper-room affairs for the least common denominator, Avaland is higher ed

for beat freaks, a much deeper experience that takes advantage of the best sound system in town. There's nothing more proper in L.A. dance music than feeling the bass pound your chest with 1,300 of your best friends on a Saturday night. 1735 N. Vine St., Hlywd. (323) 462-8900, avalonhollywood.com/club-nights/avaland.

—Dennis Romero

**BEST LAKERS/DODGERS SPORTS BAR**

**John O'Groats Grille & Pub's** fat menu starts with huge breakfasts for the early-morning, crazy soccer fans and expands to a vast dinner selection for Laker games. This newish establishment, in a San Fernando Valley-luxe suburban fantasy setting, includes an elegant patio in a grove of low-water trees, a well-appointed downstairs spillover room for big games or special parties, complete with a huge screen, and a darkened main-room bar with classy private-library paneling and the right beverages. Named after a tiny U.K. settlement called “Scotland's most dismal town” by one 2010 tourist guide, this is the second John O'Groats in Los Angeles; the first has operated for years in Rancho Park and was mentioned in *Esquire's* best breakfasts issue in 2009. The Encino outpost had the bloody nerve to throw its doors open in the worst months of the recession. It's been

bustling ever since. 16120 Ventura Blvd., Encino; (818) 501-2366, ogroatsrestaurant.com.

—Jill Stewart

**BEST UNDERCOVER TIKI BAR**

**Caña** doesn't sport *moai*, tapan cloth or any of the decorative signifiers that scream “tiki fetish,” but bar manager Allan Katz makes a convincing case that tiki drinks are the missing evolutionary link between America's golden cocktail era and its swinging cocktail revival. The drinks are precise, nuanced and clever, full of creative riffs on classic recipes. The sharp Tennessee Isle, a rum-based twist on the Sazerac, is made with coconut bitters and overripe mango-infused absinthe. The Misti Dawn Swizzle, a dolled-up gin swizzle, plays passion-fruit and lime juice against each other in perfect tart-sweet balance. With its cheeky drink descriptions, Caña's cocktail menu, organized by increasing potency into three sections (Daggers, Pistols and Cannons), makes for some of the city's best bar literature. At the boozy end of that menu, you'll find the Twenty-Eight Days Later. Inspired by Don the Beachcomber's original *Zombie*, it contains mescal, Tuaca and no less than three kinds of rum swimming in pineapple, pomegranate and passion-fruit juices. It's classic yet thoroughly modern and, like

the rage-filled zombies of the Danny Boyle film for which it was named, it hits hard. 714 W. Olympic Blvd., dwntwn. (213) 817-5321, canarumbar.com.

—Eline Shatkin

**BEST LUBRICATED BOCCIE**

When is the last time you got your drink on and played with someone else's balls? Unless it was last night, we highly recommend you head to the asphalt jungle, uh, Manhattan Village Mall, where you will find a little bit of Napa/Sonoma hiding along the outer circle. **Tin Roof Bistro**, a lovely restaurant and bar wedged between PCH and the aforementioned mall, offers tasty bistro food — hence the name — along with a nice selection of wines by the glass, craft beer by the pint and, of course, cocktails. But what makes TRB stand out from the half-zillion other joints in the South Bay with similar intentions is bocce. It's a sport of leisure to be played by sophisticates who can still afford leisure. Don't you want that to be how you're perceived? Of course you do. So make it a date night, lube up your date with a glass of red or a pint of Drake's 1500, and bond on the bocce court as if you were whiling away the hours in the Italian countryside. Then, when the game is on the line, knock the proverbial shit out of your date's

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