

ALL THIS JAZZ.

Fri. Sept. 1
STEVE MORETTI TRIO

Sat. Sept. 2
JOHN GILMORE

Tues. Sept. 5
RON STEEN JAZZ 7pm
STORM
"WATCH" ROCKSTAR SUPERNOVA 9pm

Thurs. Sept. 7
TOM GRANT

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Epiqueerean
BY JENNY NGUYEN

Eat, Drink and Be Fairy

Portland's no fool to queer venues, but paired with booze and good nosh? Now were talkin'. As bars and clubs vie for homo attention with weekly or monthly gatherings, it's the food and drink that put these few on the map. So here's to the gay agenda: Eat, drink and be fairy.

Acme • 1305 S.E. Eighth Ave.

Home to Wild Card, a monthly queer variety show, and Booty, the Thursdays piratefest once anchored at Porky's, Acme is finding itself swimming in queers—hungry ones, for that matter. Enter chef Jon Beeaker and friends with killer sauces and smokin' barbies. The menu draws tons of inspiration from down South with hints of Northwest flair. The cold and spicy soba salad is perfectly balanced and hearty with tofu and shiitakes. The "q" burger—not for "queer" but rather for "BBQ"—is meaty and thick, stacked with onion rings and smoked gouda. The house-smoked pulled pork is just as messy and delicious, with a sweet 'n' spicy braise and zesty slaw. Not ticklin' yer fancy? Choose from 14 "delicious extras," from oven-baked mac to kimchee, to accompany your main meal. All this plus a great beer selection and beautiful patio make Acme a hard act to follow.

Vendetta • 4306 N. Williams Ave.

Continuing the spread of NoPo fever, Vendetta has sprung up out of nowhere, practically. Once a roofing warehouse, the new neighborhood bar has already made plenty of friends. An expansive fenced outdoor seating area makes the joint super cozy. The food is good, not great, but pleasant and cheap. The pesto mac 'n' cheese is tasty, the black beans are grub, and the nachos come out heaping for a lousy \$4. Happy hour—50 cents off beers from 3 to 6 p.m.—has the place reeling come dinnertime. This summer Vendetta drew big crowds when it played host to the monthly gay mixer Salon Q. With only three beers on tap, Vendetta has few weaknesses, but its full bar, shuffleboard and warm, welcoming attitude have won me over.

Bettie Ford Lounge • 1135 S.W. Washington St.

Everyone can agree on one thing: BF is Portland's ultra-sleek, hipster-hugging, faux pas-turned-übercool success story. The tongue-in-cheek name says it all. With the unique hospital-cum-L.A. feel, Bettie Ford is a hard pill to swallow. Gauze-like drapes separate gorgeous low-lit dining areas from the multilevel lounge. Delicious drinks like "Sponge Bath" and cocktails mixing Jager and Pedialyte are sure signs that the makers of East and Tube fear not when it comes to pushing the boundaries of PDX clubgoers. Until recently the lounge played host to Homo Therapy, a weekly queer extravaganza for all those brave souls straying from Stark Street. The happy hour menu is hard to beat, with burgers, garlic parmesan fries and veggie stir-fry for less than \$5. Go for the tacky names, fashionistas, happy hour chow and bragging rights. 10

JENNY NGUYEN would love to hear from her readers.
Write to epiqueerean@comcast.net.

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