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**Epiqueerean**  
BY JENNY NGUYEN

**Lounge Therapy**

**B**ipolar weather got you feeling moody? Why not escape the fluctuating forecast and hide indoors at some of the new local lounges? These three watering holes will have you seeing tropical blue skies, smooth open waters or the sheer pleasure of Victory.

**Thatch • 2733 N.E. Broadway**

**WARNING:** If you have any allergies to dead grass, stay far, far away. On par with The Alibi's extraordinary island flair, Thatch has a beautifully rendered drink list as well as great blowfish lanterns. Quite the opposite from other hula holes, it actually puts care and fine liquors into good use with perfect renditions of the Mai Tai, Shanghai Slinger and Blue Hawaiian. Belly up to the sunken bar and make friends with Zorn, whose original potions grace the bevie bill. (The Pink Martini is a must-drink.) The food is not noteworthy but rather helpful in buffering the beatdown you'll receive from the deceptively strong and colorful concoctions. The menu consists mostly of *pupus*, or appetizers, eaten with the fingers. The Crab Rangoon and barbecue pork are quite tasty, but stick to the real coconut shells and paper umbrellas to get yer Pacific kicks.

**Maiden in the Mist • 639 S.E. Morrison St.**

All aboard the newest seafaring lounge! Scantly decorated in the day, the place transforms into a beautifully decadent booze-swillin' hull at night. Anchor in on Gypsy Thursdays and you'll be treated to palm readings and fortunetelling. If you find yerself shipwrecked in the area, Maiden is open seven days a week till at least 1 a.m. With a special event happening most nights, you'll wanna spend yer precious booty here. The menu has something to fit all tastes and a lot of it. The Rueben sandwich comes chock full of thinly sliced pastrami, the hummus plate is quite girthy, and the Maiden's chicken sandwich is enough to feed two mateys. With a grip of grub to feed a band o' pirates, who'd wanna walk the plank?

**Victory Wine Bar • 3652 S.E. Division St.**

A terrific addition to the Clinton/Division expanse, Victory is a warmly decorated lounge with a sort of modern-Old America feel. The handwritten menu board features artisan cheeses and local wines, and the concise cocktail menu boasts some offbeat potables like agave syrup and extra-spicy ginger ale. But where wine lovers will swoon is at the diversity of small, local wineries featured here and the exceptional food with which to pair it. Although the charcuterie, cheeses and pickled fish and veggies are ideal for appetizing, the creamy spaetzle with apple butter and the perfectly braised short ribs with dried cherries truly make Victory a champ. Sure, you can complain 'bout the buck-fiddy side of bread, but with all the carbs you'll be drinking, why? **10**

JENNY NGUYEN wishes to quote English author Samuel Johnson: "He who does not mind his belly will hardly mind anything else." Mind yer belly by writing her at [epiqueerean@comcast.net](mailto:epiqueerean@comcast.net).

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