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10 Spots to Eat, Drink, and Play During Pride Weekend

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The A-List of where to see and be seen in San Diego during the LGBT Pride Festival

BY AARON HEIER



On July 16 and 17, hundreds of thousands of revelers from all over the world will fill the streets of Hillcrest and Balboa Park for the 37th Annual [San Diego Pride](#). While the weekend festival itself is hosting some big name acts like **Salt 'n Peppa**, **Margaret Cho** and **Frenchie Davis**, area bars, restaurants and nightclubs are bracing for the throngs of locals and tourists who will be celebrating and spending their oh-so-coveted disposable pink dollars. In honor of San Diego Pride, here's the A-List of places and spaces – both in and out of the gayborhood – primed to fill your weekend with fun, food, flair...and maybe a little fling if you're lucky!

EAT

R Gang Eatery – Out and proud local celeb-chef **Rich Sweeney** (**Top Chef** season 5) serves up Food & Fun Refueled for dinner, drinks and San Diego's Best Brunch at his award-winning Hillcrest hot spot, including a special **Pride Hangover Brunch** (did someone say bottomless mimosas?) on Sunday, July 17 from 9 a.m to 4 p.m. followed by Sunday Supper. Don't forget to try the famous tater tots, they're definitely a must-eat. *3683 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest (619) 677-2845*

The Range Kitchen & Cocktails – Opening its doors just in time for Pride weekend, this new gourmet gastro joint occupies a prime space smack in the center of Hillcrest, finally dressing up one long-time eyesore of a storefront. The Range's owners are promising cage free, grass fed & sustainable American fare paired with craft beers & local wines at reasonable prices. *1263 University Ave., Hillcrest (619) 269-1222*

Baja Betty's – The go-to spot for burritos, fajitas, margaritas and pink flamingos, Betty's is a staple Pride Weekend drink & dine destination for everyone. Uber-friendly staffers serve a party-down crowd some mean Mexi-Cali cuisine and one Kick Ass Margarita, literally. Saturday, Betty's patio is *the* place to watch the parade, opening at 9 a.m. for a \$9.95 all-you-can eat Mexican buffet and \$3 mimosas, sangrias & bloody marys 'til 2 p.m. followed by dinner service through late night. *1421 University Ave., Hillcrest (619) 269-8510*

DRINK

Martinis Above Fourth – The gayborhood's renowned second floor supper club delivers some world-class top shelf cocktails and, hands down, the city's best signature martinis. This sultry little libation haven perched above Fourth Avenue just North of University is the ideal sit back, chill and sip spot for unwinding with friends after a long day of hoofing it through the 'hood. *3940 Fourth Ave., Hillcrest (619) 400-4500*

Babycakes – Coffee, cupcakes or cocktails, Babycakes will have all the gorgeous ladies and gents indulging in some seriously decadent eats and drinks all weekend with no cover, no lines and guest DJs spinning tunes on their covered street-side patio. A special Pride Sunday Church features \$3 cocktails, beer & wine along with Double Bubble: BOGO champagne or mimosas. *3766 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest (619) 296-4173*

Pecs – Rated one of the **Top Gay Bars** in the U.S. by **LOGO**, San Diego's most comfy neighborhood hangout, Pecs, always offers stiff drinks, music, pool, darts and hordes of manly men clamoring for real estate on the patio or around the best digital jukebox in the city. *2046 University Ave., Hillcrest (619) 296-0889*

PLAY

[High Tea at The Ivy Rooftop \(Andaz Hotel\)](#) – You won't find outdoor fun this delicious anywhere else in San Diego when the man candy from **The Royalty Group** and **Bill Bouvier** take over the [Ivy Rooftop](#) at the **Andaz San Diego Hotel** for **High Tea**, the sauciest pool party during Pride weekend. Now in its 3rd year, this sell-out event is the place to be and be seen, with top DJs from both coasts spinning for all the sexy sun seekers noon to 8 p.m. [Tickets](#) are \$30 in advance, \$40 at the door. *600 F Street, Gaslamp*

[Fur Ball at Numbers](#) – Two of the gayborhood's most popular monthly club nights, [Bear Night](#) & [L.L. Bear](#), are teaming for one manly hairfest of epic proportions – **Fur Ball**. Taking over [Numbers](#) nightclub Saturday night, the joint event offers the furry, furless & those who love both two separate dance areas, Miller, Coors, Svedka & Seagrams drink specials, a huge outdoor patio lounge and discounted access to the afterhours party at **Rich's**. Grrrr! [Tickets](#) are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. *3811 Park Blvd., Hillcrest*

[Urban Mo's Bar & Grill](#) – If you want to know where the locals party (almost any night of the week,) then here's where you need to be. The pretty much official 'hub' of San Diego's LGBT nightlife scene, **Urban Mo's** is really the only place where every letter of the proverbial label (LGBTQQIAAS, etc.) drinks, dines and dances seven days a week. Always fun, always a crowd and recently reno'd for more seamless traffic flow, Mo's will be popping the entire weekend. Just don't be surprised if there's a wait to get in...it'll be worth it. *308 University Ave., Hillcrest (619) 491-0400*

[Eden](#) – Hillcrest's newest nightspot is bringing in some big guns for a [Wicked Sexy Fun Pride](#) weekend. Three days of non-stop drink and dance action starts Friday with **Wicked Pop** featuring DJ Drew G, continues Saturday with **Sexy Sounds** courtesy of international DJ sensation **Samantha Ronson** and finishes with **Sunday Funday Brunch in Oz** and entertainment by Frankie M. Eden is offering two (2) Pride Weekend Wristband Packages, **Emerald** for \$60 and **Ruby** for \$100 for those who want no cover, no wait in line & a little VIP treatment. *1202 University Ave., Hillcrest (619) 269-3336*