

# RIVERA

SAN DIEGO | MODERN LUXURY™

## S.D. AFTER DARK

**THE NIGHTLIFE ISSUE**

NIGHT STALKING WITH THE PROS

EXCLUSIVE! LOUNGE WIZARD  
RANDE GERBER

THE NEW PICK-UP ARTISTS

S.D. BANDS AMP IT UP!



**+PLUS**

FASHION GETS TOUGH!

FOODIE THRILLS  
IN BANKERS HILL

NORTH COUNTY'S  
ROCK ROYALTY

AND ALL THE BEST PARTIES!



OCTOBER 2007 \$5.95

# FÊTE FETISH!





## TWO OF CLUBS: BELLS & WHISTLES

Design firm Bells and Whistles has become synonymous with S.D.'s hottest spots, and if their buzzing phones are any indication, Jason St. John and Barbara Rourke are the go-to designers. Lately, they have been basking in the majesty of the new bar and restaurant Starlite, with its steel chandelier and pod-like wooden entranceway. With each project, the couple manages to pull off retro-chic done right. They create spots where good-looking people want to congregate (the Starlite bar crowd: smashing), whether it's Influx, their first little coffee house, or the nightclub Aubergine, with its sleek granite bar, bronze mirrors and white Hollywood Regency booths. Next up: two wine bars and a possible '40s-themed restaurant in (say what?!) National City. Just another day in the life.



## MAKE A CONNECTION

BELLS MAY HAVE DESIGNED THE INTERIOR OF NORTH PARK'S DISCONNECTED SALON (3830 30TH ST., 619.298.3830), BUT THE FLOATING HAIR DRYERS AND RED BAR SERVING UP BROWN-BAGGED PABST AREN'T THE ONLY THINGS PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT. THEIR ART PARTIES ARE STANDING-ROOM-ONLY EVENTS WITH BIG NAME MUSICIANS LIKE ROCCO DELUCA SERENADING THE NOT-SO-ART SAVVY. JUST BE SURE TO GET ON THE LIST. THEY ADDED SECURITY.



## THE BELLS' DO THE MARGARITA RIGHT!

It's not about the design at Live Wire (2103 El Cajon Blvd., North Park, 619.291.7450) but the stiffest drinks south of La Jolla, according to the Bells. Their favorite example: the killer Margarita, sans the fancy-pants glass and garnish. Consider it the Dirty Harry of drinks: not so easy on the eyes, but packing major heat.

## A LA MODUS

The kick-it interior of Modus (2202 4th Ave., Bankers Hill, 619.236.8516) is where Rourke orders the Dirty Girl Martini from bar babe Ariana (named one of the top ten bartenders in the U.S. by *playboy.com*). Paging Hef!



## LIKE A RECORD, BABY!

When the Bells want to shake it, they opt for the Beauty Bar dance floor where they're more than likely moving to Feel the Noise, the DJ/promoter collective of Gabe Vega and Saul Q. These local boys are booked nightly, spinning an addictive blend of dance and rock from S.D. to S.F. The Bells put it simply, "They are the real deal and going places fast."

## STARCHITECTURE

The receptions at the R3 Gallery (2421 India St., Little Italy) always draw a chic crowd, but it's the design element of the building that's the real work of art. "Ame [Parsley] and Lloyd [Russell] have been responsible for creating an architectural renaissance in our little city," says St. John. But don't take their word for it. Just ask the American Institute of Architects, who awarded Russell the Young Architect of the Year award for his "handmade modernism." Judging by the turnout of last opening, it was quite clear: the hipsters come out for art—or in the name of it.