

Wine Bars & Cocktail Pours in the Desert

By Rick Riozza

<http://www.examiner.com/review/wine-bar-cocktail-pours-the-desert>

Examiner.com says:

Palm Springs Wine Bars

Rating:



Okay—I don't know whether it's been more beer, wine, or cocktails that have seen the likes of sexy smiles, but the valley's been on point keeping hydrated as the cool crowd and refreshing libations of all sorts endure the full day sun and sustain the sultry nights.

Apart from all of the big festivals and concerts, a fun, active and busy season continues in our valley's venues. Check out the scene! Wine

enthusiasts and foodies well have their sights and radar on these hot spots & watering haunts.



V Palm Springs is the area's newest boutique hotel & resort. Right next to Mr. Lyons Restaurant at the Palm Canyon Curve, it owns that classic mid-century modern Palm Springs architecture design along with a Desert Glam ambiance.

I bring up the "V" first because I wish to alert you readers that I didn't see a drop of wine at the modish and lively Elixir Pool Bar & Grill happy-hour "opening" party. But no one cared, for we were all taking in the Polynesian vibe where tasty, inventive, and colorful cocktails were matching the Pan-Asian-Fusion fare. And both the beverages and dishes were simply blowing us away!

How happy can we be when hearing from Greg Grossman, Food & Beverage Manager, that the "V" was welcoming "everyone from the local community ... we're looking for our venue to become a fabric of the local Palm Springs culinary landscape ... we're looking forward to several launch events to invite the community to experience our food and beverage and we hope they fall in love with us."

Now just because we weren't quaffing vino that one evening, rest assured there will be a fine and varied selection of thirst quenching bubbly and refreshing whites available at the large and relaxed poolside. That's right! Bring your swimsuits—how fun is that!

Actually—"V"'s lovely General Manager, Marie-Hélène, suggested that the spacious patio & pool setting would be a great place to meet up with you CV Weekly readers, indeed all wine enthusiasts, to sip, chat and take a dip! Wow! That'll work in the heat. If you readers like this idea—email me! See you at the "V"!

V Hotel Palm Springs/Elixir Pool Bar & Grill, 333 E. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, 760-327-1211, www.vpalmsprings.com

Another hip Palm Springs hotel & resort haunt is the famed and international Ace Hotel & Swim Club. I recently popped in to the Pop-up Food & Wine event that the hotel intermittently features. So many of these types of Pop-up events going on, it behooves you to check out their website: acehotel.com/calendar/palmsprings.

The Pop-up food portion of the evening featured Madcapra—call it a modern, all-things-vegetable falafel shop, straight from the trendy food court in the Los Angeles' Grand Central Market. It's the first Los Angeles restaurant from Brooklyn chefs Sara Kramer and Sarah Hymanson, nominees for the 2016 James Beard "Rising Star of the Year" award.

Matching the veggie "Madcapra" style falafel fritters that were wrapped in grilled flatbread and garnished with fresh herbs, pickled condiments, and delicious strained yogurt sauce, were a wonderful array of boutique California wines.

Those in-the-know finally experienced locally the wines they've only heard of, such as, Scar of the Sea Pet Nat Chardonnay in Santa Maria, Broc Valdiguie in Solano County, Hobo Wines in Sonoma County and Oeno Wines in Russian River.

For you guys & gals who haven't been lately, check out The Amigo Room's new season's lunch & dinner menu along with a new selection of fresh juice cocktails made with the latest atomic-infused spirits. Imaginative les alcool range from the sweet & lovely to the hot & spicy. Cheers!

ACE Hotel 701 E. Palm Canyon Dr / Palm Springs, CA 92264 760.325.9900

My darling Clementine's Rosé Soirée Wines. Lucky seven was the number of French Provencal Rosés we tasted and enjoyed recently at Clementine's Gourmet Marketplace & Café in Palm Desert. The shop and dining room frolicked French during the pouring as we perhaps played characters in Picasso's pink period over the tastiest and driest Rosé's in town.

The epicure owners, Christophe and Jennifer Douheret, always stage the most delightful wine tastings here at their charming marketplace/deli-style eatery. At this occasion, we vino lovers were treated to the likes of Chateau D'Esclans Whispering Angel—everyone in town desires that one, n'est-ce pas? And the bubbly Le Grand Courtage Sparkling Rosé Brut that drinks like a Grand Champagne House rosé at one-fifth the price.

Again, please go on line to see all of what the deli, restaurant, and shop have to offer:www.clementineshop.com. By the way, during the holiday season, I get so much shopping done in the quickest amount of time. It's the best place for that last minute shopping for your wine/foodie friends. CLEMENTINE'S CAFE 72990 El Paseo #3, Palm Desert, CA 92260

Finally, I'd like to bring attention to one of the latest beer & wine bars in town: Dead or Alive located at 150 E Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92264 (385) 645-3323 Hours: 5PM–2AM

I met owner Christine Soto recently at the ZIN Bistro Walla Walla wine dinner. Christine in fact “does” the wine, as her partner Anthony Cioffi, a designer and son of architect James Cioffi, “does” the carefully curated craft beer. The bar seats just 21 inside, with more patio seating on the way. I hear there’s a beautiful orb setting inside the bar.

I also hear the place is right next to the El Mirasol on East Palm Canyon. I just got the invite; so let’s see who gets there first—you or me!
Cheers!

Rick Riozza wittily titles himself the "somm-about-town" in the desert publication CV Weekly's wine and food column: the Vino Voice, where his beat is to eat, drink, and cover the environs of Palm Springs. A freelance writer and contributor to Tasting Panel Magazine and a previous wine reviewer for palmspringslife.com, he is also the Brand Ambassador for the historic Galleano Winery. Rick continues to entertain and conduct locally at wine tastings, food & wine events, restaurant venues, and fun wine seminars. You can reach him at winespectrum@aol.com.