



# LIQUID GOLD

WE PUT IN THE HARD YARDS AND PUB CRAWLED AROUND THE HIPPEST HOODS OF JOZI TO FIND THE BEST BARS EGOLI HAS TO OFFER. THESE WERE OUR WINNERS

MART-MARIE DU TOIT

## 1 BLANK BAR

The only constant at Blank Bar is change. Every month Blank Bar changes into a new space with a different theme and vibe. The blank canvas that is Blank Bar allows the owners to showcase different brands and experiences – because change is fun! So don't be surprised if the outdoor gin bar you recently visited transforms into a rum

and cigar lounge within days – all with the help of local vendors and street artists. The mixologists at Blank Bar are generous in divulging tips and tricks for patrons to recreate the experience at home – try to attend one of their Mixology-Made-Easy workshops. **31, 4th Avenue, Cnr 4th Avenue and 12th Street, Parkhurst / 010 900 3845 / info@blankbar.co.za**

**Rest your head**  
**Little Forest Guest House** is within walking distance of Parkhurst's trendy 4th Avenue, but it feels like a secluded island. Guests can choose between self-catering or bed-and-breakfast options with a room to suit every taste and budget. **41, 5th Street, Parkhurst / 084 503 8979 / littleforestguesthouse.co.za**

## 2 HELL'S KITCHEN

If you're in the mood for boozy late-night dinners, Melville is the place to be, and with more than 25 whiskies on the menu at Hell's Kitchen, you're bound to find the one that pairs well with the saloon-style food you crave.

Hell's Kitchen is a modern mayhem bar with old-school-cool decor that is reminiscent of a 1920s speakeasy. Here, you'll listen to epic music such as the likes of Nirvana, Nina Simone and rock stars you've never heard of, but wish you knew about sooner.

The menu is mixed up frequently by the two up-and-coming chefs, but try the Phatboy pork belly, which pairs well with any of the smooth whiskies on offer.

**Shop 4, 7th Street, Melville / 079 980 9591 / info@hellskitchen.co.za**

**Rest your head**

**Situated on the highest point in Melville, the breathtaking views will stay with you long after you leave the elegant rooms of Pablo House. 3, 4th Avenue, Melville / 066 215 0993 / pablohouse.co.za**



## 3 ARTIVIST

Come for the drinks, stay for the arty vibe and sweet tunes.

Launched in 2018 by DJs Kenzhero and Bradley Williams, the Artivist masterfully curates food, drinks and art in a modern minimalist setting. Locals enjoy sipping on the coffee and tonic cocktail which combines craft cold-brew coffee, elderflower tonic and Bombay Sapphire gin, while sitting by the windows overlooking the buzz of Reserve Street. The menu features interesting Afro-nomadic cuisine – try the pulled

skop served with sous vide beetroot and *dombolo* – you'll be hard pressed to find a sheep's head done this well anywhere else.

**7 Reserve Street, Braamfontein / 011 339 1647 / bookings@artivist.co.za**

**Rest your head**

**For a bed in the Braam, you simply have to go with the iconic Bannister Hotel. It's located perfectly for exploring Braamfontein and surrounds, and with a perfect price tag to match.**

**9 De Beer Street, Braamfontein / 011 403 6888 / bannisterhotel.co.za**





## 4 RADIUM BEERHALL

The Radium Beerhall, said to be the oldest surviving bar and grill in Joburg, was opened as the Radium Tearoom by the Khalil family in 1929. It doubled as a shebeen, selling liquor to black customers who were barred from drinking ‘white man’s booze’. It was renamed the Radium Beerhall after a wine and malt licence was acquired after 13 years of doing business. Listen to live jazz while looking at the walls covered in memorabilia of pre-war soccer teams, photos of the jazz musicians that have performed there, and vintage posters and press clippings that record the Radium’s storied history.

**282 Louis Botha Avenue, Orange Grove / 011 728 3866 / manny@theradium.co.za**

### Rest your head

The beach-themed bar makes guests at **11 The Avenue** feel like they’ve teleported to somewhere in the Caribbean. The perfect place to relax after a night of history and drinks.

**11 The Avenue, Orchards / sa-venues.com**

## 5 CHAF-POZI

Chaf-Pozi means ‘our secret place’, but if you are a local it means a big night out with friends in their beer garden. Nestled at the foot of the iconic and colourful Orlando Towers in Soweto, it has fast become a favourite hangout for curious tourists and shisa nyama lovers alike. Chaf-Pozi is a no-nonsense, no-holds-barred watering hole where you can down a beer or sip a Johnny Blue on the rocks while watching live sport, or the bungee jumping excitement right above your head! This is the real Jozi – braaied meat, pumping music and loud crowds. What’s not to love?

**Corner Kingsley Sithole and Nicholas Streets, Orlando, Soweto – Access via Chris Hani street / 081 797 5756**

### Rest your head

**Soweto’s first four-star boutique hotel promises a lot, and delivers more than you expect. You get a good dose of history, culture and hospitality in Kliptown’s **Soweto Hotel**.**

**Corner Union Avenue and Main Road, at Walter Sisulu Square of Dedication, Kliptown, Soweto / 011 527 7300**



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