

HAPPY HOURS

CHRISTCHURCH

—There's an abundance of enticing cocktail bars, beer gardens and social clubs where you can treat yourself to a drink (or two) in New Zealand's Garden City—



RED LIGHT DISTRICT

> BOO RADLEY'S.

A favourite with locals, this award-winning bar is famed for having the largest bourbon collection in New Zealand so it's no surprise that bourbon-based cocktails are their specialty. This relaxed space with comfy wall booths has great food and even better live music so you're in for a good time any night of the week – and every hour is happy hour as there is always a good deal on. Arrive after 10pm and try any of the 250-odd whiskeys, over 40 craft beers and eight tap beers. Boo's is open seven days from 4pm to 3am but Wednesday's open mic nights are infamous.

booradleys.co.nz

> THE ASTRO LOUNGE.

Located opposite Christchurch Arts Centre, this *Star Wars*-themed beer garden is popular for its fun loving, child- and pet-friendly atmosphere. With live music on most nights, the quirky bar serves more than 20 craft beers, two tap beers and a selection of burgers, snacks and platters such as the Constellation Platter of "Yoda cold cuts" and "Vulcan pickles". Cocktail lovers shouldn't miss the Passionfruit Mojito. Find low-priced drinks Thursday to Saturday from 4pm onwards and Sunday from 12pm.

cooknwithgas.co.nz/the-astro-lounge

THE ASTRO LOUNGE



> THE POPLAR SOCIAL CLUB.

Award-winning bartender Charles Gillet draws in crowds with his cheeky banter at this sophisticated cocktail lounge, located at the crossroads of the four avenues that form the city centre. With six craft beers on tap as well as 24 cocktails, it's easy to sit back and enjoy the relaxed ambience and tunes over pre-dinner drinks. The social club is open Wednesday to Sunday from 5pm until late with occasional deals like \$10 cocktails. thepoplarsocialclub.co.nz

> RED LIGHT DISTRICT.

If damn tasty cocktails are your thing, don't miss the hidden Victoria Street entrance to Red Light District – you're looking for Charlie Winston's of Chelsea Drycleaners in the laneway. This place has a mysterious vibe that will make you feel like you're in a spy film. Low, red lighting and down-tempo hip hop set the mood and the enthusiastic staff take a unique approach to creating cocktails in all shapes and sizes. If you try just one, make it the 36th Chamber – a refreshing blend of dry gins, pomegranate, herbal liquor and citrus. Bar snacks are also available and drinks are flowing from 5pm until late from Tuesday to Thursday and from 4pm, Friday and Saturday. Ask a bartender for "the menu behind the menu behind the bar behind the dry cleaners" menu to unlock special drinks and discounts.

redlightdistrict.nz

SOCIAL WINE BAR



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This is a classy after-work hotspot in the CBD with a marble-top bar that James Bond would approve of. Try the Passion Mojito or one of five tap beers, including the popular Cassels and Sons Milk Stout. Hungry? Don't miss their legendary cheese platter. "The Social Hour", when you can sip on \$12 cocktails, runs Sunday to Thursday 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

christchurch.crowneplaza.com

FAT EDDIE'S



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Located on the terrace, above sister bar Kong on the Avon River, this jazz mecca is one of the grand masters of bars in Christchurch. With live music every night, the balcony and dancefloor provide a mellow environment for traditional jazz, blues and soul while still catering for late-night crowds with big party-style bands until the wee hours. There are cocktails, six tap beers and a huge wine list on offer. They always have deals (think \$15 cocktails), which you can find on social media and are open daily from 2pm until late.

fatteddiesbar.co.nz

THE INSTITUTION



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Tucked away behind the historic Isaac Theatre Royal is the monochrome entrance to this boutique bar. The Institution has five rotating taps with Kiwi and international beers but if you can't decide, just order the tasting tray. There are blackboard tables you can get creative on or just perch at the upstairs window and soak up the views. With deals like \$10 craft beers and cocktails changing daily, it's open from 4pm Tuesday to Friday and 2pm on weekends.

theinstitution.co.nz

> RETROPOLITAN SOCIAL CLUB.

Step back in time to the 1970s and sun yourself in the garden bar (under a retractable roof), relax on the mezzanine or dine at the restaurant of this versatile venue. Located three kilometres south-west of the city centre, it's decorated with over 800 items of 70s-themed décor – complete with paisley carpet – offering a museum-like feast for the eyes. You'll find the quintessential dish of the decade here: fondue mains and desserts. But this is also home to the city's best reuben sandwich. If you're feeling energetic, there's a seven-metre shuffle board to compete on. Happy hour is 4-6pm on Wednesdays with \$12 cocktails and 25 per cent off house wines, tap beers and ciders.

fb.me/RetropolitanSocialClub