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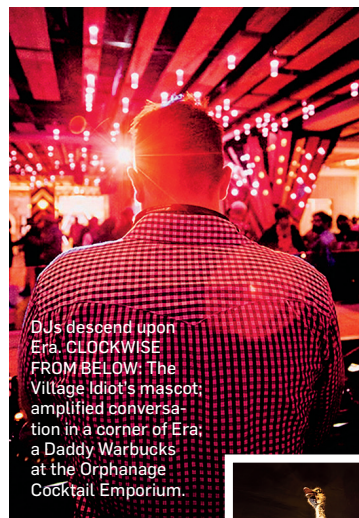


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**DOWNTOWN
CAPE TOWN IS
LOOSENING
ITS TIE**

For years, much of Cape Town's Central Business District was fairly quiet after business hours—but no longer. Along Bree and Loop Streets, these clubs keep the CBD humming well past sunset. BY SARAH KHAN



DJs descend upon Era. **CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW:** The Village Idiot's mascot; amplified conversation in a corner of Era; a Daddy Warbucks at the Orphanage Cocktail Emporium.



8 Village Idiot
Lines running along Loop Street have been a common sight ever since the Village Idiot opened in May. If you make it inside, join locals swaying to live music on the balcony and by the pool table, or making the acquaintance of the Village Idiot himself: Oskar, the stuffed ostrich presiding over the bar. thevillageidiot.co.za.

with sumptuous velvet furniture and kinky Pop art murals that draw a sophisticated after-work crowd. tjingtjing.co.za.

5 House of Machines
Part café, part motorcycle shop, part men's-wear emporium, the dark space becomes a live-music venue after dark, showcasing popular local acts in a bar packed with revelers. thehouseofmachines.com.

6 Coco/GoldBar
One of Cape Town's most vaunted clubs, Coco added another spot next door with the August opening of VIP-heavy GoldBar. Expect to rub elbows with South African luminaries while grooving to a rotating roster of global DJs. cococpt.co.za.

7 Era
The futuristic design here sets the stage for one of the best electronica scenes in South Africa. Spend the night dancing to international DJs in a techno temple with walls and ceilings of flashing LED lights. eracapetown.com.

If you're in town: First Thursdays is one of the city's biggest monthly events, when the CBD transforms into a festive block party, with galleries and boutiques keeping their doors open late. first-thursdays.co.za.



choose among more than 150 gin offerings, sourced from places ranging from the American South to South Africa. facebook.com/mothersruincpt.

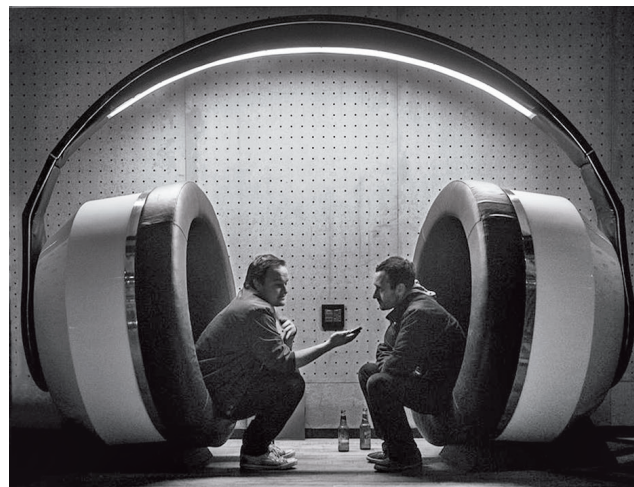
4 Tjing Tjing/Torii
In June, popular scarlet-toned rooftop bar Tjing Tjing introduced Torii, its blue-hued sister lounge downstairs,

Bree Street opened in late June. Come early to the intimate bar on Taco Tuesdays for some of the best Mexican dishes in Cape Town—paired with Don Julio tequila. facebook.com/door221.

3 Mother's Ruin Gin Bar
Connoisseurs looking for something new can strike up a conversation with the knowledgeable bartenders. They'll help you

1 Orphanage Cocktail Emporium
Vintage glam is what's on tap at this Victorianaesque, speakeasy-style bar: a chandelier strung with old keys, oil lamps, and waistcoated barmen theatrically presenting retro cocktails, like the rum-based Daddy Warbucks. theorphanage.co.za.

2 Door 221
The newest kid on the lively 200 block of



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: IAN SKENE; MELISSA DELPORT/IMAGEBRIEF.COM; JONX PILLEMER; COURTESY OF THE ORPHANAGE COCKTAIL EMPORIUM; ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID SPARSHOT