



Excerpted Reviews from *AtNight Boston*

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By Craig McGuire

Atlas

3 Lansdowne Street

617.437.0300

Type: Bar/Restaurant

Hours: 11am-2am Daily

Drinks: \$20 and under

Food: American Cuisine

Cover: \$7 on weekends

T: Green line to Kenmore Sq.

Credit: MC, V, Diners Club, AmEx

Located on the first floor of the Jillian's 70,000-square-foot entertainment complex, Atlas is ideal for the clubland cross-trainer boasting enough diversions for those A.D.D. nightcrawlers that just can't seem to sit still. Prepare for an evening of dining, dancing and gaming at this spot complete with several floors of pool tables, darts boards, a video arcade, skee ball, pinball, air hockey, virtual reality and simulation games, a modern bar and grill, and, of course, a dance floor. If you're not feeling competitive, there's always the old reliable nightlife combo of dinner and dancing available Thursday through Saturday. With so much going on here, is it any wonder this spot attracts such a young energetic crowd? Yet don't feel inhibited, go at your own pace. Warning: If all else fails, retreat to the bar. There's one on every floor. And, just in case you run out of clever things to tell her, whip out that trusty roll of quarters. The DJs spin mainly Top 40s dance hits from the 80s and 90s and the cover varies. Casual attire, as in not sloppy, is expected.

Axis

13 Lansdowne Street

617.262.2424

Type: Club

Hours: Th-Sa 10pm-2am

Drinks: \$25 and under

Food: N/A

Cover: \$15 Sa; Sun \$10

T: Kenmore Square

Credit: All Major

Other: Friday Night one of the biggest nights called "Avaland" they have international guest DJ's.

Sunday night big gay night

Have we found a place to knock you right on your Axis. At this popular Lansdowne club, the reincarnation of punk venue Spit, emphasis here is on the crowd. Make the scene with creative attire while preps, suits and thugs are banished to the curb. Believe us, you literally can't go too far here to make an impression. From tacky to trendy, personal fashion sense and sensibility detonates throughout Axis, all for your amusement. Heads up: Every once and a while a celebrity or two will slink in to scope out the high-octane scene. Considering the alternative scheduling of Sunday Gay night, Monday Drag night and Saturday X night, Axis draws a surprisingly mixed crowd. How progressive Boston--We're impressed. The music varies from floor to floor here. There's a strong local college representation, especially Fridays, which offers techno downstairs and 80s tunes upstairs. Sunday night, though, is a huge draw as Axis co-sponsors the largest Gay party in Boston with next-door neighbor Avalon, offering combined admission to both clubs.



Avalon

15 Lansdowne Street

617.262.2424

Type: Club

Hours: Th-Sa 10pm-2am,

Drinks: \$25 and under

Food: N/A

Cover: \$15 Th, F; \$10 Sa and possibly Su

T: Kenmore Sq.

Credit: All Major

In Arthurian legend, Avalon was the island paradise in the western seas to which King Arthur went at his death. While not nearly as epic, but close to it, this popular nightclub is the jewel in the crown of the bustling Lansdowne scene. This space underwent a successful makeover not too long ago, which, among other things, included a much needed, though mind-numbing sound system. The sound quality and spacious dance floor certainly come in handy as this spot often doubles as a live concert venue—hosting big name draws from Bob Dylan to The Crystal Method. The bars that rim the dance floor offer prime people-watching posts making this a great spot for the passive nightcrawler—that is if she can deal with the crowds. Thursday is International night. Fridays, nationally known DJs have been known to spin the 'Avaland' party. Saturdays boasts progressive house stylings. And if that's not enough, on Sunday Avalon is transformed into the largest Gay party in the city, co-sponsored with neighbor Axis, offering combined admission to both clubs.

Aria

246 Tremont Street

617.338.7080

Type: Club/Lounge

Hours: Th-Sun 11pm-2am

Drinks: \$25 and over

Food: N/A

Cover: \$10

T: Green Line to Boylston stop, two blocks down

Credit: MC, V, AmEx

Other: Beautiful women that work there...

Irish pubs and colonial charm can only get you so far. That's why every town needs a few healthy pretentious nightspots—and no one does it better in the Boston area than Aria. From the bouncers to the barmen, not to mention most of the clientele, everyone here oozes attitude, whether they've got "IT" or not. The deep-red lounge décor lends a decadent vibe, amplified even further once you step onto the endlessly pulsating, and deafening, techno dance floor. The beautiful deep-pocketed people that frequent Aria are the main draw here, with a noticeable Euro (more panache than trash) element. The place packs up, so if you're late, expect to wait, and definitely dress to impress. As expected, bring a little more cash than the usual night out.

The Big Easy Bar

Boylston Place

617.351.7000

Type: Club

Hours: Th, Fri, Sat 9pm-2am

Drinks: \$20 and under

Food: N/A

Cover: \$5-7



*T: Boylston on Green Line
Credit: AmEx, MC, V*

While it may not be the French Quarter during Mardi Gras, The Big Easy is as close to Bourbon Street as you'll get this far north. And what would a New Orleans-styled live music venue be without, well, live music? It may not regularly attract the caliber of performers you'd expect in the real "Big Easy," but it really doesn't matter. The live bands and DJs they offer hold their own with this high-energy crowd. There's ample room for people watching if you can snare a booth, or better yet, snatch a perch on the wrap-around balcony that overlooks the dance floor. Tuesday's International-themed Zanizbar party—resurrecting the club's former moniker—is a local fan favorite. Nod your head to some impressive local talent spinning on the one and twos, or plunge ahead onto the dance floor.

Black Rose

160 State Street

617.742.2286

Type: Bar

Hours: M-Su 11:30pm-2am

Drinks: \$20 under

Food: American Bar and Grill

Cover: \$5 F- Sa

T: Governor Center

Credit: All major

In a city noted for its tradition, the Black Rose is an authentic Irish pub of the first order—or as close as you'll get outside the emerald isle. For those whose ambitions extend no further than true appreciation for that expertly poured pint of stout, there are no better pourers in all of Boston. But, if it's a search for a slice of Boston's rich Irish scene, this two-storied establishment is where you should start. Nestled along the perimeter of Faneuil Hall, every element of the architecture and décor drips with Celtic pride. The Black Rose offers your standard pub fare, which is better than most. But you came here for the scene. As it should, the live traditional and contemporary Celtic performers that can be seen nightly accentuate the deep warm ambiance.

Bull & Finch Pub-a.k.a "Cheers"

84 Beacon Street

617.227.9605

Type: Bar/Restaurant

Hours: M-Su Gift shop 10am-11pm, Pub 11am-12am

Drinks: \$20 and under

Food: Traditional Pub

Cover: N/A

T: Arlington

Credit: All Major

Nobody here knows your name, and they don't look particularly glad you came. This tourist trap is small and cramped, impossibly crowded most of the time and sells plenty of that tacky overpriced merchandise your date will just have to have. That said, you know you've just got to stop by for a pint or two. It's been over seven years since the last call at "Cheers", yet the novelty doesn't seem to have worn off yet at the Bull & Finch. While we usually avoid touristy holes like a Cliff Clavin, we're making an exception here. It's simply a delightful diversion to complement your afternoon or evening, especially on off-nights (if there is such a thing here). Besides being a great icebreaker, it's a custom-made date. You've got plenty to talk about, the hamburgers are pretty



good, there's dancing on weekends, and bring a camera to snap a few shots outside. It really doesn't get any easier than this.

Club Passim

47 Palmer Street, Cambridge

617.492.7679

Type: Live Music

Hours: 11am-11pm M-Su

Drinks: Don't serve

Food: Middle Eastern Cuisine

Cover: Varies \$5-\$20

T: Harvard Square

Credit: All Major

What exactly is "folk" music? Is it, as some argue, those traditional songs passed down orally from generation to generation with no known author? Or is it oral and acoustic poetry espousing a strong political or social message? We may not be able to define it, but we sure know where to find some of the best folk music you'll ever find. First known as Club 47, and later just Passim, this spot has been a bastion of folk expression for close to 40 years. The spot sprung up in the 60s when the singer-songwriter really began to dominate scene—evident in the number of artists that have launched careers from this spot, including Joan Baez, Suzanne Vega, Shawn Colvin and Tom Rush, and echoed in the performers today. Close quartered tables make it a pretty intimate experience, enhancing that warm fuzzy folksy vibe. Sorry smokers, no ifs, ands or butts allowed.

Commonwealth Brewery Co. Ltd.

138 Portland Street

617.523.8383

Type: Restaurant

Hours: 11:30am-12:30am

Drinks: \$20 and under

Food: All-American

Cover: N/A

T: Station Stop on Green Line

Credit: All Major

Located walking distance from Faneuil Hall, North Station and the Fleet Center, Boston's first brewery is as popular today as it was when they first hung out their shingle over 14 years ago. Just the wide selection alone makes it worth a trip to the well, but man cannot live on beer alone—well, at least not on Sunday mornings. The spacious upstairs is as a brewery should be, loud and boisterous. Downstairs offers more of a congenial bar experience, complete with the prerequisite dartboards and pool tables. The bar-b-cue is quite tasty, helping revelers acquire quite a thirst. There's live music on the weekends. We suggest this as a good pre- or post-event watering hole, with a laid back atmosphere to complement any evening.

Deluxe Café & Lounge

100 Chandler Street

617.338.5258

Type: Bar/Cafe

Hours: M-Sa 5pm-1am, Restaurant 5:30pm-11:30pm

Drinks: Under \$15

Food: All-American

**Doyle's Café**

3484 Washington Street

617.524.2345

Type: Bar/Restaurant

Hours: 9am-12: 30am -Su, S no drinks until 11pm

Drinks: Under \$15

Food: All-American

Cover: N/A

T: Green St station on orange line

Credit: Only Cash but ATM located inside

Other: 1882 never modernized and duplicated old booths.

Durgin Park

30 North Market Street

North Market Building

617.227.2038

Type: Restaurant

Hours: Mon-Th 11:30am-10pm F, Sa 11:30am-10: 30pm ;Su 1130am –9pm

Drinks: Under \$20

Food: Yankee Cooking

Cover: N/A

T: Orange, Green, or Red, get off at State or Govt. center

Credit: All major

Emily's

48 Winter Street

617.423.3649

Type: Bar/Club

Hours: T, W, Th 4pm-2:30am; F,Sa 9pm-2: 30am

Drinks: Under \$25

Food: N/A

Cover: N/A

T: Take Orange to Green line Park

Credit: MC, V, AmEx

The Good Life

28 Kingston Street

617.451.2622

Type: Bar/Live Music

Hours: 11:30am-2am, Sa and Su opens at 5pm

Drinks: \$25 and under

Food: All-American

Cover: N/A

T: Downtown Red line near Macys

Credit: AmEx, MC, V

Other: Live Music five days a week



House of Blues

96 Winthrop Street

617.491.2583

Type: Live Music/Restaurant

Hours: 11:30-1am M-Th; F-Sa 11:30pm-2am, Su 10pm-1am

Drinks: \$20 and under

Food: All-American

Cover: Only under third floor where the music is, M-Th \$7-10 F-Sa \$10-\$15

T: Harvard Stop on Red Line

Credit: All Major

Other: Slogan, "Help Ever Hurt Never"

This is where it all started. The original House of Blues from whence spun off a franchise success story. But this spot, virtually a Boston institution in the modern sense, is still right on target. Located a saxophone's throw from Harvard Square, it attracts plenty of tourists, and the occasional celebrity sit in. But, HOB's big name attracts top talent in the music industry. Owned by Dan Aykroyd and the late John Belushi's wife Judy, among other investors, it's all about the blues here. Well, not really, there's a museum, a store and recording studio-and even a gospel lunch on Sunday. The fare here is Southern with heavy heapings of jambalaya, gumbo and cornbread. Slow down, the performances upstairs can be viewed via television monitors, so take your time and ease your digestion.

Johnny D's Uptown

17 Holland Street, Davis Square, Somerville

617.776.9667

Type: Club/Restaurant

Hours: M Bar 11am-1am; No restaurant. Live music 8pm, T-F; Bar 11:30am-1am, Restaurant 4:30pm-6:30pm half price w/ restrictions; T Music 8:30; Wed 8:30pm; Th 9:00pm; Fri 9:45pm; Sa Restaurant 9am-2:30pm; Bar 11:30am-1am; Music 9:45-1am; Su 9am-2:30am; Bar 11:30am-1am; 4:30pm Bar; Su 5:30pm-8:30pm, Blues Jam 9pm-10pm, Salsa lessons, band from 10pm-12:30pm-1am.

Drinks: \$15 and under

Food: All-American with Latin Flare

Cover: \$2-7 can get up to \$20 no cover on Mondays

T: Red line to Davis Sq. Holland Exit

Credit: All Major

Other: Roots Music

Joy Boston

533 Washington Street, @ West Street

617.338.6999

Type: Club

Hours: Th-Sa 11pm-2am; Fr, Su 10pm-2am

Drinks: N/A

Food: N/A

Cover: \$10-15

T: Downtown Crossing

Credit: AmEx, MC, V

Karma Club

9 Landsdowne Street, @ Ipswich Street

617.421.9595



Type: Club
Hours: Th,F,Sa 10:30pm-2am
Drinks: \$20 and under
Food: N/A
Cover: \$10-15
T: Green Line to Kenmore
Credit: All Major
Other: Decorated with a style from India

The Kells

161 Brighton Avenue
617.782.9082
Type: Bar/Restaurant
Hours: 11am-2am M-Su
Drinks: \$20 and Under
Food: Irish
Cover: F, Sa \$5
T: B-line to High Route Ave.
Credit: All Major

Kendall Café

233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge
617.661.0993
Type: Bar
Cover: \$2-\$5
T: Red Line to Kendall/MIT
Mon-W 5pm-1am; Th-Su 11:30am –1am
Food: Variety
Credit: V, M, AmEx
Drink Prices: \$15 and under

Man Ray

21Brookline Street, @ Central Square
617.864.0400
(Gay & Lesbian)
Type: Club
Hours: W, Sun 9pm-1am; Th, F 9pm-2am; Sa 10pm-2am
Drinks: N/A
Food: N/A
Cover: \$5
T: Red Line to Central
Credit: AmEx, MC, V
Other: Friday night is "fetish night"

Mercury Bar

116 Boylston Street
617.482.7799
Type: Club/Restaurant
Hours: T-Sat Restaurant 5:30pm-10:00pm, Bar 5pm-2am; Club W-Sa10pm-2am
Drinks: \$25 and over
Food: American Cuisine



Cover: \$4-\$10 F and Sa, W \$15

T: Green line to Boylston

Credit: All Major

Other: 116 Balls of Vodka on Vodka Bar. Upscale older crowd of Boston

While it may no longer be the place to be seen as it was years ago, the Mercury Bar is still a popular draw in Boston's thriving theatre district. From its attractive clientele to its trendy ambiance, Mercury offers a pleasant entrée to an up-scale evening. The bold and the beautiful crowd of mostly Europeans and young professionals pose and mingle fabulously together. Relax as you slink into one of the delicious over-stuffed booths to enjoy a taste of Tapas or a snifter of this or that. The people-watching factor alone is worth the trip.

Middle East

472-480 Massachusetts Avenue

617.492.9181

Type: Club/Restaurant

Hours: 11:00am-1am M-Th; 11am-2am F-Su

Drinks: \$20 and under

Food: Middle Eastern

Cover: N/A only for a band and it varies

T: Red Line Exit Central Sq.

Credit: All Major

Other: Three stages for music

Oskar's

107 South Street

617.542.6756

Type: Bar/Restaurant

Hours: M-F 11:30am-2pm; Dinner 5:30pm-10pm M-W; Th, F 5:30pm-11pm

Cover: N/A

Drink: \$25 and under

Food: All-American

T: Red Line to South Station

Credit: Amex, MC, V,

Other: They have valet parking

Regattabar

1 Bennett Street (Charles Hotel)

617.876.7777

Type: Live Music

Hours: T-Sa. Some S.

Cover: Tickets required

Drink: N/A

Food: N/A

T: Red Line to Harvard

Credit: N/A

Sonnie Rollins, Herbie Hancock, Shirley Horn, Betty Carter, the Count Bassie Orchestra, Karen Akers...need we say more. Regattabar offers the highly selective music connoisseur a delightful mix of local and international talent. The spacious third-floor concert hall, seating up to 200 avid listeners, has the exceptional acoustics that make it an ideal spot for



concerts. You can try your luck at the door for tickets an hour before show time. But, depending upon the performer, we suggest you buy tickets in advance. Dress up, and the drinks here are bit pricey.

Roxy

279 Tremont Street

617.338.7699

Type: Bar/Club

Hours: 9pm Sa; F 10:30pm-2am

Cover: \$10-\$16

Drink: N/A

Food: N/A

T: Green Line to Boylston

Credit: N/A

Other: Thursday is Latin, Friday is Swing night and Saturday is top 40

Whether it's Latin, Funk or Big-Band Swing, this renovated 1930s ballroom offers a dynamic backdrop for a high-energy evening of dancing. Though it was integral in helping kick-start the revival of Swing—featuring such talent as Squirrel Nut Zippers, Cherry Poppin' Daddies, Brian Seltzer and Big Bad VooDoo Daddy—the Roxy offers a pretty diverse line-up. Thursday is Latin night, Friday is International house, Saturday features a mix of Top 40 and “Club Classics.” There's usually at least one live performance each week, but as different promoters rent the spot, it's a pretty diverse line-up. Step out onto the huge, and we mean huge, 1,200 square foot dance floor, or ascend to the bi-level balcony to catch your breath. Roxy also offers state of the art lighting, sound and video and a full kitchen for the caterer of your choice. Proper dress required, meaning no jeans or sneakers. Cover charge varies, and live events require tickets.

Scullers Jazz Club

400 Soldiers Field Road (Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel)

617.562.4111

Type: Jazz Club

Hours: 8pm and 10pm F-Sa 8pm and 10:30pm

Cover: None-ticket price

Drink: \$25 and under

Food: All-American

T: Red line to Central Sq.

Credit: All Major

Other: There is preferred dining where you go through a three course meal and then to the show and you get better seats if you have dinner also.

Top of the Hub

Prudential Center, Back Bay

617.536.1775

Type: Bar/Restaurant

Hours: M-Su 9am-1am

Cover: N/A

Drink: \$25 and under

Food: Creative American and some Asian/Mediterranean

T: Copley Sq.

Credit: All Major

Other: Top of the Prudential Building with a full view.

**Trattoria Il Panino and Club**

Franklin Street, Financial District

617.338.1000

Type: Live Music

Based in the five-floor Trattoria Il Panino restaurant complex, this upscale spot offers a complete evening of fine dining and dancing. Not to be confused with the original Trattoria Il Panino in the North End, this Financial District spot attracts a strong Latin and International following. Il Panino has everything you'd expect: a three-floor dance club with six full bars with large crowds and ample dance space. Thursday is Latin and Brazilian night, while Friday and Saturday nights feature music from the '70s, '80s, and '90s, including Top 40 and progressive dance music. Sunday is International Euro night. The dress code excludes jeans and sneakers. For dining, try to first floor Bistro for Neapolitan brick-oven pizza and specialty risotto or the second-floor Ristorante. Dress to impress and you'll get noticed. We promise. No cover charge.

Wally's

427 Massachusetts Avenue

617.424.1408

Type: Cafe

Hours: 9am-2am Daily

Cover: None

Drink: \$15 and under

Food: N/A

T: Orange Line to Backbay

Credit: Cash only

Other: Oldest established jazz club. Very popular and has been visited by such stars as Bruce Willis.