

Remember the days when a rocking weekend meant dinner and a movie? In the last 27 years, the city has seen a rise in entertainment options. Everywhere you turn there's a new restaurant to check out, a live gig to catch or an event you can't miss. There's a constant flow of entertainment and it has become part of our city's identity. So, we take a look at the new ways Mumbai is making us smile.

PARTY LIKE A STAR

While Mumbai has always had a steady stream of clubs; you can now dance the night away in style. But, it's going to cost you. There's a new style of club in the city and it's sleeker, more posh and pricey than before. Trilogy at Juhu sees a constant flow of Bollywood biggies and Royalty in Bandra is another place to head to if you want to rub shoulders with the likes of Ranbir Kapoor and Fardeen Khan. With plush sofas, gold trimmings and sky high ceilings, these clubs put Mumbai on the map as a party destination. Just make sure your pockets are deep enough though.

We recommend: The newly opened Baroke at Kemps Corner for its music, China House in Grand Hyatt, Santacruz (E) for their swanky settings and exclusivity and Tote at Mahalaxmi for its award-winning decor and food.

SINGLE CITY SLICKERS

Twenty-seven years ago, being single in the city at the ripe old age of 30 meant that you had disappointed your parents and were probably the most lonely lady or gentleman of your group. But now, being single in the city will have most of your peers envious of your lifestyle. There are singles bars, singles clubs and even events that are held exclusively to meet new people and do fun things.

We recommend: The Elbo Room, Bandra (W) which was opened as a small, singles bar, is as small as the name suggests and plays music that won't drown out conversation. Also visit www.meetup.com if you'd like to participate in singles meetups.

AT YOUR SERVICE

In the last few decades, the average Mumbaikar has seen more of the world than generations before. That means the average resident is more adventurous and appreciative when it comes to food too. We understand, appreciate and crave quality when it comes to our meals. And that's seen a rise in high-end restaurants opening up in the city. From rooftop settings such as The Dome at Intercontinental, Marine Drive to paying ₹10,000 for a platter of sushi at Wasabi by Morimoto at The Taj Palace Hotel, Colaba, fine dining is now a norm. And, we also have a Michelin star restaurant, Hakkasan at Bandra (W), in our kitty.

We recommend: Zodiac Grill at The Taj, Colaba as it is one of the best continental restaurants in the city, where you'll be paying around ₹9,000 for Beluga caviar and you could opt for French wines that cost up to a whopping lakh for a bottle. Celini at the Grand Hyatt, Santacruz (E) serves up Italian classics that can cost you up to ₹1,150 for a plate of lamb chops. For great dim sum, head to Hakkasan.

THAT'S GRAPE!

Wine workshops, festivals, events and tastings – Mumbai is suddenly going gaga over wine. From special wine shops in the city such as Good Earth Winery outlets that sell a variety of domestic and international wines to wine appreciation classes and wine tasting workshops, wine aficionados around the city are making sure they get their money's worth.

We recommend: The wine appreciation courses such as those offered by

www.allthingsnice.in or join the Wine Society of India at www.winesocietyindia.com to get constant updates on wine.

LAUGH OUT LOUD

Today's Mumbaikar is not averse to listening to or talking about things that earlier might have been considered 'vulgar.' Today's stand-up comedy scene has far eclipsed what it was around a decade ago when the reality show The Great Indian Laughter Challenge was

launched. Apart from just stand up comic nights, Mumbai is also host to various plays and TV shows which have a satirical take on current affairs in India.

We recommend: The Comedy Store in Lower Parel is perhaps the pinnacle of stand up comedy acts. It hosts stand up comic artists, both Indian as well as international. Also, checkout www.mumbaiheatreguide.com for a listing of upcoming comic plays in Mumbai.

entertainment

LIVE MUSIC

Catching a live gig used to mean we had to wait for Bryan Adams to come to Mumbai... yet again. But, Mumbai is showing us that not only do we have enough talent, we can put on a hell of a show on our own too. With bands such as The Mavyns, Colour Compound, Bay Beat Collective, Shair + Func all releasing original music and even getting signed on by labels, catching live shows in Mumbai has become a regular affair.

We recommend: Pubs such as Blue Frog, Lower Parel; Aurus, Juhu and Hard Rock Cafe, Worli are very much known for their gigs. They feature bands and DJs from not only around the world, but also give opportunities to lesser known Indian bands. We also really recommend you check out the monthly live gigs at Live From the Console held at Mehboob Studios in Bandra (W).

RISE OF MULTIPLEXES

Multiplexes have become so common, that today there is a whole generation of kids who have never set foot in the single screen theatres of old times. The multiplexes have allowed more than one movies to be realised on the same day and are also responsible for bringing in international cinema and 3D movies to our city. Another change brought in by the multiplexes is that the humble samosa and coke during the interval has now been replaced by nachos, sandwiches, burgers and iced tea and coffee. However, an evening at the movies is no longer a cheap affair.

We recommend: The chain of PVR cinemas for the comfort of the viewing experience.

YOUR FUN CALENDAR

March 27: If you're a gadget geek then the Mumbai on Rails' meet up on March 27 is where you should be. While the venue hasn't been decided yet, the event will take in place in Bandra.
Where: www.meetup.com

March 30: Born and raised in London, DJ Ish has an eclectic sound ranging from straight up reggae to funky dubstep. She will be playing at Cool Chef Café on March 30 from 9pm onwards.
Where: Cool Chef Cafe, Worli

March 31: Catch a screening of the movie The Living Matrix, which talks about alternate healing means and its genuineness through real life examples. The meet will be held at Connaught Mansion in Colaba and admission is free.
Where: www.meetup.com

March 31: Rusty Screws is an animated satire of the life of Rusty. The play talks about the dilemma of friends over family. In today's modern era – what is a family? Is it our blood relatives with whom we are forced to live? Or is it our friends whom we cannot live without? Catch this play on March 31 at 6pm.

Where: The Comedy Store, Lower Parel

Let Us Entertain You



There's never a dull moment in Mumbai any more. From singles nights, comedy acts, wine tastings and live shows, entertainment has come a long way in the last few years. **Rhea Dhanbhoora & Dev Goswami** take a look at what's new

