



Dining

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Night Life: Check out Ten22 for its large wine, beer lists

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Special to The Bee

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Published: Friday, Mar. 11, 2011 - 12:00 am

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Last Modified: Sunday, Mar. 13, 2011 - 1:20 pm

By day, the boardwalks and cobblestone streets of Old Sacramento beckon tourists to [souvenir shops](#) and museums.

When the sun goes down, Sacramentans lay claim to the district's bars and restaurants.

The sprawling Ten22 is one of those popular destinations. The establishment takes a multipronged approach to lighting up the nightlife scene: Patrons can choose from an extensive beer and wine menu. They can take a seat in the killer bar area, or they can lounge in the just-about-ideal back patio where there is free live music from 7 to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays in the warmer months.

The spacious restaurant is at the back of the cheerfully lit, airy building, which is an absolute relief. When you don't have to grip your coat for dear life to avoid dangling it into some poor diner's bisque, apologizing all the way down the narrow aisle, it's a notably more pleasant experience already.

Instead, the front portion of Ten22 gently guides patrons to the right, into the bar area. Bartenders hustle about, filling orders for the thirsty customers clustered around the U-shaped bar. Tall pilsner and stemless



Casey Mar

The Hombre is made of vodka, lime juice and sweet and sour accented with a jalapeño slice.

MORE INFORMATION

TEN22

1022 Second St., Sacramento

(916) 441-2211

www.ten22oldsac.com

Bar hours: 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 11:30 a.m.- midnight Friday and Saturday

The vibe: It's a little bit posh and a little bit homey at Ten22. The great hospitality meshes nicely with the quality offerings and makes for a comfortable night out.

Signature drink: There are so many fun beers and wines to choose that it's hard to spare any attention for the cocktail menu, but if you do, give strong consideration to the Hombre: vodka, lime juice and sweet and sour meet a hint of cilantro and fresh jalapeño slices. It sounds bizarre, but it's like a vodka gimlet with a little extra kick.

Bathroom break: Plenty of stalls and a spacious sink area. It really makes a difference when you don't have to squeeze in to wash your hands.

Who would love it: Adventurous drinkers will be tickled at the variety of libations available.

Who would hate it: Those who venture out to Old



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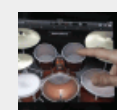


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wineglasses dot the red stone countertop, giving a pretty good idea of what those in the know enjoy at this particular establishment.

You'll want to give both the beer and wine menus some serious attention here at Ten22. They read like novels: craft brews from up and down the state are offered, while the wine list reads like a who's who of California vino.

Each of the 22 premium draft beers pops with its own personality. (These include selections from Sacramento's Hoppy and Rubicon, Fort Bragg's North Coast Brewery, Eureka's Lost Coast Brewery and Speakeasy and Anchor Brewing of [San Francisco](#), among many others.) There is truly a beer – or perhaps several – for every palate.

There is a certain intimidation factor, though. The customer is faced with this hefty list of beers but no descriptions. Many of the offerings, like Blue Moon and Stella Artois, are common enough, but most casual beer drinkers don't know Prangster from White Lightning. As confident as I feel after two years of navigating the taps around town, I wanted a lifejacket. Fortunately, our bartender was there to help us navigate those waters.

"Oh, I know the beers," said Lucas Hosmer, with a smile that signals he knows them well.

After a short exchange about what I was seeking, Hosmer brought me a 1554 Enlightened Black Ale from New Belgium Brewing. Although it was something I'd had before, which was a little bit of a let-down since I'd hoped to try something new, his assessment of what I'd like was spot on, and that was a definite lift.

When I inquired about the extensive wine list, Hosmer did not fail. He also didn't hesitate to ask his co-workers when presented with a query he couldn't answer, a far better tack than guessing and hoping for the best.

"All the wines we (serve) are available for sale," said Hosmer, gesturing to the shop at the opposite side of Ten22's entrance.

Crate after crate of wine stared back at us, each bottle beckoning us to give it a try. Another night, perhaps. With so many possibilities, it would take weeks to sample everything. It is a worthy challenge.

Ten22 has all the trappings of an ideal night out, without any pretense. To have your questions not only answered but welcomed in such a bustling environment is a refreshing experience, and well worth a go.

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