

Best Bars

(read more under Rosie McCaffrey's), now run this location as well as The Turf, though McCaffrey is still a business partner here. It attracts the masses after work, concerts and games, and good luck even getting near the place on St. Patrick's Day.

Stop in for the largest selection of scotches in the state (more than 120) and a late-night bite: The kitchen stays open to sate other restaurant and hospitality workers after their shifts.

INFO: 18 W. Monroe St., Phoenix; 602-253-6081, seamusmccaffreys.com

Skeptical Chymist

The décor here alone is a must-see: It's done up to resemble an antique apothecary shop, thus the name, which comes from a book written by Irishman Robert Boyle, the "father of modern chemistry." As at its sister location, Fibber Magees, Tuesday Pub Quiz nights are packed. It's worth going just to hear the inventive team names: Four Housecats of the Apocalypse, Bloody Hell, and Ted Kennedy Eight Weeks Sober, to name a few. (Each week, the best name wins a prize.)

But there's no bad time to hit the Chymist, which has the antidote to the Boring Bar Blues. It's upbeat and convivial, the food is above-par (mmm, curry fries), they host live music Wednesdays through Saturdays, they show soccer games, and they're the official bar of the Seattle Seahawks. Best of all, they sell a drink called the Irish Car Bomb - Guinness, Bushmills and Baileys. Love it.

INFO: 15688 N. Pima Road, Ste. C6, Scottsdale; 480-609-8677, skepticalchymist.com

The Turf Irish Pub & Restaurant

Opened in 2009 by Andrew Mirtich and Frank Murray (the team that co-owns Seamus McCaffrey's), this is 180 degrees from your typical pub - and we like the twist. Instead of trying to replicate old Irish ambience, they went contemporary. Designer touches include

chocolate brown leather club chairs, pendant lighting and funky booth upholstery. A groovy green glow emanates from behind the bar, and tabletops are smartly accented with amber votive candleholders.

It attracts the downtown after-work crowd and Arizona State University students and faculty (the campus is a Blarney stone's throw away), who cluster inside, watch sports at the bar or congregate on the patio. The most popular dish is the corned beef quesadillas, and in addition to Irish mainstays, the menu is updated with salads and wraps. A dozen beers on tap, a small but decent wine list and the second-largest selection of Scotches in Arizona (in deference to Seamus) round out the offerings.

INFO: 705 N. First St., Phoenix; 602-296-5043, theturfpub.com

Resort Bars

Mbar

The "M" stands for Morocco, which is the predominant theme in the décor here as well as the resort's adjacent restaurant, Prado. Prado supplies the tapas on the bar menu (such as grilled prawns, wood-roasted beets and day boat scallops), so don't come here just for drinks. But if you don't heed our advice, you're still in for an experience. The gleaming Mbar, oozing Old World charm, attracts the well heeled.

If you aren't in that echelon, go for happy hour from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, when house wines, house cocktails, beers and select tapas are \$5. It's worth full-price on weekend nights, though, to sink into a lounge seat and listen to live music, imagining you're being serenaded in some exotic locale.

INFO: InterContinental Montelucia Resort & Spa, 4949 E. Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley; 480-627-3200, pradolife.com

Edge

We admit it; we're suckers for great views. There are some doozies in town, but this ranks right up there, making first-timers let out a slow "woowwww" as they take in Camelback and Mummy mountains. It's also one of those places that just makes you *feel* cool. Basked in hues of lime green and violet, perched on the edge of the building on a wood deck overlooking the lighted pool, you can melt

HAPPENIN' HAPPY HOUR

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar

You say you have tenderloin taste on a burger budget? Fleming's "5 for \$6 'til 7" happy hour is the ticket, with five of their decadent full-size appetizers - and a burger - for \$6 until 7 p.m. daily. This includes an outstanding beef carpaccio with Creole mustard sauce, and the *pièce de résistance*, their juicy 8-ounce prime burger with cheese and bacon on a golden, buttery bun. It gets better. Pair these with one of five quality wines by the glass or five cocktails for \$6, too. The classic Ketel One martini with blue cheese olives is a steal.

INFO: 905 N. 54th St., Chandler, 480-940-1900; other locations: Peoria (623-772-9463), Scottsdale (480-596-8265), north Scottsdale (480-538-8000), flemingssteakhouse.com

