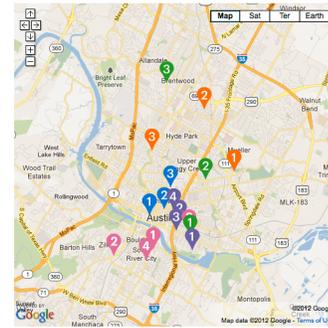


DREAM TEAM

An Insider's Guide to Austin, Texas

By **EIMEAR LYNCH**

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Five Austin trendsetters, including a concierge, restaurateur, gallerist, designer, and artist share their picks for the best restaurants, hotels, bars, galleries, museums, shops and more in Austin, Texas.

The Concierge

What's expected of Liz LaRocca, concierge at Austin's exclusive, estate-like 1 Hotel Saint Cecilia (doubles from \$295)? When she's at the whim of the big names who stay there—think Lyle Lovett, Natalie Portman—she sends them to the best boîtes, including 2 Barley Swine, a tiny tapas place with dishes like lavender-tinged pork belly (tapas from \$7). A new favorite is the 3 White Horse, a hipster honky-tonk with live folk music and dancing. The best vintage shopping is at 4 Feathers, which stocks braided leather vests and 1950s frocks.

The Restaurateur

An urban ranch with a big porch strung with fairy lights and a fire pit rimmed with revelers draped in bright-colored Mexican blankets, Ben Edgerton's 1 Contigo Austin serves tasty drinks like the Texecutioner (mezcal, anisette, Cocchi Americano, and grapefruit juice) with fried green beans and juicy roast chicken (entrées from \$8). When Edgerton isn't there, he eats beef heart tartare at 2 Foreign & Domestic (entrées from \$16) and drinks at 3 Fino, where the highly wrought cocktails include the Neon Indian Paintbrush—pine liqueur, tequila, and mint.

The Gallerist

"Austin is known for film and music, and it's growing in visual art," says Lora Reynolds, whose eponymous 1 gallery has brought to Texas renowned artists from Kehinde Wiley to Susan Collis, the London installationist. A former board member of the museum 2 Arthouse, Reynolds watched last year as it merged with the Austin Museum of Art in a beautiful new building. She's a fan of the University of Texas's 3 Blanton Museum—the largest university art museum in the U.S.—for its Latin American art and the Fusebox Festival for its dance, music, and plays (through May 6).

The Designer

Spot a dapper Austinite, look at his feet, and you'll see Joshua Bingaman—designed 1 Helm boots, envisioned in his East Side studio and made with Dutch calfskin and Italian leather soles. Bingaman also runs a café, 2 Progress Coffee, an Austin institution that hosts last-minute unpublishized shows of everyone from Jason Mraz to former Fleet Foxes' drummer/singer J. Tillman. He likes 3 Domy, an art-book store, and 4 Mohawk, an "awesome, electric club where I've heard a Bon Iver solo set and huge metal bands. It's where Seattle meets Austin" (912 Red River St.).

The Artist

Known for turning an Art Basel Miami Beach booth into a gas station selling franks and beans and jalapeño-flavored condoms, **Sterling Allen** says his art collective, 1 **Okay Mountain**, would "like Austin to remain a place where you can just make art and still get by." Hence the building where the Mountaineers work, curate shows, and rent out studio space (1619 E. Cesar Chavez St.). When they host global artists, they feed them breakfast tacos stuffed with eggs and peppers from 2 Mi Madre's (2201 Manor Rd.) and go to 3 Ginny's Little Longhorn Saloon, a tiny bar/barn with so-called chickenshit bingo on Sundays (5434 Burnet Rd.).