

the best of the night

WHO SAYS SF ISN'T A NIGHTLIFE CITY? FOR THOSE JUST GETTING STARTED WHEN THE SUN SETS, HERE'S OUR GUIDE TO DANCING, DRINKING, DATING, POSING, GETTING DOWN AND LEARNING—YES, LEARNING—SOMETHING TOO.

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Best Way to Get Smart—and Quick

The three-year-old **Ask a Scientist Lecture Series** is a smash hit, with monthly talks on a wide range of topics, from the esoteric (“The Secret Life of Ants”) to the fundamental (“Classical Physics 101,” taught by physics teacher Tucker Hiatt at the Bazaar Café, in the Richmond, on June 13). At press time, plans for a marine biology-focused event with KQED is in the works. Because you’re never too cool for school, or at least science class. www.askascientists.com

Best Reggae Night

It might have looked like a New York nightclub in *Rent*, but we weren't fooled—it was our own Club Six, home every Thursday to **Give Thankz**, the city's best reggae, dancehall, soca, soul and reggaeton party. There are other reggae nights in the city, but this one's the cheapest (free before 11 and \$5 after) and most nourishing—they serve plantains, jerk chicken and other Caribbean specialties. Now that's worthy of thanks. *60 Sixth St., 415-863-1221, www.clubsix1.com*



Best Bar for Your Birthday Party

Nothing makes us feel more like an insider than a bar without a sign. That's why a party at the **Crimson Lounge**—accessible only through Indigo Restaurant—is a sure thing. The room fee is reasonable (\$150 flat fee for five hours), and considering all the party people you know (the cozy space fits 75–100 guests), meeting the \$975 min-

imum, which includes both food and drinks, shouldn't pose a challenge. *687 McAllister St., 415-673-9353, www.crimsonlounge.com*

Best Dinner Soundtrack

We're hopelessly devoted to the juke at Sparky's, but there's something about the pitch-perfect indie-rock assortment at **Little Star Pizza** that pairs like a dream with the deep-dish pies. Whether it's

newer additions like Clap Your Hands Say Yeah or classics of the David Bowie variety, the tunes dispenser impresses by nailing the right dinner note every time. *846 Divisadero St., 415-441-1118*

Best Place to Graduate from Bar None

If Cow Hollow's Bar None is for the fresh-out-of-college crowd, then the new Irish pub **Kelley's Tavern** is grad school. Instead of beer pong and nightly “power hours,” Kelley's—which opened, ever so appropriately, on St. Patty's Day—sports a shuffleboard table, live Irish music, swank leather sofas and a selection of 40 Irish whiskeys for a slightly (emphasis on *slightly*) more discerning clientele. *3231 Fillmore St., 415-567-7181*

Best Way to Hone Your Craft

Still bemoaning your choice of econ over art history because your parents insisted it was the sensible major? With a summer schedule that includes such after-work classes as this month's “Video Art: