

10 eateries to make you forget there was ever such a thing as no fun

Guest Spirits manager Jay Jones's zesty cocktails. The bar also specializes in rums and has an extensive wine list. Rumour has it the chicken wings stuffed with goat cheese are outstanding.

6. Opus: Not everybody enjoys being jammed into an ersatz drinking establishment like a kipper into a can. That's why it's essential for a city to have more rarefied *boites*. Opus offers something more than elegant cocktails in a screamingly chic spot — it frequently offers celebrity eye candy. One evening while you graze on tapas you get yer Harrison Ford; the next, yer Anthony Bourdain.

7. Sip Resto-Lounge: The

gimmick here is that booze laces everything on the "Resto's" menu, from its crab cakes with Grey Goose L'Orange Vodka to its Bacardi cocoa prawns, made with coconut rum. Its list of 10 martinis is a hit. This "New York-style" lounge with marble tables offers a candlelit ambience that could be just the sexy mood-enhancer you and your date require. Deep house music dominates Sip's CD collection.

8. Watermark: This fairly new Kits establishment was slagged for its eats early on by some critics, but you can't beat its ocean view. Anyway, some nights a plate of vegetarian

gyoza, a glass of Blue Mountain Pinot Gris and a highly visible thong are all a person needs for excitement.

9. West: The maitre d' at West encourages the consumption of bubbly, and who are you to argue? The restaurant's location on South Granville, just a few pirouettes from the Stanley Industrial Stage, makes it the perfect spot for animated pre- or post-theatre get-togethers. The food is to die for, or to die of, depending how often you inhale West's delicious *foie gras*.

Upcoming: a couple of venues whose openings you'll want to watch for:

10. The Ocean Club: Manag-

ing partner Andre Thomas has been general manager of such stellar nightspots as Whistler's Araxi. He's teaming up with Derek Pink and Dave Kershaw, the powers behind this city's Au Bar and others, as well as mixologist Darryl McDonald, also an Araxi alumnus. The quartet promises to whip up a night scene where there is currently *nada*... in that slumbering hamlet we call West Vancouver. With the Ocean Club, it is also dangling the pledge of an 800-square-foot heated patio with fireplace, located on the banks of the Capilano River, on the east side of Park Royal South. The Ocean Club is due to open before Christmas.

The cleanup of Britannia Mines historic site.