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by BRANK COLEMAN

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02

Once the tuba kicks up, and it's a Sunday, you're not worrying about problems. You're out there with everyone having a good time."

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Explore dining options, cocktail bars, and restaurants in New Orleans as GO NOLA shares the best things to eat and drink in the Crescent City.

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Friday, February 5, 2016

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Monday, December 14, 2015

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By DAVID SMITH
Monday, December 7, 2015

Restaurants Open on Christmas Day in New Orleans
By STEVE
Monday, December 7, 2015

Local Breweries Bring Holiday Cheer, er, Beer
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Craft the Perfect NOLA Experience at Avenue Pub

Avenue Pub, the 247 establishment on St. Charles Avenue, is so much more than just a bar.

By NOLA MCGUNAGLE | @nolamcgunagle
January 12, 2016

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When Polly Watts took over the 24-hour neighborhood bar from her father in 2005, the Avenue Pub was a run-down dive with off-flavor Bud and Miller Lite on draft. Not knowing anything about beer, she turned to professionals — most of whom were trying to sell her expensive equipment she didn't need — to find the problem and fix it. It took her local boss distributor to show her the buildup of mineral deposits and other unfavorable things in and around the draft lines, and she replaced the whole system in 2007.

Brand new, 3D tap system in place, the Pub was selling "sassy flavor" Bud, Miller, and Coors Imagine on sparkling clean, well-calibrated lines. "Watts laughs. But when NOLA Brewing opened, its president, Kirk Coca, told her that with her robust tap system, she had the ingredients to open a serious beer bar. She searched over to meet beer purveyor Don Stein of Stein's Cask and Market, learned about a website called Beer Advocate, and three herself into the world of craft beer.

The European beer selection is one of the best in the southeast, if not the country, but the 50 taps also carry a wide variety of American craft beer, especially from local breweries in Louisiana and Mississippi."

Now, the Avenue Pub has received the highest accolade of any beer bar in the region, winning spots on "Best Of" lists, including Best Bar in the South by Drift Magazine, Travel and Leisure Magazine, and Thrillist. The Pub has also increased the size and scope of its draft program to sell even more excellent, pairing with bottles from Four Buses, Old Forester, 1432, Buffalo Trace, and even Wild Turkey Master Distiller Jimmy Russell. Brewing celebrities like Evil Twin's Jappe Jans-Bergas, Greg Koch from Stone, Brent Skurpalek of Stillwater, The Brewery's Patrick Igo, and Brooklyn Brewery founder Steve Hindy can all be found at the Pub when they're in town, either as part of an event or just to hang out.

BEER, BOURBON, AND A BALCONY

The Avenue Pub provides one-of-a-kind beers and events. Beer lovers can find great food, unapologetic German Franziskaner's racks of legs, during Oktoberfest, and the Pub has hosted renowned Belgian brewery Carillon's Zwaarte rare beer release since 2011. Watts is the only bartender in the city to publish "tapped on" dates on all her happy beers — many beer enthusiasts want the freshest IPAs possible. The European beer selection is one of the best in the southeast, if not the country, with consistently available beers from Belgium, Great Britain, France, Spain, and Italy, but the 50 taps also carry a wide variety of American craft beer, especially from local breweries in Louisiana and Mississippi.

The Avenue Pub's balcony extends over the sidewalk of St. Charles Avenue (the only balcony to do so) and is a perfect location to watch the parades."

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GoNOLA Neighborhood Guide to Magazine Street

The miles-long street is a hallmark of the city that also happens to span six distinct neighborhoods. See what we spotted on a recent wander of the way down Magazine Street.

By Paula Brindley
Nov 28, 2015

There may be no street in New Orleans that better exemplifies all that the city has to offer than Magazine Street: a gorgeous, diverse street where locals live, shop, work, and play. Encompassing at least six distinct neighborhoods (Barratarre-CDC, Warehouse District, Lower Garden District, Garden District, Irish Channel, and Uptown) it's a diverse journey filled with nearly every type of shop and restaurant and bar imaginable.

Beginning in Downtown New Orleans off of Canal Street, Magazine Street is home to the National World War II Museum at one end, winding luxuriously closer to the river with Audubon Park (and the entrance to Audubon Zoo) at its other end. We took roughly the same path, heading from the Warehouse District to Uptown; see what we found along the way.

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Hear the sweet sounds of all musical genres at venues across New Orleans as GoNOLA shares the best music in the Crescent City.

My NOLA: 20 Questions with Action Jackson
by JENNIFER ODELL
Friday, January 26, 2016

Savior of That NOLA Sound: A Fest for Danny Barker
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Friday, April 3, 2015

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by NOLA 800.55.8000
Monday, March 30, 2015

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9 New Orleans Places for Late Night/Early Morning Food by the Hour
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Thursday, March 12, 2015

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Savior of That NOLA Sound: A Fest for Danny Barker

Learn about musician, band leader, and mentor Danny Barker, who passed his love for New Orleans jazz on to a new generation. Plus, get the details on the upcoming festival held in his honor.

by JENNIFER ODELL
January 3, 2016

These days, New Orleans' streets, clubs, and schools are filled with young musicians jockeying to master New Orleans jazz and brass band music. But that hasn't always been the case.

In 1965, banjo and guitar master Danny Barker moved back home to New Orleans following a multi-decade stint working in New York with Cab Calloway, Benny Carter, and other major players on the national jazz scene. He noticed that while he'd grown up listening and eventually learning the music of the loquacious jazz forefathers that took place around town, the musicians who comprised the traditional New Orleans jazz scene had aged considerably, including his own grandfatherly jazz musician talent: Barber.

Fearing a major component of his city's musical heritage was at risk of dying out, Barker made it his mission to protect the music. He did so primarily by educating and mentoring the next generation of musicians.

The musician Danny Barker, who spent 1960-1965 following the lead of Cab Calloway, Benny Carter, and other major players on the national jazz scene.

A NEW GENERATION OF JAZZ

The centerpiece of those efforts was his recruitment of young players for the Fairview Baptist Church Band, which started in 1970 and quickly became ground zero for the brass band revival that spawned the Dirty Dozen Brass Band, and the scores of contemporary brass bands who have followed in their footsteps.

During the 1960s, fearing a major component of his city's musical heritage was at risk of dying out, Danny Barker made it his mission to protect the music."

The Fairview Baptist Church Band also served as an incubator for inspiring musicians who would go on to become some of the most influential jazz artists in the past 50 years. The Marzalis family, Herlin Riley, Dr. Michael White, and Dirty Dozen co-founder Gregory Dowd, among many others, have credited Barker, who died in 1994, with teaching them the fundamentals about jazz music and its history, one that continues to influence them today.

While Barker's work as a teacher and mentor tends to get top billing historically, he was a major voice on banjo and guitar in his time as well, touring and recording with leaders like Jelly Roll Morton, Dizzy Gillespie, as well as his wife, singer Blue Lu Barker.

"He was a musician of wide scope, with deep harmonic knowledge and the gift of swing," veteran jazz critic Doug Ramsey once wrote. "A catalyst in any musical setting."

In addition to his work as a musician and mentor, Barker became the Assistant to the Curator of the New Orleans Jazz Museum in 1968. In his later years, he wrote two acclaimed books: "My Life in Jazz" and "Daddy Barber and the Last Days of Storyville."

This month, the second annual **Danny Barker Banjo and Guitar Festival**, which runs Jan. 14 - 17, celebrates Barker's life and legacy with four days of performances, panel discussions, and guitar clinics at venues throughout the city. Founded by New Orleans guitarist Detroit Brock, the festival aims to shine a light on Barker's 70-year career and the diverse array of contributions he made to jazz.

Check out festival event details below, then visit their [website](#) for ticketing info and more.

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By SARA NATION
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Where to Watch the Super Bowl During Mardi Gras

By CHRISTOPHER DEBLAND
Friday, February 5, 2016

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NOLA's Can't-Miss Spring Festivals

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Weekend Picks: Danny Barker Fest, 610 Stompers Ball, and More

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How to Win at Mardi Gras

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26 Things to Do in New Orleans in 2016

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3 Times the ESSENCE: An Inside Look from Local Pros

DJ Soul Sister, Justin Shiels, and Fresh Johnson share their top tips for navigating the Superdome (and the Superlounge).

By SARA NATION
Nov. 5, 2015

Photo: Ryan O'Rourke, Justin Shiels, and Michael Shiner (Photo: PhotoBlossoms)

The ESSENCE veterans share their top tips for navigating the Superdome (and the Superlounge). Which acts to see? Where to eat? What to wear? Read on.

DJ SOUL SISTER

DJ artist, video programmer, and music writer Melissa Weber's stage name = DJ Soul Sister — says a lot about her preferred genre.

"As a DJ artist, I only play what I love," she says, "which is soulful music."

ESSENCE Festival gives her the chance to speak that soulful sound, by way of artists like Charlie Wilson, Erykah Badu, Mary J. Blige, and many others.

With so many events to see, Weber says carrying the official schedule is a must. "There's too much good stuff going on for you to miss anything."

Check out even more "good stuff" below:

Hey, DJ... how does your background affect your ESSENCE experience? Do you think you're more critical of acts? More open minded?

I only go into what I love, and if it's someone I've never heard before, it's always grateful to whoever has that soulful sound. The ESSENCE Superlounge makes it easy for me to be open minded and try something new that I may not already be familiar with, but that soulful sound is what will keep me in the room the longest.

ESSENCE Fest has always been dedicated to celebrating black music, culture, and life. It's for everyone, but it's a celebration of us."

Can you name names?

I'm really a fan of who I call our "soulful pioneers," the classic and legendary artists. So, I'm mostly excited about the return of Maze featuring Premo Beverly, as well as Charlie Wilson. For me, Doug E. Fresh, Slick Rick, Common, Moby, Elliot, Erykah Badu, and Mary J. Blige will also be special.

Aside from your favorite soulful acts, who else are you seeing?

The empowerment sessions have always been one of my favorite things about the festival, and I always love hearing civil rights activist Reverend Al Sharpton's inspirational messages. Legendary music artist Charlie Wilson will be giving a talk on Sunday morning, so I'll definitely catch that. I really love attending all of the talks, regardless of who's speaking — I always come away with so much knowledge and an ahhh spirit.

Your speaker bucket list: who's on it?

Dweleek Cheeks, minister and gospel music artist Dorinda Clark-Cole, life coach Tyaris Yemant, and educator Steve Perry.

Music and speakers give ESSENCE a great energy. What else sets it apart?

ESSENCE Fest has always been dedicated to celebrating black music, culture, and life. It's a beautiful coming together of people from around the world who are part of this culture and who love this music and culture. It's for everyone, but it's a celebration of us.

What will you be scooping out in your off time during the Fest?

Soul's Coffee is a great place to grab coffee, tea, and pastries during the daylight hours. The best bar for Southern food closest to the Superdome is the excellent Little Gumbo restaurant on South Rampart Street, with dishes like shrimp and grits and fried chicken with savory bread pudding. Lunch and dinner, too.

Everyone at ESSENCE loves to look 'n' or 'n' best, and there's a brand new "multi-texted" salon in the CEG that caters to our special hair needs — Remy's Express at the Hilton Riverside.

Catch DJ Soul Sister at her emceeing on Saturday nights of the Hi-Hi Lounge.

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By BRILEY BELL
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By KELLY HARRIS
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Monday, July 20, 2015

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