

## Hanoi



**INSIDER TIP**  
For the latest information on goings-on around town, refer to helpful websites like **Word Hanoi** ([www.wordhanoi.com](http://www.wordhanoi.com)) and the **New Hanoian** (<http://newhanoian.xemzi.com>).

**SHOP TALK**  
Mum's the word but **Quang Huy Jewellery** is where Hanoi natives trade in black market dollars and gold ingots. It sells fine gemstones and jewellery, too. 130 Hang Bac, Hoan Kiem, tel: +84 (0)4 3826 7117

**JAVA JOLT**  
**Le Bon Café** boasts an outdoor garden and a huge indoor space with sound system and stage. It's the go-to spot for pastries, cakes and coffee and you can also enjoy cocktails and wine here. 1 Pham Ngu Lao, Hoan Kiem, tel: +84 (0)4 3933 5811

**CHEAP EATS**  
**Wabi Sabi** offers dozens of full-meal sets to choose from its Japanese-fare menu, for as little as US\$6/S\$8/A\$7, along with a range of pricier sushi and Kobe beef dishes. 15 To Hien Thanh, Hoan Kiem, tel: +84 (0)4 3978 0186, [www.wabisabi.com.vn](http://www.wabisabi.com.vn)

**TOP TABLES**  
Small, intimate eatery **La** ("leaf" in Vietnamese) is always crowded. There's a good reason:

its seasonal continental menu of well-prepared Vietnamese dishes made with locally sourced ingredients. A dozen well-selected wines by the glass helps ensure that you won't make a meal-crushing error. 25 Ly Quoc Su, tel: +84 (0)4 3928 8933 ☹☹☹

**AT YOUR LEISURE**  
Rent a two-wheeled vehicle at **Vietnam Motorcycle Adventures** and venture through the countryside for days or weeks with a savvy local guide. Dreams are made of this. 36 Nguyen Huu Huan, tel: +84 (0)4 3904 5049, [www.offroadvietnam.com](http://www.offroadvietnam.com)

**LATE & LIVELY**  
**Tadioto** is an arty, underground café and bar that stages exhibitions. A popular venue with expats. Come for the art and stay for the reasonably priced drinks. 113 Trieu Viet Vuong, Hai Ba Trung, tel: +84 (0)4 2218 7200, [www.tadioto.com](http://www.tadioto.com)

**OVERNIGHT**  
Located in the heart of the Old Quarter, the **Hanoi Boutique Hotel** boasts spacious and immaculate rooms with flat-screen TVs and free wi-fi and a supremely service-oriented staff. 28 Bat Su St, Hoan Kiem, tel: +84 (0)4 3923 3609, [www.hanoiboutiquehotel.com](http://www.hanoiboutiquehotel.com) ☹☹

## Ho Chi Minh City



**INSIDER TIP**  
Despite the warnings you may have read about avoiding ice in Vietnam, most of it is factory-made and safe. Look for **round tubular shaped ice**, and avoid the risky chipped variety.

**SHOP TALK**  
**Valenciani** is the go-to spot for Vietnamese designed contemporary fashion. Cute cocktail frocks come in a rainbow of colours, with most selling for roughly S\$135/A\$110. Saigon Centre, 1F/12, 65 Le Loi, District 1, tel: +84 (0)8 3821 2788

**JAVA JOLT**  
Classy **L'Usine** has opened its La Cafeteria De L'Usine. This open-concept eatery offers delicious sandwiches and desserts. The pork roll is not to be missed. Level 1, 151 Dong Khoi, District 1, tel: +84 (0)8 6674 9565, [www.lusinespace.com](http://www.lusinespace.com)

**CHEAP EATS**  
Local ice-cream brand **Fanny** sells affordable sweet treats, with flavours ranging from salted caramel to young rice. Indulge in their weekly all-you-can-eat ice-cream buffet for about S\$7/A\$6. 29-31 Ton That Thiep, District 1, tel: +84 (0)8 3821 1633, [www.fanny.com.vn](http://www.fanny.com.vn)

**TOP TABLES**  
An Italian trattoria in the heart of Saigon? Yes, it's tucked behind the **Intercontinental**. This is the place for authentic thin-crust pizzas, paninis and more, all at reasonable prices considering the upscale surrounds. Basilico, Cnr of Nguyen Du & Le Van Huu, District 1, tel: +84 (0)8 3520 9099 ☹☹

**AT YOUR LEISURE**  
At **Vietnam Quilts**, your purchase of a bespoke quilt helps support disadvantaged communities who work for this charity organisation. 64 Ngo Duc Ke, District 1, tel: +84 (0)8 3914 2119, [www.mekong-quilts.org](http://www.mekong-quilts.org)

**LATE & LIVELY**  
One of Saigon's sleekest spots, **Xu Restaurant Lounge** is the place to pose with the beautiful people. Innovative cocktails are the specialty and for the peckish there's an eight-course tasting menu. 75 Hai Ba Trung, District 1, tel: +84 (0)8 3824 8468

**OVERNIGHT**  
The **Star Hotel** recently underwent a management change, with the customer service level improving. This three-star property is close to the city centre and offers excellent value. 24 Thi Sach, District 1, tel: +84 (0)8 3823 3999 ☹☹

Something Irish is happening here... can you smell it?



Fresh Ales & Chilled Beer... can you taste it?



Classy Ambience & Stylish Interior... can you see it?



Located at the Heart of the City... can you find it?  
51 Bras Basah Road  
#01-02A Plaza by the Park  
Singapore 189554

New Outlet  
141 Market Street  
#01-02 International  
Factors Building