



Spring break revelry, without the sunburn

Six city watering holes with a tropical feel

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In the spring break of your dreams, you're wearing a swimsuit, tanning underneath the hot sun and sipping a margarita on a white-sand beach.

In the spring break of your reality, you're wearing work clothes, basking in the glow of fluorescent lights and drinking coffee in a cubicle.

Since you're stuck in the city, head to one of these tropical-themed spots to take the edge off of the 9-to-5 grind.

The Zombie Hut
273 Smith St., btwn Degraw and Sackett sts., Carroll Gardens, 718-875-3433

Drink out of a fish-bowl, play board games and snack on an endless supply of goldfish crackers at this neighborhood bar. If that doesn't sound quite as fiery as one of your Caribbean fantasies, try a flaming, volcano-style drink or shot.

Cabana Bar
648 President St., at Fifth Ave., Park Slope, 718-399-2161

The owners of this bar and its neighboring restaurant, **Playa**, want President Street and Fifth Avenue to be transformed into a



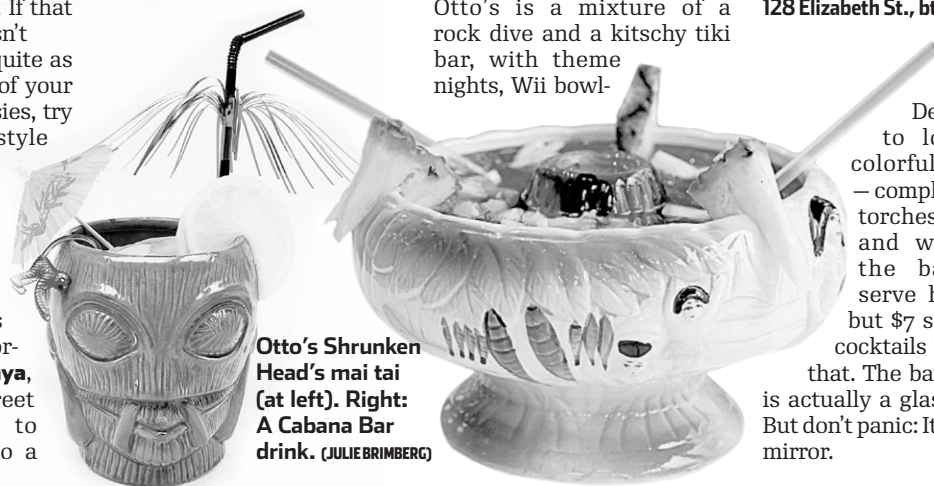
Park Slope's Cabana Bar has a Latin-American resort feel, and serves drinks and a full menu. (JULIE BRIMBERG)

Latin-American resort. Playa offers delicious seafood, while Cabana is designed to resemble a bar on the beach. For a little extra heat, try the bonfire bowl (\$16), a giant

drink meant for sharing that is served flaming.

Otto's Shrunken Head
538 E. 14th St., btwn aves. A and B, 212-228-2240

Otto's is a mixture of a rock dive and a kitschy tiki bar, with theme nights, Wii bowl-



Otto's Shrunken Head's mai tai (at left). Right: A Cabana Bar drink. (JULIE BRIMBERG)

ing, live music and DJ-spun tunes. Flowers, bamboo and thatching provide the perfect backdrop for trying an island-themed libations (\$10).

Bembe
81 S. Sixth St., at Berry St., Williamsburg, 718-387-5389

The owners of this Afro-Caribbean bar and club were inspired by trips to Haiti, Puerto Rico and Brazil. Every night Bembe features different music: samba, salsa, merengue, African, reggae and calypso. Sip capetas (cahacha, honey, cinnamon, guarana powder and condensed milk), mojitos and caipirinhas.

S.O.B.'s
204 Varick St., btwn Houston and King sts. 212-243-4940

S.O.B.'s stands for Sounds of Brazil, but this bar and live music venue also celebrates the best of today's reggae, salsa and samba music. You can practically feel the Caribbean breeze: A jumbo TV broadcasts a tropical scene, palm trees and all, around the clock. Drinks range from \$6 to \$12, and the cover charge is usually around \$20, but varies.

Tropical 128
128 Elizabeth St., btwn Broome and Grand sts., 212-925-8219

Decorated to look like a colorful rainforest — complete with tiki torches, fake trees and waterfalls — the bar doesn't serve hard liquor, but \$7 sake tropical cocktails make up for that. The bathroom wall is actually a glass fish tank. But don't panic: It's a two-way mirror.

WEEKEND PICK

Brouwerij Lane opening party

Saturday, 1 to 8 p.m., at Brouwerij Lane, 78 Greenpoint Ave., at Franklin Ave., Greenpoint; FREE Beer paradise Brouwerij Lane (which is Dutch for Brewery Lane) celebrates its grand opening with free tastings and food all day.



HAPPY HOURS: PARK SLOPE

Tamari
201 Fifth Ave., btwn Berkeley Pl. and Union St., 718-230-5636
Tuesday to Sunday, noon to 8 p.m.: two-for-one sake.

Old Carriage Inn
312 Seventh Ave., at Eighth St., 718-788-7747
Monday to Friday, 4 to 7

p.m.: \$3.50 beer bottles, \$4 drafts.

Elora's Restaurant
272 Prospect Park W. at 17th St., 718-788-6190
Monday to Friday, 4 to 6 p.m.: \$4 margaritas and Skyy vodka drinks.

Cherry Tree
65 Fourth Ave., at Ber-

gen St., 718-399-1353
Monday to Friday, 1 p.m. to close: \$3 Bud Light bottles, \$4 margaritas and apple-tinis, \$5 imported beers.

Melt
440 Bergen St., btwn Fifth and Flatbush aves., 718-230-5925
Monday to Friday, 5 to 7 p.m.: \$4 draft beer, \$5 house liquor.