

>> 14) congregate at Larry Nicola's stylish earth-green hang, where everyone sneaks a peek at everyone else. Tuesdays through Saturdays 5-7 p.m., and Mondays 5 p.m. until close, you can save big bucks with the \$7 martini of the day. The entire appetizer menu is also at your mercy with \$7 selections (regularly \$9-\$14) of artisanal-cheese plates, marinated skirt steak, vodka-cured salmon and Nic's fat, famous baked oysters. But Monday is Nic's Happy Hour Day, when all night long you can get \$7 appetizers and a \$7 martini special, as well as entrance to the Vodbox, a vodka-tasting freezer set at an ideal tasting temp of 28 degrees. There, while freezing your you-know-whats-off, you can sample two flights for \$7 (regularly \$21). 453 N. Canon Drive, Beverly Hills. (310) 550-5707, nicsbeverlyhills.com.

BottleRock

The best thing about this incredibly well-stocked wine bar (with more than 800 unique varieties) is that the staffers will open any bottle — no matter what the price — if you've already purchased two glasses. The next best thing is the weekday happy hour, 4-7 p.m., when select drafts like Erdinger Hefeweizen, Fat Tire, Craftsman 1903 lager and a rotating IPA are \$4 each (regularly \$7-\$9), select glasses of wine are \$4, and there are hefty discounts on artisanal-cheese plates and choice charcuterie. It's for people who care about what they eat and drink. 3847 Main St., Culver City. (310) 836-9463. For other locations, visit bottlerock.net.

Gyenari

Secret: BottleRock employees aren't supposed to admit this, but during off-hours Culver City restaurant workers get together for a "pub crawl," usually starting at BottleRock, ending at the next restaurant on this list, and sandwiching in this mandatory stop, which rates tops with them for food (their own restaurant notwithstanding). Deals take place 3-7:30 p.m. daily with \$3 wells and house wines (usually \$8), dollar-off Blue Moon, Fat Tire, seasonal Sam Adams and Sapporo, and \$2 Hite Korean beer (all regularly \$6). Fave cocktails are the \$7 cucumber gingerita and Asian pear martinis (both regularly \$9). But



dig into fabulous Korean appetizers like \$4 dumplings, \$6 lettuce wraps (both regularly \$9), \$5 Seoul sliders (regularly \$8) and curry crab cakes.

Don't miss the taco trio, composed of spicy pork, flower chicken and *bulgogi* (marinated thinly sliced rib eye) for \$6 (regularly \$9). The expansive space, with gray leather-upholstered chairs and a sleek L-shaped bar, makes it even easier to enjoy. 9540 Washington Blvd., Culver City. (310) 838-3131, gyenari.com.

Kay 'n Dave's

When the BottleRock crew wind down, they do it at this Mexican cantina, where every day, 4-7 p.m., mini tacos are \$1 and house margaritas, well drinks, Tecate on draft and house-made sangrias are \$3. One BR bartender admits: "I have a \$3 shot of Casadores tequila, a few tacos, a \$2 Coronitas and it's 10 bucks."

The corn tortillas are homemade, and the spinach and chicken mole quesadillas, at \$3 apiece, are hefty and primo. Bonus: The sound of the two flat screens is turned off. "This is not a sports bar," says Jintana, charming cantina host and Dave's wife (Kay is long-gone). The lime juice is fresh-squeezed and that, she says, "makes all the difference." 9341 Culver Blvd., Culver City. (310) 558-8100. For other locations, visit kayndaves.com.

Napa Valley Grille

Even though it's a block from the UCLA campus, you'll find nary a Bruin — unless it's a seasoned alumnus — indulging in the premium Napa wines and gourmet appetizers at this grand bar. But you will find patrons of the Hammer, which is kitty-corner, who need to cool their well-heeled heels Mondays through Saturdays, 3-7 p.m., and again 9 p.m.-midnight, as well as Sundays 3-9 p.m. Expect premium brands like Tunnel of Elms Chardonnay and Coastal Winery's pinot noir for \$6, and \$4 sangrias, Heineken, Corona

Pilsner, Amstel Light and Bud Light, \$5 well cocktails and the special \$7 Napa Breeze with California sparkling wine, Malibu rum, pineapple rum and grenadine. Culinary delights include \$2.50 for a Baja fish taco; \$4 for a Kobe corn dog, \$5 for a Napa chopped salad. 1100 Glendon Ave., Westwood. (310) 824-3322, napavalleygrille.com.

Rocco's Tavern

CBS-Radnor employees bypass the bar across the street and head a block west to this slap-happy, homespun hangout, which offers 2-for-1 drinks daily, 3-7 p.m. You'll find 20 rustic beers on tap, like Arrogant Bastard, Drifter Pale Ale and Peroni. The food's not discounted, but the classic homemade Italian dishes will keep you from missing Mama too much. Check the site for Industry Nights, when all drinks are half-off until close. The patio buzzes on weekend afternoons, so if you'd like some company, this is the place. 12514 Ventura Blvd., Studio City. (818) 985-9876, roccostavernla.com.

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