

A City of Neighbourhoods

Toronto is known for the vibrancy, diversity and charm of its many distinct neighbourhoods. We've chosen a few worth spending some time to explore.

by ANNA CIPOLLONE and CHRIS METLER



• WHERE TO CATCH TIFF FILMS

1. TIFF Bell Lightbox
2. Princess of Wales Theatre
3. Scotiabank Theatre
4. Roy Thomson Hall
5. Elgin & Winter Garden Theatre Centre
6. Ryerson Theatre
7. Jackman Hall at the Art Gallery of Ontario



LITTLE PEBBLES



COCKTAIL EMPORIUM



HOAME



MAKE LEMONADE



SORELLE AND CO.



ALOBAR



TE ARO



HOTEL DELILAH

A CITY OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

KING + QUEEN WEST

In the heart of it all, King and Queen embody the all-day energy that's necessary to keep up with the festival. Here are the trendiest spots to drink, dine, dress up and recoup from morning to night.

BY ANNA CIPOLLONE



BOTANICAL HEALING

Planta Queen is the newest addition to chef David Lee's plant-based restaurant revolution. In celebration of food that echoes a commitment to environmental sustainability, Planta continues to redefine animal-free cuisine with chef Lee's upscale vegan dishes. In what was once the home of Nota Bene, Planta Queen's unparalleled menu spreads its wings with meat-free and dairy-free dishes—this time with an Asian twist. Featuring shareable plates to be enjoyed amid the soft ambience of lanterns and indoor Japanese maples, the restaurant doesn't cater to vegans per se. Instead, its hopes are hung on carnivores embracing more plant-based foods.

ON TARGET

Make Lemonade is Toronto's women-only workspace in prime proximity to all the moving and shaking of the festival. It's a community co-working studio offering everything from day passes for those on a deadline to permanent desk space and meeting rooms for up-and-coming entrepreneurs. Boasting a driven community of ambitious members who draw energy from collaboration, this expansive space is both inspiring and practical for today's out-of-office employees.



PLANTA QUEEN PHOTO BY STEVEN LEE. MAKE LEMONADE PHOTO BY AMBER ELLIS. MASCOT PHOTO BY ASHLEY KLASSEN



CAFE CULTURE

Housed in a beautiful corner brownstone on Dovercourt, the third location of **the Good Neighbour** coffee shop is ideal for maintaining a steady daytime caffeine buzz. A key partnership with nearby Flying Books means a small library is on hand for those in search of fine reading material that comes with the owner's handwritten Coles Notes. The patio is shady and equipped with free Wi-Fi for those in need of a focused work session, and all of the custom roasts by Detour are available for purchase. High ceilings, sprawling hardwood flooring and brass accents make this fine little cafe a definite must.

EVENING AT THE OPERA

For an evening of elegance beyond the silver screen, **the Four Seasons Centre** remains a sight for sore eyes—the first theatre in Canada with acoustics built specifically for opera and ballet. Puccini's masterpiece **Turandot** opens September 28 and runs until October 27, reimagined by renowned director Robert Wilson for the Canadian Opera Company. The story explores the beautiful yet cruel Princess Turandot, whose gruesome game of riddles lands most of her suitors on the executioner's chopping block—until the right one can step forward with a riddle of his own.



NATURAL WINE BAR

The sister spot to Canis, **Apres Wine Bar** raises a glass to natural vino. In a crisp, contemporary space with terrazzo floors, banquette seating and a summer patio, sommelier Adam Ashukian is intent on selecting organic wines produced through ethical farming practices. The basis for the entire experience is rooted in this dedication to sustainability—and chef Jeff Kang has crafted a menu of small plates intended to be paired with wine. Try the Fogo Island snow crab alongside a variety of refreshing imports from Austria, South Africa and Australia.

HOME COMFORTS

Escape the frenetic energy of the crowds to recharge at **Hoame** meditation studio—a 5,000-square-foot wellness centre designed to feel like home and focused on mindful movement and guided meditation. "Mi casa es su casa" takes on new meaning here, whether you choose a light room for meditation, an uplifting space with a living green wall and a skylight for sun basking or the dark room, a cozy restorative space to ground you beneath twinkly lights. Book time in the infrared sauna to soothe stress and improve circulation, or immerse yourself in healing trace minerals in the Himalayan pink crystal salt cave.



DRINKS AL FRESCO

The King West brew bar **Mascot Brewery Beer Garden** boasts the perfect pints for patio season—and it just opened its doors this summer. Here, 21 craft brews and cocktails are on tap while an expansive beer garden beckons drinkers outside. A sophisticated space with an upbeat vibe, the new Mascot is central to all things TIFF.

KING + QUEEN WEST INSPIRED

Revisit your youth with crop tops, jumpsuits and statement jewels that scream casual-meets-chic.

1. LOUIS VUITTON DRESS (\$4,600), 2. RACHEL ZOE JUMPSUIT (\$655), 3. GUCCI BAG (\$1,100), 4. BULGARI RING (\$7,400), 5. MICHAEL KORS BOOTS (\$250), 6. PRADA PERFUME (\$125), 7. MARC CAIN TOP (\$210), 8. LONGCHAMP TOP (\$1,760)



A CITY OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

KENSINGTON MARKET

A charming bohemian niche that still marches to the beat of its own drum, Kensington's global flavours and eclectic mix of restaurants, eateries and sweet shops make it a tasty layover as you hop from here to there during the festival.

BY ANNA CIPOLLONE



PARTY INSPO

You'll find everything for the cocktail aficionado inside **Cocktail Emporium**, a little pink retro number on Kensington Avenue. With vibrant neon signage, the space is a gallery with rotating displays of stunning vintage glassware, Tiki bar accessories, an impressive selection of bitters and all sorts of attractive bar paraphernalia that doubles as an homage to elegant 1960s decor. From rose gold cocktail shakers and other bar tools like jiggers and muddlers alongside shelves of bitters for every occasion, find inspo for what to serve at your next poppin' pre-party.

HIDDEN HAVEN

Cold Tea's newest expansion is **Juanmoto**, an Asian/South American menu from chef Leemo Han, adding to his empire of Hanmoto, Seoul Shakers, Pinky's Ca Phe and Oddseoul. Tucked away in the Kensington Mall with a red light signalling it's open for business, the space remains tricky to find, just like the after-hours bars of yesteryear. Sharing snacks like tofu guacamole and ceviche sit side-by-side with sandwiches like the Sloppy José. Local brews from Blood Brothers and Halo are featured as well as Cold Tea's standard cocktail selection. Rows upon rows of lucky cats wave their paws to welcome guests, and a secluded back patio is the sweetest summer safe haven anyone could ask for.



BERLIN COMFORT FOOD

The unassuming **Otto's Berlin Döner** focuses on savoury German street eats—the döner and currywurst to be exact. The döner sandwich was inspired by a Turkish kabob; in this version, veal, lamb, chicken, halloumi or veggie fillings are served inside panini flatbread with cabbage, tomatoes, onions and fries. This German comfort food is best enjoyed in a lively, casual setting like Otto's with a refreshing German brew, cider or glass of wine for a temporary escape to late-night Berlin.



PARIS MEETS JAPAN

A tiny gem serving French desserts made from Japanese-inspired ingredients, **Little Pebbles Cafe** specializes in cannelé—a pastry that originated in the Bordeaux region. Using carefully chosen ingredients, including ceremonial-grade matcha and Japanese johakuto sugar, they're baked in Japanese copper molds with local Ontario beeswax to create that signature sheen and crackling outer crust. The cannelés here are made in house in a range of delicate flavours like vanilla rhum and earl grey.

COLDTEA, BONAFIDE, OTTO'S BERLIN DÖNER & KOI KOI SAKE BAR PHOTOS BY PHOENIX TEE; DAAN GO PHOTO COURTESY OF DAAN GO



TOO CUTE TO EAT?

The delightful **Daan Go bakery**, from pastry chef (and former *MasterChef Canada* contestant) Christopher Siu, is home to his signature kawaii-cute macarons and playful French desserts. Siu's darling little treats are almost too adorable to eat, but the delicate craftsmanship is a joy to indulge in. A collection of popular Japanese character macarons like Totoro, Pikachu and Hello Kitty are always in the shop, or opt for the playful Tira-Meow-Su, an edible chocolate cup topped with a marshmallow cat and cold brewed espresso syrup. The Zen Cake is a beautiful balance of Uji matcha sourced from Kyoto, adzuki bean jam and black sesame chiffon.



MEDITERRANEAN TAPAS

The tapas and cocktail bar **Bonafide** embodies a distinctly European style—the kind of place you can casually drop by the patio or stay late into the evening. Chef Giancarlo Carnevale prepares Mediterranean-inspired dishes: you'll find mussels, ceviche, calamari and shrimp fritti and garlic bread on the seafood board, while the chicken lollipop fried drumettes are served with a smoked jalapeno mayo. The interior artwork was created for the space by Rachel Sardella. Try an iced frappé, or something from the cocktail bar like the rosé sangria or aperitivo sour—and if you're in the mood for oysters, buck-a-shuck is on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5 to 10 p.m.

SEASONAL SAKES

Koi Koi Sake Bar is an intimate Japanese sake bar carrying an impressive selection of whiskey, beer, cocktails and, of course, rice wine. Specializing in rare sake imported from Japan, it's the first of its kind in Toronto. Owners Linda Dang and Nancy Young found inspiration for the restaurant's interiors in Hanafuda cards, or "flower cards," and translated the distinct sakura theme to the decor. There are 16 types of sake on the menu, or opt for a seasonal sake in 100 ml, 300 ml or 700 ml servings. The Onna Yokai is a pale pink cocktail of rose syrup, vodka, lime juice and shochu, while the Kyoto is a fine mix of tequila, Triple Sec, wasabi, lemon juice and citron syrup.

KENSINGTON MARKET INSPIRED

Embrace your inner flower child with vintage-inspired prints, embellished ruffles and '70s silhouettes.

1. LONGCHAMP DRESS (\$605),
2. HERMÈS SCARF (\$270),
3. VAN CLEEF & ARPELS BRACELET (\$12,600),
4. RACHEL ZOE DRESS (\$788),
5. HUGO BOSS BLOUSE (\$248),
6. BROWNS SHOES (\$168),
7. RALPH LAUREN SHIRT (\$315),
8. CHLOE SUNGLASSES (\$695),
9. GUCCI BAG (\$3,055),
10. BOTTEGA VENETA NECKLACE (\$655)

