

ORIGINAL NIGHTS OUT:

SAN FRANCISCO

Hiring islands, bridal flash mobbing and garlic ice cream – FHM & The Smirnoff Co. hit the streets of San Francisco

If you're going to San Francisco, be prepared for a city currently experiencing what its hippy forefathers would describe as an abundance of "good vibes, maan". The HQ for much flower-fuelled optimism four decades ago is now overrun by a swarm of original nights out that only a city built on a geographical joke (tourists scream on the rollercoaster tramlines) could produce. There's secretive speakeasies, jellyfish-themed bars and a place where kaftan-clad dudes rollerskate around with Camcorders. And FHM and Smirnoff Co. visited to witness its unique Brighton-but-nicer ambience for ourselves...



EAT GARLIC ICE CREAM

The Stinking Rose is a garlic-themed eatery where every dish on the menu – whether it's the desserts, cocktails or the *Chateau de Garlic* wine (which the owners actively discourage customers from drinking) – includes the pungent bulb as an ingredient. Favoured by Bono and Hugh Hefner, the fetid breaths of customers are so foul, taxi drivers refuse to pick them up afterwards. www.thestinkingrose.com



THE CACOPHONY SOCIETY

The inspiration for Project Mayhem in *Fight Club*, prankers' network the Cacophony Society holds events such as sewer walks and a day every November where they only walk backwards. During FHM's visit, they staged Brides of March where 150-odd people (anyone can join in) attired in thrift shop bridal attire traipsed through the city, muscling their way in on real weddings. sf.cacophony.org

RENT AN ISLAND FOR A PARTY

A prisoner mug's throw away from Alcatraz, Forbes Island sits opposite the honking sealions of Fisherman's Wharf. Designed by eccentric seadog millionaire Forbes Kiddoo (who'll pick you up on the ferry) it boasts its own lighthouse, dancefloors and underwater restaurant (years before Dubai). Yours to hire for only £1,700 food/bar spend a night. www.forbesisland.com



THE JELLYFISH SALOON

Scoffing seafood is one of the top things to do in San Francisco and the best place to do it is Farallon. Like walking into a hallucinatory underwater world, the restaurant features Man o' War chandeliers and sea urchin bar stools in its Jelly Bar while the likes of Metallica and Tony Bennett can be seen pigging out on huge crabs and lobster. www.farallonrestaurant.com



SLIDE SPEAKEASY

Back in 1920s San Francisco, 430 Mason Street was where Prohibition-flouting drinkers rendezvoused after pushing a secret wall and flinging themselves down a slide that took them to an illicit drinking den. Now, the address hosts Slide. Accessible via a (you guessed it) slide, you end up in a below-street-level bar where the DJ decks are hidden in a grand piano. www.slidesf.com



GO CLUBBING IN AN ART GALLERY

While having a boogie surrounded by artwork might be a recipe for disaster in say, Sutton Coldfield, in San Francisco it works. Take Saturday's Cyphertown event at art gallery-cum-club 111 Minna. While a hip hop duo trill away on stage, 'live painters' brushstroke on canvas next to them, in time to the music. Elsewhere, punters engage in a slow motion dance that's a bizarre hybrid of zero BPM *caiprohena* and *Thriller*. www.111minnagallery.com



WIN

A TRIP TO CALIFORNIA!

You'll probably be ejected by US immigration if you touched down at San Francisco Airport with flowers in your hair, but it's one city where you'll definitely want to leave your heart. The Smirnoff Co. is generously offering one lucky reader (plus a friend) a five night trip there, staying in the five-star Campton Palace Hotel, with a spine-chilling night trip to Alcatraz plus dinner at hip eatery Aqua thrown in. Simply head to www.fhm.com/smirnoff before May 31 to enter.



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SMIRNOFF ORIGINAL COCKTAIL

The Garlic-tini, Stinking Rose, San Francisco (units: 1.8ml)

INGREDIENTS:

- 35 ml Smirnoff Red vodka
- 12 ml dry Vermouth
- Fresh crushed garlic (or garlic paste)
- Olives

1. Mix the Smirnoff vodka and Vermouth with some ice in a cocktail shaker.
 2. Add a little crushed garlic to taste.
 3. Pour into a Martini glass and garnish with an olive and two garlic cloves on a cocktail stick.
- www.thestinkingrose.com



SMIRNOFF 10 UK REP

The Smirnoff 10 global cavalcade has reached China. Here's FHM's proxy Steph Prentice with her three most original nights out...

Shelter, Shanghai: Renovated bomb shelter that's only accessible through six metres of underground tunnels. Has rowdy female MCs and Chinese hip hop battles.

Logo, Shanghai: Watch open mic nights from wobbly bar stools in this rouge bar.

Muse, Shanghai: Home to the trendy 'Aristopunk' movement, it puts on regular 'I Love Mao' and 'Chinese Eighties' nights.

NEXT MONTH: PARIS
One-room hotels, non-liquid cocktails and much more as le Smirnoff Co. visits Paris.