



Happy Hour in Montreal

Five top spots for sipping

Happy hour sounds so cruise-ship, but, in Montreal, it's just part of the bon vivant lifestyle. The city's "5 à 7" is less about cheap drinks and more about starting the night out right. So here are five local favourites where you can do just that.



Bar Furco

Is there ever *not* a lineup at this downtown bar tucked into the old fur district? Even at 5:15 on a weekday, a bouncer and velvet-

roped entrance await. Luckily, the line moves swiftly. Inside, the space is all slim, angular bars and mirrors surrounding the after-work creative crowd. A glass of *chenin blanc* is free-poured wherever you find a perch; fries with mayo are the perfect accompaniment. (barfurco.com)



Dieu du Ciel!

"Sold out" may be written next to some of the drinks on the chalkboard list at this brew pub in the Mile End district, but does it really matter

when a cool glass of vanilla-hinted Aphrodisiaque black ale is coming your way? The craft pints at Dieu du Ciel change seasonally, with hints of maple syrup in the spring and smoky lagers in the fall. Expect to find a laid-back, largely university-aged crowd at this popular spot. (dieuduciel.com)



Buvette chez Simone

When you enter this Mile End haunt you'll feel immediately at home, thanks

to its warm, buzzy atmosphere, golden curved bar and a wine list on the wall that goes on and on. While you save a buck on beer during Buvette's "4 à 7" (4? Ahh, Montreal), arriving early also puts you in a good position (stools don't free up quickly) when you're ready for the kitchen's rotisserie chicken, served grilled atop a hill of rich veggies. (buvettechezsimone.com)



Le Vin Papillon

A little sister to Joe Beef (the all-star restaurant a few doors down), this year-old wine bar in the

Little Burgundy district need not fret about sibling rivalry. The scene is set before your first sip of wine and dip of roasted cauliflower: a slender space of white brick, wide-plank flooring and Parisian seating face a bar lined with crusty bread, a selection of nuts and French cheese. It's enough to make you want to linger as the night ticks on. (vinpapillon.com)



Philémon Bar

There are two unofficial seatings at this Old Montréal scenester stalwart: the relaxed

5 à 7, where workmates grab a stiff cocktail or much-needed glass of wine, and the wee-hours club scene, where shooters and packed-room nightclub noise take over. The industrial space is expansive and low-lit; large windows face the area's cobblestone streets, but most patrons aren't here for the exterior view. (philemonbar.com) —Karan Smith