

Inside the Most Horrific  
Terror Attack Ever  
BY C.J. CHIVERS

# Esquire

MAN AT HIS BEST

JUNE 2006

CONFESSIONS OF  
**The Most  
Normal  
Guy in  
Hollywood**

BY TOM HANKS

▲ **THE  
LONG, SLOW  
REVEAL  
OF THE  
SEXIEST  
WOMAN  
ALIVE  
BEGINS  
NOW**  
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**The Best  
Bars  
in America**

The Official Guide to  
Enjoying Our Most  
Precious Natural  
Resource

\$3.50 U.S.  
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## America's Best Bars

garden with rows of picnic tables and a line of portable toilets so you don't have to wait. A fence keeps the wind out, and a eucalyptus tree provides the shade. And every night the tamale lady comes with her cooler, selling the best tamales you will ever have.

But there's something at Zeitgeist that goes beyond the great food and the great beer garden. The bar seems angry. The bumper stickers are angry. But Zeitgeist is not an angry place. In fact, it is unmistakably friendly and open, even happy. At Zeitgeist, nobody's a freak, not even the guy in the khakis and polo shirt. (199 Valencia Street; 415-255-7505)

—STEPHEN ELLIOTT

### Musso & Frank Grill

HOLLYWOOD



**YOU'RE HAVING:** A martini before dinner. (Try the sand dabs.)

The bar, jammed to the edge of the dark and dowdy dining room, is neither big nor elaborate. But it can turn out a martini that Bogart would've judged worthy of the name. That counts for a lot in this world. (6667 Hollywood Boulevard; 323-467-7788)

### The Polo Lounge

BEVERLY HILLS



**YOU'RE HAVING:** Scotch, one rock.

The tenders of this small bar will do everything they can to make exactly what you ask for,

even if it happens to be a regrettable choice. (9641 Sunset Boulevard, in the Beverly Hills Hotel; 310-887-2777)

### La Gitana

ARIVACA, ARIZONA



**YOU'RE HAVING:** A beer and a shot, Sunday afternoon.

La Gitana has bloodstains on the floor, bullet holes in the walls, and the occasional free dental extraction on the pool table from a pliers-wielding biker. Seriously. (17201 West Fifth Street; 520-398-0810)

### Double Down Saloon

LAS VEGAS



**YOU'RE NOT HAVING:** Ass Juice.

Once, at the Double Down, I saw a beautiful woman drop her jeans and shoot pool in red panties, but that's not what makes this a great bar—or at least it's not the only thing.

What makes the Double Down great is this: While it's in Vegas, it's not of Vegas—except in a few ways that matter. The paradox of Las Vegas is that all your cavorting takes place in the most meticulously calculated, carefully monitored environment known to man. Not at the Double Down. This joint is primordial, and yet a kind of Vegas



### Beach Ball

NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA



**YOU'RE HAVING:** A White Russian for breakfast.

h, Lord, the Beach Ball. It's easy for a bar to be great in New York or New Orleans, where there are plenty of buildings old enough to have a good patina on them. In Orange County, not so easy. The Beach Ball makes the list because it opens at 6:00 A.M., and there's a line. And it's on the beach, but there's no patio. And because this outpost of "normalcy" is in Orange County, where plastic surgery is performed on pets. And because the late Spencer Rush, my father-in-law, used to drink here. An Orange County native, and an ornery one, he looked like Bruce Dern and taught history to the pretty little heads at Marina High. If Spence liked it and it liked Spence, it's a great bar. (2116 West Oceanfront; 949-675-8041)

—D.W.



The Best

**Best men's room:** P.J. Clarke's in New York, for its blocky, overwhelmingly masculine ceramic urinals that you