

## Exploring, Eating HNL Like A Local



The repeat rate of Kiwi travellers visiting Hawaii continues to climb, and more clients are said to now be looking for new experiences.

For those looking for something different, and keen to experience Honolulu like a local, direct them to downtown Chinatown's colourful and evolving restaurant scene.

From roots as an historic immigrant gateway the precinct has moved to become a hip arts district and dining and nightlife hub.

Among the top spots to recommend are the Livestock Tavern, opened by the owners of the iconic Lucky Belly eatery (livestocktavern.com).

The tavern focuses on simple comfort food in a relaxed atmosphere with handcrafted spirits, craft beers and classic cocktails.

For those looking for something earlier in the day the Scratch Kitchen and Bake Shop (scratch-hawaii.com)

has been opened by chef Brian Chan and sports an open kitchen offering breakfast and lunch options made entirely from scratch.

Clients after a little culture with their cocktails and cuisine should try Manifest, an art gallery, cafe and cocktail bar in one (pictured). It's also home to top mixologist Justin Park and recommended for an early evening cocktail or a night of dancing to the live music. See manifesthawaii.com

### ... Beer And Pizza

If beer and pizza are on the menu, suggest Bar 35 (bar35hawaii.com). It offers more than 200 beers from around the world, specialty cocktails, and pizzas, and is popular after work with the locals.

Or if clients are after a more classic Chinatown experience there's The Dragon Upstairs (thedragonupstairs.com) which offers jazz and classic cocktails. It is hidden up the stairs at the top of the dragon's tail on the wall.

For more details on Oahu's food scene, see visit-oahu.com

### HA Most Punctual

Hawaiian Airlines was the most punctual carrier in the USA in May and had the fewest flight cancellations, the airline says. Its flights arrived on schedule 90.9% of the time, and it cancelled just 0.1% or seven out of 6434 of its flights.

HA has also released its Jun traffic statistics, showing it carried 7.5% more passengers than Jun 2014. Demand was up 5.8% on capacity increases of 4.5%, with load factors averaging 84.2%.

### Mauna Kea Restrictions

Use of the road on Mauna Kea on Hawaii Island is being limited between the hours of 2200-0400 for the next 120 days, as protests continue against a giant telescope being built on the volcano. The new rule means access is restricted to anyone not travelling in a vehicle, and prohibits camping on the mountain within one mile of the summit road at all times.

### Halekulani Indulge Gala

Halekulani will host a culinary gala as well as a champagne and caviar event and three wine seminars as part of the upcoming Hawaii Food and Wine Festival. The Caviar and Champagne event is on 1700-1800 09 Sep, and will showcase Cristal, Dom, Krug and Salon champagnes paired with French Sturia Caviar, with tickets priced from USD500. The Indulge gala series is on 11 Sep, with cocktails from 1700 followed by dinner at 1800 featuring wines paired with caviar, foie gras and wagyu beef prepared by master chefs from the island. It's priced from USD1000pp. See hawaiiifoodandwinefestival.com

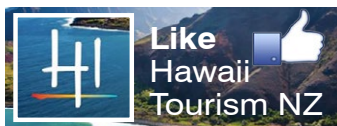
### New For HTA Board

Richard Fried Jr has been appointed the new chairperson of the Hawaii Tourism Authority board of directors. Fried has served on the board since 2012, and this will be his first term as chair



### New Pit-Stop When Driving Oahu's Circle Island Tour

Visitors who self-drive Oahu's Circle Island Tour are being encouraged to call in for a pit-stop at the Polynesian Cultural Centre's new Hukilau Marketplace. The area features around 40 shops with both retail and dining, as well as entertainment, and is free to enter. While the PCC tells the story of all of Polynesia, the marketplace is focused just on the nearby town of Laie, which is home to around 5000 people. All of the shops have some tie to the local community. The marketplace has free parking, free Wi-Fi, and is a perfect stop on the circle island drive, which doesn't offer many public restrooms, says a spokesperson for the centre. See hukilaumarketplace.com



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