

ADVERTISING SECTION **G**

Featuring New Urban Homes in the Seattle Downtown Core.

# DOWNTOWN LIVING

## Contemporary, urban blend

### Seattle condos mixing up new batch of lounges, coffeehouses

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**B**old with bravado. Subtle with smarts. Classic with sass. No matter your personal preference for coffee, cocktails or condominiums, downtown Seattle has a variety of buzz-worthy blends to tantalize your tastes.

And like the vogue lounges and casual coffeehouses that add diverse flavor to the city's vibrant social and business landscape, Seattle's emerging urban condominium choices are adding their own extra shots of innovation and style to the downtown scene.

From a private "wine cave" that pays homage to Italian grottos, to a Seattle-exclusive authentic juice-making machine for rum drinks, to award-winning espresso shops around nearly every corner, Seattle's condominiums are setting the bar high for beverage perks and pubs.

Condo dwellers from Belltown to Capitol Hill and Queen Anne to Midtown are discovering that meeting with co-workers and friends takes on a fresh new twist when favorite neighborhood watering holes are just minutes from their front door.

When clients secure successful business deals, attorneys chalk up courtroom victories, and sales teams high-five each other after hitting a goal, many of these achievements are celebrated with a toast. By thoughtfully locating near the city's finest coffeehouses and chic wine bars, Seattle's newest boutique and high-rise condominiums are brewing up new hot spots on the city's business map.

Just as important are occasions when friends meet outside the workplace to make the most of easy downtown connections.

"Whether it's during impromptu



Seattle's emerging urban condominium choices are adding their own extra shots of innovation and style to the downtown scene with vogue lounges and casual coffeehouses.

nightcaps at the lobby bar or daily caffeine rituals – making new friends is the promise of urban living," says Dean Jones, principal of Realogics, Inc., a Seattle-based real estate marketing company. "You never know who you'll bump into and that kind of social interaction is what city life is all about."

#### PERK IT UP

At Brix condominiums,

Capitol Hill neighbors will soon be meeting at Espresso Vivace when this quintessential coffeehouse moves into its 2,200-square-foot flagship Sidewalk Bar and Roasteria at the north end of Broadway next year. As the street-level anchor for Brix, Espresso Vivace will add some java jolt to the neighborhood – along with its prominent mural and renowned drink-topping coffee art patterns.

Espresso Vivace has also already added a new espresso bar to the Alley

24 complex on Yale Avenue North across from REI.

#### CHEERS

Condominium choices throughout Belltown and Midtown, meanwhile, put city dwellers within cab-ride or walking distance to their vintage of choice.

At The Tasting Room in Pike Place Market's Post Alley, patrons

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# Contemporary, urban blend ...

may enjoy this hybrid wine bar/wine shop – and take home a favorite bottle for the weekend. From Capitol Hill or Midtown, condo owners will find a hip purple punch while wine tasting above Pine Street in Pacific Place at Sixth Avenue Wine Seller.

Near Washington Mutual Tower and Benaroya Hall on Fourth Avenue, the relaxing Purple Café and Wine Bar welcomes guests with its two-story tower of wines and a list boasting 70 varietals offered by the glass for businesspeople and downtown dwellers alike.

## SWEET TREATS

In South Lake Union's 2200, adjacent to the Pan Pacific Hotel, meanwhile, friends are sweet on the natural sugar press in Marazul restaurant's new Rhum Bar – complete with roughly 40 rum varieties arranged behind a contemporary bar artisan-designed with three types of wood, copper and infused art glass. The bar's piece de resistance: its guarapó press, thought to be the city's only device to squeeze fresh juice from raw sugar cane for light cocktail and mocktail sweetening.

Cuban-favorite Mojitos, says Vulcan Real Estate marketing manager Alison Jeffries, never tasted as good.

For more subtle beverages, Koots Green Tea welcomes South Lake Union guests to try the choices loaded with health benefits from its Japanese selection of taste treats – including green-tea flavored ice cream.

"People see these as Seattle's new gathering spots," she says.

## ROOFTOP TO WINE CELLAR

Equally as appealing are the beverage-related features and amenities designed or built directly into many high-profile condominiums.

Plans for the AVA Hotel & Residences at Eighth and Pine streets includes catch-your-breath views



At ESCALA, an exclusive 25,000-square-foot private Club Cielo will debut with its own "wine cave" one floor below, which will offer a comfortable-climate, glass-enclosed tasting room with intimate seating for up to 20 guests.

from the 37th floor "Sky lounge," as well as a poolside lounge with beverages at the outdoor cabana designed for residents and their guests.

Meanwhile, at the base of ESCALA near Midtown's corner of Fourth and Virginia streets, the exclusive 25,000-square-foot private Club Cielo will debut with its own "wine cave" one floor below. Like an Italian grotto reserved for the finest vintages, the ESCALA wine cave will offer a comfortable-climate, glass-enclosed tasting room with intimate seating for up to 20 guests around an artisan-designed fir table – "all with a Northwest twist," according to John Midby of Lexus Companies, and ESCALA developer.

By creating an intimate wine cellar to host a tony cocktail party, says Midby, ESCALA invites condominium owners to "experience all the benefits and best

qualities of owning a big home, yet without having to maintain it. Our professionals take care of everything."

## BUILT-INS

Professional designers have also assured that high-end Miele built-in coffee systems, built-in Sub-Zero wine refrigerators and built-in icemakers separate from the refrigerators are part of each of the 36 boutique-style homes in the Four Seasons Hotel and Private Residences slated for First Avenue and Union Street.

"Our buyers tend to be very aware...and they know they are essentially living right in the hotel, where moments away they can call on a bartender or a personal chef if they're hosting a cocktail party on their personal terrace," says Seattle Hotel Group owners' representative/project manager Paul Zumwalt.

"For a host or hostess, this takes away any worry about the level of service because they know this brings the luxury level of service for which the Four Seasons has set the standard."

At Denny Way, near North Westlake Avenue, German cabinetmakers are using European-grain, oak-based woods to create custom kitchen designs that feature built-in wine racks at Enso. Each of the entertainment-ready service bars in the 135 homes planned at this South Lake Union condominium building will offer these innovative designs.

"It's fun access and an absolutely beautiful presentation for wine that maximizes space in the kitchen," says Jeffries.

Like its neighboring Rollin Street condominiums, Enso also offers optional in-kitchen beverage coolers.