# New Orleans LGBTQ+ bars gear up for Southern Decadence. Here are the best!



As New Orleans prepares for the Southern Decadence festival, a five-day celebration of LGBTQ+ culture, local bars are bracing for an influx of partygoers. The event, known for its vibrant atmosphere and inclusivity, runs through the Labour Day weekend and attracts thousands of visitors from all over the world. Various LGBTQ+ bars in the city are in the spotlight, each offering unique experiences to their patrons. Here are some of the best...

Located at 542 N Rampart St., **The Page** stands out as a laidback, Black-owned bar at the edge of the French Quarter. Bartenders Stanley Louis and Zeuss, both seasoned veterans of New Orleans' gay nightlife, pride themselves on their inclusive atmosphere. Zeuss notes, "We welcome everybody and don’t turn anyone away." The bar offers daily Happy Hour specials and regular Wednesday night drag shows, creating a relaxed yet lively environment.

**Crossing**, found at 439 Dauphine St., distinguishes itself with a steampunk theme and a strong sense of community, particularly among the trans population. Zeuss highlighted, "It’s one of the only bars geared towards the trans community," making it a valuable space in the local LGBTQ+ scene.

At 940 St. Louis St., **Corner Pocket** is renowned for its dancers, playfully referred to as “go-go boys” by some patrons. Zeuss describes it as his "thot bar," combining a lively vibe with events like bingo nights and Amateur Nights on Wednesdays. Despite its sometimes rowdy atmosphere, the bar remains a staple for those looking to enjoy a high-energy night out.

**Phoenix Bar**, situated at 941 Elysian Fields Ave., caters primarily to the leather and bear community. Open 24/7, the venue features an upstairs area known for its "dark-room" ambiance. "It definitely gives leather scene, silver fox, daddy," commented Zeuss. Moreover, Phoenix Bar is noted for not charging a cover and offering service discounts to fellow New Orleans bartenders, contributing to its reputation as a committed and inclusive part of the community.

Located at 901 Bourbon St., **Cafe Lafitte in Exile** holds the title of the oldest continuously-operating gay bar in the country. The bar hosts nightly events such as Underwear Pool Night, “trash disco,” and karaoke. Stanley Louis has high praise for their world-famous purple Voodoo Daiquiri from the neighbouring Lafitte’s Blacksmith Shop Bar. Despite the mix-up, he encourages visitors to try the boozy lavender-colored slushy, known for its potent kick.

Sitting at 740 Dauphine St., **Good Friends** offers a more subdued atmosphere for those seeking a casual night out. Zeuss describes it as having a "nice, mixed vibe," welcoming people of all backgrounds. Bartender Gerald recommends "the Separator," a popular drink made with soft-serve ice cream and two types of rum, topped with whipped cream and cherries.

Adjacent to each other at 801 Bourbon St. and 801 Dauphine St. respectively, **Bourbon Pub Parade** and **Oz New Orleans** are iconic gay clubs in the city. With lively drag shows, dance events, and VIP passes available for Southern Decadence, these venues are expected to be bustling. Louis finds the bartenders at Bourbon Pub Parade particularly fun, while Oz offers a larger stage for its performances.

Located at 834 N Rampart St., **GrandPre’s** is known for its relaxed vibe and ample outdoor space. Zeuss notes it’s "an all-white bar for the most part," but appreciates the outdoor area where patrons can unwind and smoke cigarettes without being bothered.

**The American Townhouse** at 1012 N Rampart St. offers a classier experience with a lush patio and a varied crowd. Zeuss praises its "wonderful menu, fun mixed crowd, great slushy drinks," and highlights its excellent patio as the best in the city, along with a great musical vibe.

As Southern Decadence kicks off, these bars are ready to offer a diverse array of experiences, each contributing to New Orleans’ rich and varied LGBTQ+ nightlife.