

**RAISING THE BAR**

# Wind down with wine

**CHRISTINA PEMBLETON**  
dail y sundial

The semester's at the halfway point and some of us are still taking midterms, so relaxing and distressing after long study sessions is an important part of maintaining composure. While alcohol may not be the solution to all problems, winding down with a glass of wine can be a great way for students over 21 to take a mental break and enhance their cultural palettes.

**RED ROOM FOOD AND WINE BAR**

17499 Ventura Blvd., Encino  
Glass price: \$3 - \$15  
Bottle price: \$24 - \$225

**HOURS:**  
Closed Mondays  
Tuesday – Thursday:  
4 - 10 p.m.  
Friday – Saturday:  
4 - 11 p.m.  
Sunday:  
4 - 10 p.m.

Red Room has such a large selection of wine that guests will be able to find the perfect taste. Guests can taste the wine before buying a glass or bottle. The wines range from delicious sweet moscato to dry champagne. Because of the taste-before-buying option, if the first wine

isn't right for customers, they can try again to find the perfect flavor. The venue will often feature live music, and they have both indoor and outdoor seating. Attendees who show the server Red Room's website will receive 10 percent off their bill. The location is small and intimate which is good for conversation amongst a group of friends.

**REDS RESTAURANT**

Encino Place Shopping Center, Second Floor  
16101 Ventura Blvd. #225, Encino  
Glass price: \$8-\$15  
Bottle price: \$32-\$225

**HOURS:**  
Closed Mondays  
**LUNCH**  
Tuesday – Friday:  
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**DINNER**  
Sunday:  
5 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Tuesday – Thursday:  
5 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Friday to Saturday:  
5 to 12 a.m.

This small business has been open since 2010, and features both indoor and outdoor seating. The wine selection, both red and white, is large, but the availability is a hit or miss. Some items on the menu are only offered seasonally, so substitutes may be offered instead. The wine tastes delicious and strong and white wines are perfectly chilled by "the best wine cooler in Southern California," accord-

ing to a Red's sever. Guests can find a pleasing taste from sweet to dry to fruity and beyond. Many evenings, the chef is also the server and the only employee available, so service can be a little slow. The location is not usually packed with people, so the atmosphere lends itself to relaxation and easy conversation.

**VINO TAPAS AND WINE BAR**

18046 Ventura Blvd., Encino  
Glass price: \$8 - \$25  
Bottle price: \$22 - \$13  
Flight Price (multiple wine selections for tasting):  
\$10 - \$20

**HOURS:**  
Monday – Thursday:  
4 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.  
Friday – Saturday:  
4 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.  
Sunday:  
11 a.m. - 12 a.m.

This wine bar has a fantastic happy hour for wines, mimosas, champagne, sangria, saketini. The wine here is about pairing tastes between food and alcohol. The wine selection is vast, offering customers fruity plum and raspberry wines for beef dishes and citrusy chardonnay for chicken. Reservations for this hot spot are recommended, but walk-in guests are welcome, too. Live music is usually playing at the restaurant, and the environment is relaxing after a long day. This location only offers street parking, so come prepared to parallel park.

**TECHNOLOGY**

# Secret agent apps

**CHRISTINA BENNETT**  
dail y sundial



ILLUSTRATION BY DAILY SUNDIAL PRODUCTION

Secret agents have a reputation in films of being stealthy, quick thinking and resourceful. Who says civilians can't acquire these descriptors too?

Most never get a glimpse of what it is like to be a secret agent for the government, but thanks to technology you can certainly feel like one.

Armed with quick access to information, courtesy of smartphones, you can feel as adept as James Bond with the click of an icon.

1. **Wickr (Free for iPhone)**

Ever wanted to send a self-destructing message? Well now you can. Wickr lets users send "military-grade" encrypted message to recipients you authorize.

Wickr protects sensitive data from messages you send by deleting the metadata captured from pictures, video and audio files including device information and your location.

Wickr's slogan is "The Internet is forever. Your private communication doesn't need to be" and assures users maximum anonymity in sending messages using the app. They do know your username but do not ask for an email address for a Wickr account.

The app does not contain mes-

sage tracking information either, offering maximum discretion, but users are still warned to only send messages to trusted recipients.

Makers of the app also promise an Android app coming soon.

2. **Cipher Tool (\$0.99 for iPhone)**

Have a secret message you want to send? For top-secret status or just to mess around with friends, use Cipher Tool to draft cryptic messages.

With several encryption methods to choose from and an interface that looks classified, you will have plenty of variety for sending a hidden message that can only be decrypted by the person with the "passphrase" or the key for the cipher.

One encryption type the application lets you use is a Vigenere cipher, which uses the method of a polyalphabetic substitution to

encode a message. So the hidden message would be a combination of the numeric values of the letters of the passphrase and the encrypted message.

How cool is that? Ipxdppm-jtuibu is one way of writing a Vigenere cipher, but I'm not telling the passphrase.

3. **Spy Cams (Free for iPhone and Android phones)**

In case you want to stake out the scene of location before arriving, use Spy Cams, which streams a live feed of locations from cameras around the world.

Currently the locations are limited, but the app makers added over 2,000 cameras last March.

You can also add your favorite locations like the beach or a popular tourist spot.

## LIGHTS! CAMERA! DANCE!

Be a part of TV's biggest **NEW YEAR'S DANCE PARTY** featuring LIVE in-studio performances by top recording artists!

Last year's show featured **LMFAO**  
**Florence & The Machine** \* **Blink 182**  
**Taio Cruz** \* **The Band Perry** \* **Robin Thicke**  
**Gym Class Heroes** \* **Nicki Minaj** \* **will.i.am.**

This show will be taped in December at an L.A. area studio. We are casting this special audience with attractive, fit, well-dressed men and women between the ages of 18 and 30.

If you would like to be considered for an invitation, please submit by email:

- \* YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME
- \* CONTACT INFORMATION (Phone, email, and mailing address)
- \* YOUR BIRTHDATE
- \* A RECENT FULL BODY PHOTO

[dpc@audiencesunlimited.com](mailto:dpc@audiencesunlimited.com)

**VRC**  
VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

# NOW OPEN

Monday – Friday  
10 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
University Student Union  
(Across from the Student Recreation Center)

**VRC.CSUN.EDU**

LIVING THE MATADOR LIFE

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California State University Northridge