

BEHIND THE MUSIC

Murder Inc

Groove Assassin brings deep house tunes to Punk

What do you add to the story of music? I wouldn't say I'm innovating music, but rather trying to keep the soulful deep house scene alive. It's hard times for producers now, as a lot of people just download music for free or just stream music. It's hard for the artists and producers to make a living. **Do you find it difficult to get the sound you want from the tools at your disposal?** Things have moved on so much that nowadays you no longer need a huge studio to get great sound. It's a lot easier now to create something fantastic on a small-scale setup.

Describe your sound.

My productions are mainly soulful deep house. That is really the sound I am known

for, but I am also working on several other projects ranging from tech house to downtempo R&B. **Where do you think the underground electronic music scene is headed next?**

There's always new sounds evolving, and it's easy to search out and be a part of the underground movement now with the internet. Underground will never die, but I can see big changes in the next few years in terms of how music is distributed. **Is this your first time in China?** Yes. I've heard so many great things about the scene and the country in general that I can't wait to touch down!

Groove Assassin at Punk, Saturday, Sep. 3, 10pm, ¥50 after 11pm, Tel: 6410-5222

I've heard many great things about the scene and country



The same great offerings with a sportier vibe

By the Tree ★★★★★☆

A Lofty Branch

This version of The Tree offers a more sporty feel than its two brethren, complete with pool and foosball tables and louder music. It's definitely more bar than restaurant. Located on the second floor above The Smuggler's, you'll find the menu at By the Tree is exactly the same as the other Tree venues with great craft and imported beers and stone-oven pizzas. Rumors abound about a special menu for the venue in the future, but for now waitresses run food from around the corner. With several TVs, we're anticipating sports coverage in the future as well. ■ Lauren Johnson

Find it: 2/F Friendship Youth Hostel, 43 Bei Sanlitun Nan, 北三里屯南43号友谊青年酒店二层, Tel: 6415-1954

Sealing ★★★★★☆

Looking Up

In Beijing, a relaxed rooftop bar usually means a sloppy-looking patio with a jumble of cheap furniture. Not so with Sealing, a quiet escape across from the madness of the Gongti clubs. The design is sleek and the candle-lit patio spacious. It attracts a smart set of expats and locals looking to unwind post 9-5. We suggest sipping one of their well-crafted cocktails—the mojito (¥50) is grand. And the bar food (mostly pizza and salads) is made downstairs at old Italian standby Metro. ■ Lisa Gay

Find it: 6 Gongti Xilu, 工体西路6号, Tel: 6552-5529



A fresh view with classy booze

MIXOLOGY

Revolution | Revolution Cocktail

Top Secret

Revolution may be new, but it's already impressing with awesome cocktails, especially their secretive gin or vodka signature drink, the Revolution. (¥45)



With vodka (or gin), lemon and lime juice, a secret sauce and soda water, this drink really is revolutionary, and since the bar opens at noon, you can start early. The secret ingredient in this chilled cocktail is highly classified info at this propaganda-filled bar. Ironic, yes. Tasty, indeed.

Find it: Gongti North Road, 工体北路雅秀市场西侧, Tel: 6415-8776