

## Zurich's pleasure zone

Zurich, sedate and bourgeois, center for banking and business, has a surprising flip side. Along the historic right bank of the Limmat River, the **Niederdorf**, or **Dorfli** ('Little Village'), is a fun fondue where the chief business is entertainment — yours for dipping into: cabaret, restaurants, jazz bars, theaters, beerhalls, opera, movie houses, wine cellars, pinball parlors, and the inevitable streetladies-in-waiting. All packed into less than a square mile of carnival atmosphere.

**By day a placid place where the action is limited to a handful of antique shops, trendy boutiques, and speciality grocery stores, after dark a cacophony of jazz, hard rock, and drinking songs entices swingers off the main, brightly-lit Niederdorf-Strasse into the dimly-lit amusement spots.**

Best of the night clubs presenting good performances are **The Red House** (Marktgasse 7), **Maxim** (Rudenplatz), and **Terrasse** (Limmatquai 3). Expect to pay at least \$40 for two. The Red House, a ritzy cabaret in the cellar of a 13th century inn, offers 'Fun, Sex and Cool Drinks' — a promising sequence. Maxim features international strip artists, while Terrasse opens with an early show — cocktails and strip tease at 6pm.

### Beads and jeans

Among the less plush joints is **Schöschlischmiede** (Niederdorf-Strasse), where pop tunes bellow out of amplifiers while members of the beads-and-jeans set snap their fingers sore. At the **Oliver Twist** pub (Rindermarkt 6), Anglophiles and homesick British tourists down tankards of English ale in a Dickensian setting.

The 600 year-old **Oepfelhammer** wine house (Rindermarkt 12) is packed to the oak rafters nightly with devotees of its agreeable wine and intimate confines. Newcomers who can drink a glass of wine while acrobatically hanging from the rafters are allowed to carve their names into the well cut-up tables. House guitars are passed around and the whole world sings.

Restaurants in the Niederdorf run the culinary gamut: Chinese, French, Germany, Indian, Indonesian, Italian, Spanish and Turkish. Swiss cuisine, too, of course, at a number of outstanding dining places. The **Kronenhalle** (Rami-Strasse 4) is a rendezvous for celebrities in the art, music and theater worlds, and for bankers hosting their gilt-edged clients. Rated by many as the finest restaurant in Switzerland, the Kronenhalle exhibits on its walls a stunning collection of 20th century art, including works by Picasso, Chagall, Matisse, Cezanne and Braque. On the menu, Trout with wine sauce, **Filet Patron**, and partridge with grapes are also works of art. Not cheap. With dinner for two including wine: \$40-\$60.

**The restaurants in four ancient guildhalls (Zunft Häuser) also rank very highly. Their Medieval ambiance**

charmingly preserved, the **Zunft Haus zur Saffran** (Limmatquai 54), **Zunft Haus zur Schmieden** (Marktgasse 20), **Zunft Haus zur Zimmerleuten** (Limmatquai 40), and **Haus zum Ruden** (Limmatquai 42) feature traditional Zurich dishes, such as **Geschnezzeltes** and **Leberspiessli**. **Dinner at the guildhalls for two including wine averages around \$30.**

The legendary Cafe Odeon at the Bellevueplatz is no longer the haunt of the intelligentsia and radicals of decades ago. Where Lenin once perused Central Library books for hours on end; noisy groups of students and hippies surge in and out now, hastily downing cups of coffee.

In the narrow, cobblestoned thoroughfares, the night people often carry on until well after the 2am closedown. The streets are safe. Whatever else is found in the Niederdorf, violence is not.