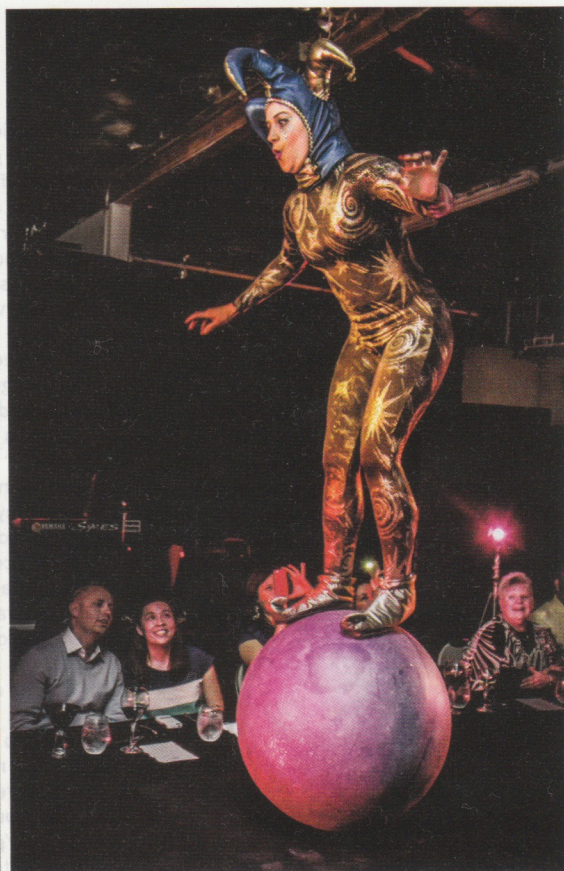


PALM SPRINGS



EMBRACE THE UNDERGROUND

The desert's most unique night out—a themed, wandering supperclub—is a culinary experience combined with theatrical production **By Lydia Siriprakorn**

Don't settle for a boring night out when PS Underground takes the classic concept of dinner and a show and gives it a new twist every time. No two events are alike when **Michael Fietsam** and his partner, chef **David Horgen**, are in charge. The creative masterminds behind the unique dining experience like to keep guests in suspense until the last possible minute. "All of the PS Underground events are at surprise locations; the guests find out where it is at midnight the night before," says Fietsam.

The element of surprise is really what it's all about—and an amazing multi-course meal, of course. PS Underground is a wandering supper club in and around Palm Springs. Like most buzzworthy underground food events, it all started in Fietsam's and Horgen's home. "We started with 14 close friends attending a six-course dinner that was thrown in a vacation rental home we rented for the night from a Craigslist ad," Fietsam says. "It was an artist bungalow in the Cathedral City Cove. After the meal, everyone tossed in a donation to cover the cost of dinner. That was our humble beginning."

In the true spirit of adventure, guests should come to PS Underground ready to make new friends and try new dishes. Each event is themed, whether it's a beer-themed dinner party or a recreation of the last dinner on the Titanic.

"There's a very diverse mix of people at our events, which adds to the fun of it all," says Fietsam. "The dynamic is never the same each time. When you get a mix of people who have never met around a table for a dinner event, half the fun is getting to know your tablemates. You never know who you're going to meet. We've seen friendships, business contacts and more develop during the events."

Although the word is getting out about PS Underground, the duo's events maintain a high level of mystique. Since their inception in 2013,

the dinners—which are as much a theater production as a culinary experience—have evolved into a "must-do" for locals and out-of-towners alike. One of PS Underground's most talked-about events was *Light*, for which Fietsam and Horgen asked guests to wear all white and featured a contortionist waitstaff, a light show and live music. "We wanted to create an event where we could play with the elements of food, music and lighting to create an ambience that would change throughout the evening," Fietsam says. "Usually in ways the guests weren't expecting at all."

Unlike most of the events, which run only one night or two, *Light* was a staple for the season and ran from November to May. "Light was a stationary event running every Friday and Saturday night in season," he says. "This made it easier for out-of-town vacationers to attend a PS Underground event they would otherwise not get to." That show is currently on break for the summer but will return in the fall.

But don't wait to join the fun. PS Underground hosts events all summer long, with its next event, *Velvet*, scheduled for July 10 and 11. Tickets run \$119 and include an appetizer reception, five-course meal, plenty of time to mix and mingle, and all sorts of surprises along the way. After that, PS Underground has plenty more intriguing ideas up its sleeve, but don't expect any spoilers. "We are planning some surprises for the upcoming season," Fietsam says, "but it's top secret. Anyone interested will have to watch the website."

Upcoming events are announced the day after the previous one, so keep an eye out on July 12 for news of a brand-new PS Underground event. And because this supper club is members only, guests will have to register for a free membership ahead of time. Don't worry—joining is easy; it's waiting in suspense that's the hardest part. ■