

# GRAPE VINE

THE SCANDALOUS SCOOP

We're digging:



**Speakeasy Haploid's** keeping it low-key in a high-decibel party park; word of **The 7th Day's** scrumptious smoked salmon-based brunches; white-collared pummelings that resulted in RMB100,000 for charity; the city getting Tech-Crunchy with the website's first South China event.

We're done with:



Closings and closings in Shekou as bottom-line wrecking rent takes its pound of flesh – goodbye **Ghost Bar**, **Dunkshot** and **Premium Meats**; the Ofo oh-no with a faulty-brake-ed bike beaming an elderly woman before Miss Hit-and-Run made off in an also Ofo-aided escape; Malaysian-named Merbok flooding roads, homes and Shenzhen's subway system causing RMB260 million in damages – would proper drainage have been cheaper?



OLDIE BUT GOODIE

## Juice Baby Café

It was way back in 2012 that Juice Baby opened its doors, with ambitions to deliver juice to nearby schools. At least half the fruit went to rot as James Beattie and his partner discovered the Shuiwei community didn't want healthy sips for kids, but stiff drinks late at night.

Since then, Juice Baby has gone through a sort of evolution – though maintaining its name, and a logo showing an Eiffel Tower filled with fruit – it has become a locus for expat teachers that work at the nearby schools and an easy stop for locals looking for quality alcohol or Western fare.

The Cambrian explosion of Shuiwei's food scene pushed cafe-cum-bar – which is mostly outdoor seating with a view of a large screen TV – to up its game. Still known for its hot dog and Tiger beer Monday special (RMB45), a renovation saw dishes like smoked salmon salad (RMB50) added to the menu.

Now sporting a laundry list of liquors, and the usual suspects of mixed drinks, Juice Baby still serves up its notoriously strong Long Island iced tea (RMB55).

The atmosphere is friendly, but it's not the type of place you go to strike up conversation with the table over. Though, it's a gold mine for people watching with Saturday night Shuiwei being a particularly earthy experience.

The kitchen closes at 10pm, but barbecue is still served – an obvious nod to local preferences with RMB5 chicken feet recently added to the menu.

Before you ask, they still serve juice, with glasses of apple juice going for RMB28.

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