

BIZBASH

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National



PLUS: EVENT STYLE AWARD WINNERS & FINALISTS

BIZBASH BEST

2017

FORMERLY THE NATIONAL VENUE & SUPPLIER GUIDE

**THE TOP VENUES
AND NEW IDEAS FOR
EVENTS AND MEETINGS
IN 17 CITIES**

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FAST FACTS

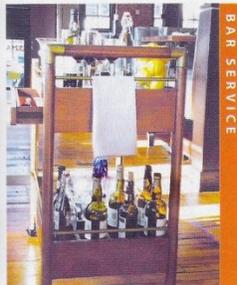
Population: 667,137, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Airport: Logan International Airport (1 Harborside Drive, massport.com) is a Tier 1, or large hub, airport located 5.5 miles from downtown Boston.

Weather: Average temperature is 51.4 degrees. Peak season for tourism is from June to October.

Convention Centers: The Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (415 Summer St., massconvention.com) has 516,000 square feet of exhibit space with 82 meeting rooms. The technology-forward center has a 40,000-square-foot ballroom space and Wi-Fi throughout the building. Back Bay's John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center (900 Boylston St., massconvention.com) has 176,480 square feet of exhibit space, 38 meeting rooms, and a 24,544-square-foot ballroom.

Largest Hotel: The Sheraton Boston Hotel (39 Dalton St., sheraton.com) has 1,220 guest rooms. The downtown hotel boasts 53 meeting rooms and 70,000 square feet of space, including seven ballrooms covering 19,938 square feet.



For a more unconventional bar service, **Oak & Rowan** restaurant (oakandrowan.com) offers a table-side cocktail cart. The restaurant seeks to bring guests closer to the mixology side of the bar by providing background information on the drinks, including ingredient details and their different uses, explanations of the cocktail-crafting methods, and answers to guests' questions—all staged on a rustic rolling bar cart. Groups of 18 can be accommodated, and menus, traditionally six standard cocktails, can be customized on request. Pricing is based on the spirits served. —D. Channing Muller



Beyond the Boardroom

Shake up a stale meeting at these activity venues.

New to the South Shore in the spring of 2016, the **Range Bar & Grille** is a lively bar and restaurant serving contemporary American cuisine. The indoor bar and grill is a 7,000-square-foot space that seats 155 guests, including 27 at the bar. Outside, the 2,500-square-foot patio overlooking the driving range seats 88 guests; the restaurant accommodates eat-and-play packages. (306 Whiting St., Hingham, therangehingham.com)

Measuring 3,000 square feet, **Bit Bar**, which opened in June, features two rooms of more than 30 classic arcade games such as Donkey Kong and Pac-Man. The entire space fits 106 guests standing or 70 seated. There's also a patio area that can accommodate an additional 60 guests. A 300-square-foot back room, which seats 22, is available for private events. It serves a menu of bar food like burgers and nachos, with a cocktail list of video-game-theme options like the

Princess Peach and Ecto Chaser. (50 St. Peter St., Salem, bit.bar)

The former Wesley Hotel in Martha's Vineyard is entirely revamped as the **Summertime Hotel**. The colorful venue evokes the free-spirited fun of childhood while also providing luxurious amenities. The 95-room hotel reopened in May and offers a "rec room" for private events from corporate meetings to ping-pong parties. The 500-square-foot room holds 40. (70 Lake Ave., Oak Bluffs, summertimehotel.com)

The 3,100-square-foot **Skin Spa New York** opened its first Boston location in March 2016 on the city's most famous shopping boulevard, Newbury Street. Located on the third floor of a Back Bay brownstone, the spa can hold as many as 60 guests for private events. It offers a lobby as well as 14 treatment rooms where services include facials, microdermabrasion, sunless tanning, and massages. (284 Newbury St., skinspanyork.com)

Boston supper club **Yvonne's** (yvonnesboston.com) serves large-batch cocktails that are suited to group gatherings. The specialty menu includes cocktails such as the Moscow Mule and the Long Thailand Iced Tea with a blend of rums, sweet Thai iced tea, coconut, and tapioca pearls; the regular menu includes drinks such as the Penicillin with blended Scotch whiskey, lemon, ginger, honey, and an Islay malt float. Each large-batch cocktail is priced at \$95 and serves four guests. —D.C.M.

