



Last Monday was a long day. The combo of kids, work, and 103-degree weather left me feeling stressed, anxious and in desperate need of a cocktail in a cool, relaxed environment. Wednesday night, I was feeling mellow. I needed a date with my husband. Romantic atmosphere, impeccable food, and a nice bottle of wine were required. Saturday, I was feeling upbeat and in the mood to party. I grabbed some girlfriends and headed out for drinks. Last week, I went to **J. Black's Feel Good Lounge** three times!

Feeling social? Located on West Sixth Street in the heart of the Market District, J. Black's is the ideal neighborhood hangout. The welcoming outdoor patio is perfect for grabbing a drink and chatting with passersby. Inside is an upscale lounge that feels classy but not at all stuffy. The large curved bar is situated so that you can see everyone in the room regardless of where you're sitting. The bar and surrounding cocktail tables are encircled by tall, leather barstools. A back corner alcove boasts oversized couches and chairs more comfortable than your living room, and with much nicer TVs. Brick walls are lined with artwork from local artists and a black velvet mural featuring images of old Hollywood. Bartenders and waitstaff are friendly and accommodating. Walk in and, believe me, you'll want to stay a while and visit.

Feeling thirsty? The bar at J. Black's features classic cocktails as well as a diverse wine list and beer selection. Happy Hour runs daily from 4 to 8 and all night on Sunday. During Happy Hour, all drinks are \$1 off and bottles of wine are discounted 25%. Always looking to keep it interesting, the lounge offers classic tall boys served in brown paper bags on Sundays and encourages patrons to show their skills on Rock Band and Guitar Hero 3.

Feeling hungry? At J. Black's, you don't have to leave the bar to have a gourmet dinner. The chefs have created a selection of sharing plates sure to impress even the most die-hard foodie. We devoured crisp crab cakes bursting with fresh crabmeat and accented with a fennel and grapefruit salad

(\$12.99). Bruschetta (\$8.99) is topped with creamy goat cheese, velvety prosciutto, and micro arugula and drizzled with white truffle oil. If you're looking for something heartier, try the Kobe Beef Sliders (\$12.99). Easily the best cheeseburger I've ever had, these juicy morsels are topped with dijon mustard, pickles, and homemade ketchup, and are encased in a slightly sweet bun. New Zealand Lamb Lollipops (\$13.99) are chargrilled, creating a smoky crust while staying rare on the inside. The creamy gorgonzola dipping sauce is the perfect complement. Still hungry? The menu offers several innovative salads as well as artisan pizzas (\$9.99 to \$14.99) served on hand-tossed dough. You can choose one of the chef's combinations or build your own pie from the list of creative ingredients. If you still haven't had enough, you can finish your meal with homemade ice cream sandwiches or a banana split. Most nights, the kitchen is open until midnight, making J. Black's a great place downtown for a late-night dinner.

Feeling festive? J. Black's is the ultimate venue for any gathering from a casual hangout for watching the Longhorn game to an upscale birthday party or corporate Happy Hour. The living room can be reserved for you or even turned into a private room. Plasma TVs are available for screening your favorite movie or presenting a slide show of your personal photos. The kitchen staff can set up a spread certain to please all your guests.

Feeling lucky? Owners Brian Franzman, Sean Fric, and Judson Sutherland were when they opened J. Black's on July 7, 2007. So they decided to give patrons a chance to create some luck of their own. Stop in on "Flip for it Tuesday" and you can flip a coin for a chance at free food from the half-price Happy Hour menu. The bar wins, you pay full price; you win, J. Black's picks up the tab. Of course, you can choose to skip the coin toss and stick with paying half price... but where's the fun in that?

So, regardless of what kind of week you're having, hit J. Black's Feel Good Lounge and feel good you will! And hey, give me a call; I'll probably feel like meeting you there.



J. BLACK'S

LOCATION: 710B W. 6th St.

PHONE: 512.433.6954

TYPE: Contemporary American

PARKING: Street & Valet

KID FRIENDLY: No

SUGGESTED DISH: Kobe Beef Sliders