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Best Of Houston® 2026: Best Bar – Rice Village

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Witness the peace and sweetness of the town at Under the Volcano Credit: Lorretta Ruggiero

Best Bar – Rice Village: Under the Volcano

Rice Village seems a world away from Cuernavaca, but they're brought together by Under the Volcano, a past Best Of Houston® honoree, on any given day or night. The bar claims to be Houston's first Latin American-themed craft cocktail bar and we believe it, since it opened its doors way back in 1989 and led the way for tons of successors.

There's a lot that makes the bar special, beginning with the Dia de los Muertos motif the bar borrows from a namesake novel by Malcolm Lowry. One of its notable opening lines is, "Come, amigo, throw away your mind," and Under the Volcano is a place to escape the world outside with unique cocktails like a horseradish pomegranate margarita, a barrel-aged añejo old fashioned and a roster of tried-and-trues, like Pimm's cups and sazeracs. They're served by some of the nicest bartenders from H-town to Morelos, Mexico, who will encourage folks to try items from an extensive food menu featuring delectables like empanadas, chicken tinga, tamales and churros con chocolate.

What would a cantina be without *cantadores,* singers and musicians who help us drown our sorrows with sad songs or celebrate with joyous ones? Under the Volcano is more than a bar or eatery, it's also a live music venue and its owners' strong ties to the music industry means quality, diverse acts are frequently booked. *Under the Volcano* – the book – takes place in a single day, and its principal characters sit on a bar terrace where they talk, drink and witness "the peace and sweetness of the town." Sounds like our kind of place.

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