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Chef Dan Holzman's Favorite Hot Spots In Ho Chi Minh City



Where to Eat:

"Ho Chi Minh City is all about street food and it's constantly evolving so, sadly, today's find may not be there tomorrow. Don't be afraid to try the street food—just be careful to only eat cooked hot food and not raw food. I would definitely suggest reading Graham Holliday's new book [Eating Vietnam](#). Graham is a reporter who spent many years stationed in Ho Chi Minh City and kept an updated blog, [Noodlepie](#), with all of the best street vendors."

Last month, STREETS Eats brought New York's top chefs and mixologists together for the 8th annual tasting event. The evening raised money for [STREETS](#), a non-profit organization that is part hospitality school and part restaurant café in Hoi An, Vietnam, where local, disadvantaged youth are offered an 18-month training program designed to give them the tools and skills to achieve financial independence.

"I have been to Vietnam before, and we participate in this great event every year," says [Dan Holzman](#), executive chef and co-owner of [The Meatball Shop](#). "The next time I'm in Southeast [Asia](#) I will definitely visit STREETS. What they're doing there is truly inspirational and changing many lives."

Holzman was recently in Ho Chi Minh City and was impressed by its cuisine and culture. "There is forward motion in the air everywhere you look," he says. "The people are kind, generous, proud and excited to share their amazing city with strangers."

He shares the best places to eat, drink, spa and stay in the Vietnamese city.



Where to Drink:

"The people in the city often drink out in the street, sitting in the evenings in circles. The best place to drink is out on the street amongst the people who will be thrilled to hang and talk with you for a chance to meet a stranger and practice their English. You'll be amazed at how welcoming everyone is."

Where to Shop:

"Don't be fooled by the exterior. Once you enter Xóm Chiếu Market you'll be amazed at the hustle in this huge bustling market. Shopping in Saigon can be a full body workout, dodging and weaving through rows of colorful produce. If food is your thing, then this is a definite must."

Where to Spa:

"You can get an amazing massage almost anywhere in the city for under \$10 an hour. If you are looking for something a little more upscale, then try [Indochine Spa](#). I would definitely recommend getting a facial. It's a full four person experience!"

Where to Stay:

"I really liked the [Hotel Majestic](#). It's in great location and has character."



Want more chef-approved travel recommendations? Check out [Marcus Samuelsson's 7 favorite Bermuda hot spots](#). Follow me on [Forbes](#) and [Twitter](#).