

VANCOUVER

THE UNKNOWN CITY

By
John Mackie &
Sarah Reeder

How Sweet It Is



Photo: Howard Allen

The pioneering Sugar brothers, Jason and Damon, were left with a sour taste in their mouths when the police and city officials busted a birthday party at their first **Sugarandsugar** studio in November 2002, shutting it down like a prohibition-era gin joint. The pioneering brothers had run this former after-hours space (unofficially called "Sugar's" for years) and had now gone pseudo-legit by applying for nightly special events

licenses. With its coat check in a former bank vault, its white baby grand piano, its checkerboard floor, and sleek, modern furniture, **Sugarandsugar** studio not only attracted the city's cutting edge party scene, but it also came to symbolize the fight against what the media had dubbed "no fun city." When the jig was up, the club also became the movement's sacrificial lamb. In March 2003, the brothers resurfaced like a phoenix from the flames clutching a press release announcing, "We've gone legit!" A fully licensed event venue and cocktail lounge in an even larger space, the new **Sugarandsugar** (99 Powell St., 604-609-9939, sugarandsugar.com) has the same, big city urban feel as the original, and is open for cocktails and snacks during the week. Its circular bar upstairs, and slick chill room down, are two of the most happening bars in town. In homage to the original concept, it is reserved for private parties of up to 200 most nights.