

Software Review

The Sims Are At It Again!

Night Life 2 – What a Life!

Product: The Sims 2 Nightlife

Company: Aspyr.com

Price: \$49

Requirements: Mac OS X 10.3.9 or later; PowerPC G4/G5 or Intel; CPU Speed 1.2 GHz; Memory 256 MB or higher (512 MB recommended); Hard Disk Space: 2 GB free ; Video Card (ATI): Radeon 9000 or better (NVidia): GeForce FX 5200 or better; Video Memory (VRam): 32 MB or higher (64 MB recommended); Media Requires DVD Drive

Test System: Mac Pro 2 x 2.66-GHz Dual-Core Intel Xeon, 7 GB RAM, Mac OS X 10.5.5

Rating: 4 out of 5

Work all day. Play all night. The Sims are ready to enjoy dancing, dating, and the downtown nightlife. With the Nightlife expansion pack your Sims will enjoy bowling alleys, lots of restaurants, a DJ station, Karaoke machines, a photo booth, and poker tables. You can create your own playground of entertainment.

The Sims can get downtown by taxi or in their own cars. They can purchase up to five different vehicles, such as vans and sportscars. They can customize their cars to match their style and budget. They can build a garage for their cars or use their Simoleons to buy an expensive driveway.

The Sims can mingle without dates and just for fun with other Sims. If your Sim cannot find a date, call the Gypsy Matchmaker. I understand the Matchmaker also sells Vamprocillin-D and Love Potion #8.5. These come in handy in some situations. Sims may even find future spouses.

The pressure is on to make a good impression when the Matchmaker is summoned, just as in real life. Your date's wants and fears will help determine the evening's activities. Hit a home run and your Sim receives a phone call or flowers the

next day. Leave a sour taste in your date's mouth and you'll get unpleasant gifts.

If your Sims are not interested in dating and just want to play it safe they can choose Just For Fun. Alternatively, For an Outing plays out like a date, complete with a meter that tells you whether everyone loves your Sim's choices or thinks they're a real drag. Rewards await the Sim who successfully navigates a group trip downtown.

The Pleasure aspiration is new and allows the Sims to get the most of going downtown and getting others to have a great time, too. There are new items, and new animations to go with the environment. You'll see your Sims scratch while waiting for a drink at the bar, and there is a new Dance Sphere. Get inside and it starts to spin around; go too fast and you fall off. Hilarious.

You will also find wallpaper styles, floors, art, and furniture. The music is quite energizing and very club-like.

If clubbing is not your thing, then instead you can build your career or expand your house with more fancy things. These Sims are safe from becoming vampires.

Those that go to Nightclubs become vampires if they stay downtown too long. Daylight becomes lethal, quickly sapping their strength, until they die. But there is hope: you can hide in a hermetically sealed coffin until a cure is found for vampirism.

The Lifetime aspiration is daunting. The "smustle" is one I will leave for you to figure out on your own. This expansion pack will let

you be more social, until the next expansion pack comes out.



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Maria is the vendor liaison of the Main Line Macintosh Users Group (MLMUG).

Maria is also a member of NCMUG, PMUG, CCPMUG, MUGSNJ, PPUG, Macs@PACS and SJAUG.

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