



Wine&Apps
An iLove my iPhone Party

Top iPhone CULTURE Apps

IMDb – free!

A pocketful of film/TV facts and features from one of the internet's most dominant library sites. From its mid-1990s launch in a Bristol bedroom, the Internet Movie Database (IMDb.com) now covers more than 1m titles, and while the site is a swirling blizzard of stats, the app is trim and intuitive.

Joost – free!

Video app that hosts a rack of music clips, TV shows and movies. Only works off WiFi, and the selection is mostly retro, but diligent digging unearths a few lurking classics.

Brushes – iPhone Edition – \$4.99

A deft and effective painting tool that turns the iPhone's touch screen into a micro-canvas. You can tweak brush size, synthesize color and texture, then flick and smear out a mini masterpiece.

Love Art, from the National Gallery – \$2.99

High-resolution images of about 300 works from the National Gallery's collection. Take a virtual visit — browsing key paintings by Renoir, Rembrandt, Van Gogh and Da Vinci — or plug in headphones and use the app's outstanding audio commentaries as a real-world companion.

Yours, Vincent: The Letters of Vincent Van Gogh – free!

Commissioned by the Van Gogh Museum, in Amsterdam, this is a rich and rewarding multimedia biography of the beleaguered post-impressionist master. There's a chronological journey through his brief life and works, with video and audio commentaries bolstered by gripping dramatizations of the artist's letters, including his crushing sign-off to his brother Theo.

Stanza – free!

Download your pick of more than 100,000 free and commercial e-books, including classics such as Peter Pan, Moby-Dick and Frankenstein.

William Shakespeare Collection – \$1.99

Banish the memory of those behemoth Complete Works bookends with this impressive compression of 37 plays, 154 sonnets and five narrative poems. Bold, eye-friendly text and fantastic value on content alone, but it's howling for a Brodie's Notes option (double-tap on a phrase, learn more about meaning and context).

iTheatre – free

As well as offering reviews, listings and booking options for every West End show, this app keep you up to date on special offers and bestsellers, with a bookmark option to help create a playlist for offline

browsing. While a Find My Nearest Theatre option is hardly necessary in such a compacted area, an advanced in-app search (by actor, venue, title) would help in finding the fringier plays.

Classical Music Master Collection – \$9.99

Possibly the single greatest-value item in the entire App Store — \$9.99 for more than 100 hours of music, with 800 complete tracks from all the greats including Beethoven, Bach, Mozart, Chopin and more.

Bachtrack – free!

Brought to you by the established classical-music website of the same name, Bachtrack allows you to search globally — by composer, orchestra, location and performer — for classical concerts, ballets and operas.

Shazam Encore – \$4.99

A magical, slightly creepy app that will identify any song by simply listening to it.

National Trust – free!

Pretty much the entire National Trust for England, Wales and Northern Ireland guide-book in iPhone form. A searchable database of more than 350 historic properties – including houses, gardens, monuments, forests and nature reserves.

Nearest Wiki – \$1.99

If you don't know about Wiki technology, it uses GPS location and your smartphone's camera to generate a live image of your surroundings onto which relevant local information is overlaid. Simply point your iPhone in the right direction and it will pull up a list of nearby Wikipedia entries. It's ideal if you want to know more about a particular building, bridge, historic place or piece of public art.

This American Life – \$2.99

This American Life is a hit public radio show and most weeks, the most popular podcast in the country. This app gives you on-demand access to all episodes going back to the show's launch in 1995.

NPR News & NPR Music – free!

NPR News: The ultimate portable NPR experience for your iPhone or iPod Touch. Follow local and national news and listen to your favorite NPR stations wherever you are and whenever you want to. NPR Music: Engage, explore and discover new music of all genres with the NPR Music app. Pop/Rock/Folk, Jazz & Blues, World, Classical and Hip Hop/R&B – you get music programmed by people and the quality storytelling you expect from NPR.

