



ZAGAT
2013

Malt & Hops

Where to Enjoy Craft Beer
Around the Country



Not all beers are created equal.

This special-edition nightlife guide features the best places to drink craft brews in Austin, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco and Washington, DC, so you'll never have to settle for a boring pint again.

For more recommendations and insider secrets, check out zagat.com/blog.

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The reviews in this guide are based on public opinion surveys. The ratings reflect the average scores given by the survey participants who voted on each establishment. The text is based on quotes from, or paraphrasings of, the surveyors' comments. Phone numbers, addresses and other factual data were correct to the best of our knowledge when published in this guide.

Key to Ratings & Symbols

Atmosphere, Decor & Service are rated on a 30-point scale:

26 – **30** Extraordinary to Perfection

21 – **25** Very Good to Excellent

16 – **20** Good to Very Good

11 – **15** Fair to Good

0 – **10** Poor to Fair

▽ low response | less reliable

Reviews are compiled from user comments, with representative comments shown in quotation marks.

Cost estimates are for the price of dinner with a drink and tip.


For places without ratings, the price range is as follows:


I inexpensive


M moderate

E expensive

VE very expensive

 closed on Sunday

 closed on Monday

 no credit cards accepted



Austin

Bar 96

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
25	22	22	M

Downtown | 96 Rainey St. (Driskill St.) | 512-433-6604

www.96austin.com

Like a “sports bar for hipsters”, this Downtown joint set in a “quaint old” converted bungalow exudes a “backyard-casual” vibe, with “plenty of TVs to watch the game”, “ample patio seating” and “fun” distractions like Jenga; added appeals include an “easygoing” staff, “stiff” pours and “unique”, south-of-the-border snacks from the in-residence food truck.

Black Sheep Lodge

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	19	20	M

Zilker | 2108 S. Lamar Blvd. (bet. Kinney & Oxford Aves.) | 512-707-2744

www.blacksheep lodge.com

With pool tables, shuffleboard and Skee-Ball, not to mention 20 flat-screen TVs, this Zilker-area sports bar is “always jumping” with crowds – especially during big games and dollar beer nights – sitting elbow-to-elbow at communal tables or out on the dog-friendly patio; parking can be “tricky” and service “inconsistent” (if “cheerful”), but the “kicking” beer selections, pub grub with “Texas flair” and a “laid-back” vibe keep ’em coming back.

Draught House Pub

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
26	21	21	M

Rosedale | 4112 Medical Pkwy. (42nd St.) | 512-452-6258

www.draughthouse.com

“If you like craft beer”, this Rosedale pub/brewery offers a “fantastic range” of suds (70-plus) on tap – “some of which are made on-site” – dispensed within “chill” environs that are “optimal for kicking back with friends”; frequent “long lines” at the “huge wooden bar” inside have some saying “outside is the place to be”, where in addition to sitting at picnic tables locals can “tailgate in the parking lot”, enjoy nibbles from resident food trucks and pass the time with others who “secretly hope it doesn’t get any more popular.”

Flying Saucer

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
24	22	21	M

Brentwood | 815 W. 47th St. (bet. Lamar Blvd. & Triangle Ave.) |
512-454-8200

www.beerknurd.com

“Beerknurds” abound at this “popular” Brentwood-area link of the beer emporium chain boasting the “craziest variety” of suds (some 240 types) and “ok” eats “to soak ’em up”, dispensed by “knowledgeable” staffers sporting “skimpy outfits”; a “cool” Triangle location and dog-friendly outdoor patio are other pluses, as are the “fun” special nights like Trivia Tuesday.

Ginger Man

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
25	23	24	M

Warehouse District | 301 Lavaca St. (3rd St.) | 512-473-8801

www.aus.gingermanpub.com

Brewheads give a “thumbs-up” to this Warehouse District “beer-lover’s paradise” known for its “ridiculous” number of international, domestic and craft options on tap and in bottles, dispensed by “knowledgeable” barkeeps who’re known to give samples; a “killer” outdoor patio, bar snacks and a “cool library area” with darts and board games add to the “laid-back”, “cozy” vibe.

HandleBar

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
25	24	23	M

Downtown | 121 E. Fifth St. (Brazos St.) | 512-344-9571

handlebaraustin.com

“Mustaches thrive” at this “spacious”, multileveler that boasts an “awesome” rooftop with “Downtown views” where you can sip a craft cocktail, whiskey or brew served by a “friendly” hirsute bartender; the staff’s “facial hair almost tops the entertainment”, but there’s plenty of the latter including oversize Jenga, a giant seesaw, a photo booth, “pinball classics” and a pool table – “what’s not to love?”

Hanover’s Draught Haus

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	18	22	I

Pflugerville | 108 E. Main St. (bet. 1st St. & Railroad Ave.) | 512-670-9617

www.hanoversaustin.com

Away from “the bustle of Downtown Austin”, this “small-town beer joint” in Pflugerville serves up 27 taps inside or out on a “spacious”, “dog-friendly” backyard with sand volleyball, horseshoe and washer pits; it can be “crowded” when there’s live music, but fans say a “cool staff” and wallet-friendly drink specials make for a solid “neighborhood hangout.”

Icenhauers

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
24	24	21	M

Downtown | 83 Rainey St. (bet. Driskill & River Sts.) | 512-473-0005

www.icenhauers.com

A “modern, sleek” entry in the Rainey Street bar scene, this Downtowner attracts attention with “incredible cocktails” of “unique” infused liquors, along with housemade sangrias and local beers on tap; “young studly guys and their dates” gather in the “great-grandma-refurbished-chic” interior or ’round the outdoor fire pit “no matter what season”, and with “friendly” bartenders and occasional live music, it’s easier to forgive the parking, which “sucks, but oh well.”

Javelina Bar

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	21	21	M

Downtown | 69 Rainey St. (bet. Driskill & River Sts.) | 512-382-6917

www.javelinabar.com

“Perfect for a late lunch and a pint,” this “laid-back” Rainey Street bar is set apart from its bungalow-occupying brethren by its in-house kitchen, which serves “solid burgers” and other Texas-centric offerings for mostly meat eaters; come late-afternoon, the outdoor patio is the ideal place to enjoy an “interesting cocktail” or “delicious” draft beer.

Kung Fu Saloon

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
24	22	18	M

Clarksville | 510 Rio Grande St. (bet. 5th & 6th Sts.) | 512-469-0901

www.kungfusaloon.com

This Clarksville outpost of the “grown-up’s arcade” and sports-bar chain features foosball tables, indoor Skee-Ball, life-size Connect 4 and a multitude of “old-school” video games, which are free during the popular Freeplay Sunday when there’s also a build-your-own Bloody Mary bar; inexpensive drinks, including the signature pickle shots, are also a draw, just be forewarned, snagging a bartender’s attention is often a “challenge” and crowds can be “overwhelming.”

Pour House Pub

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	17	21	I

Allandale | 6701 Burnet Rd. (Justin Ln.) | 512-454-7687

www.pourhousepubaustin.com

“Tons of beer on tap”, a spacious patio with “lots of shade” (where you can “play some cornhole”) and a “laid-back feel” make this “neighborhood bar” a “go-to-hangout” for Allandalers; “they show all the football games” and have a “great jukebox” to boot, leaving the many contented to wonder “what else do you need?”

Tap Room

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	22	21	M

Warehouse District | 319 Colorado St. (4th St.) | 512-472-6662

It's "pretty cozy" at this Downtown bar serving up "amazing burgers" and an impressive selection of beers on tap; they've got "a couple of pool tables" too, and it's usually "not so busy", so patrons "can actually get a drink without waiting!"

Violet Crown Social Club

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	19	21	I

East Austin | 1111 E Sixth St. (Waller St.) | 512-614-4461

www.violetcrownsocialclub.com

This "nice little stop" on East Sixth woos a "not-overly-hipster" crowd with "strong drinks", a "great patio with lots of seating" and "friendly" service, but mostly fans flock here for some of the "cheapest drinks on the East side"; "chic red booths" add to the "swank, dimly lit" ambiance, while TVs lend it a touch of "chill."



Chicago

Bad Apple

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	20	21	E

North Center/St. Ben's | 4300 N. Lincoln Ave. (Cullom Ave.) | 773-360-8406

www.badapplebar.com

Patty pundits “love the burger” (the “meat is a private mix from a top NY purveyor”) to go with a “ton of craft beers” at this “eclectic”, “roomy” North Center hangout “opposite the Half Acre brewery”; the “on-point” staff “knows the menu” and drinks are “competitively priced”, though despite diversions like shuffleboard, pinball and Ms. Pac-Man, a few find the “family-friendly” setting just “fair.”

Blind Robin

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	17	21	M

Ukrainian Village | 853 N. Western Ave. (Rice St.) | 773-395-3002

www.theblindrobin.com

“Filled with hipsters”, this “neighborhood” place in the Ukrainian Village boasts “good beer” poured by “wonderful” bartenders in an atmosphere with “no pretensions” (but with pinball and board games); it’s a “great place to have a conversation with your craft brew”, even if it can be “packed” on occasion.

The Boundary

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
20	21	21	M

Wicker Park | 1932 W. Division St. (Winchester Ave.) | 773-278-1919

www.boundarychicago.com

“Large, open and airy” with an “extensive beer menu”, “lots of TVs” and shuffleboard, this “ultimate Wicker Park sports bar” accommodates a “good neighborhood crowd” downing “well-made”, smartly served grub while “watching Sunday football”; though its “template has been repeatedly copied”, a “great outdoor space” and “kid-friendly” environs help set it apart.

Bull & Bear

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
21	21	19	E

River North | 431 N. Wells St. (Hubbard St.) | 312-527-5973

www.bullbearbar.com

“The tap tables are the best!” at this “energetic” River North drinkery for “after-work mingling”, where “white-collar” types and “wannabes” down “pay-by-the-ounce” beers and “high-priced drinks”; on the flip side, curmudgeons contend that it gets “too packed”, with seating that’s too “exclusive” for comfort.

D4 Irish Pub & Café

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	22	23	E

Streeterville | The Streeter | 345 E. Ohio St. (entrance on Grand Ave.) | 312-624-8385

www.d4pub.com

The “beer flights sing” and the “easy” Irish fare satisfies at this “much-needed local hangout” with a “modern” touch, “tucked away” in Streeterville; “knowledgeable” service, “lots of cozy spots to sit with friends” and “roaring fires in winter” keep it so welcoming that admirers of “all ages” “would definitely return.”

Franklin Tap

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
21	15	20	M

Loop | 325 S. Franklin St. (Jackson Blvd.) | 312-212-3262

www.franklintap.com

The South Loop’s answer to “Cheers”, this “post-work beer stop” gets “packed with Downtown office workers” who appreciate its “nice staff”, “reasonable prices” and “decent outdoor seating”; the burgers are also a selling point for a “quick lunch.”

Kasey’s Tavern

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
-	-	-	M

South Loop | 701 S. Dearborn St. (Huron St.) | 312-427-7992

www.kaseystavern.com

Set in a vintage storefront with oversized windows, this vaguely Irish South Loop stalwart, decorated with high tin ceilings and exposed-brick walls, draws an intellectual college and loft-dwelling Printer’s Row clientele; its top-shelf beer list is a plus, while its kitchen-free status is remedied with burger orders from Hackney’s next door.

Map Room

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
27	20	21	M

Bucktown | 1949 N. Hoyne Ave. (Armitage Ave.) | 773-252-7636

www.maproom.com

“Ahhh, Belgians” exclaim aficionados of this Bucktown bar pouring a “superb collection of imports and craft brews” – basically, the “intelligent, worldly beer lover’s dream come true”; if some “stay for the pretzel rods”, “people-watching” and “neat” setting swathed in “cool maps”, others are keen on “convivial” conversation and a “knowledgeable, friendly” crew; P.S. coffee and pastries are served in the morning.

Maria’s Packaged Goods & Community Bar

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
28	23	26	M

Bridgeport | 960 W. 31st St. (Morgan St.) | 773-890-0588

www.community-bar.com

Regulars beg “don’t tell anyone” about this recently “rehabbed” Bridgeport “beer mecca” with over 470 “rare crafts on rotation”, plus funky cocktails and an “equally amazing liquor store” up front; low-lit yet brightened by colorful glass bottles, handmade furnishings and artwork, not to mention “neighborly” service, it’s the “epitome of a South Side best-kept secret.”

New Line Tavern

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
24	23	24	M

West Loop | 201 N. Clinton St. (Lake St.) | 312-212-5463

www.sparetimechicago.com

A “solid bar and grill with interesting beers”, this West Loop “go-to” adorned with throwback train photos “sits in the shadow of the Green Line” inside the historic Powerhouse Building; “fair prices” and pleasant outdoor seating make it well suited for “fun with friends.”

O’Malley’s Liquor Kitchen

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	22	22	M

Wrigleyville | 3551 N. Sheffield Ave. (Addison St.) | 773-327-7800

www.162chicago.com

Frequented by Wisconsin Badger and “long-suffering, diehard Cubs fans” (it’s “crazy before and after a game”), this midpriced Wrigleyville bar with “plenty of screens” has changed names and ownership, but kept its “terrific atmosphere” intact; just be sure to “keep it basic” if you want brisk service, or go on an off-day.

The Owl

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	18	21	M

Logan Square | 2521 N. Milwaukee Ave. (Sacramento Ave.) | 773-235-5300

www.owlbarchicago.com

“There’s a waterfall inside” this “quirky”, wee-hours taproom in Logan Square, known for its eclectic decorations, “random jukebox” and “awesome selection” of craft beers and cocktails; reasonable prices, “good service” and DJ nights are more reasons locals “love it.”

Paramount Room

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
24	21	23	M

River West | 415 N. Milwaukee Ave. (Hubbard St.) | 312-829-6300

www.paramountroom.com

“Jeans are the order of the day” at this “relaxed” River West burger bar with a “hip” touch, offering a “well-selected list of craft brews on tap” and “way-above-average cocktails” prepared by a “talented” crew; while it holds two floors, the former speakeasy space easily fills up, so seats can be “tough to score.”

6 Corners

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	21	21	VE

Bucktown | 1950 W. North Ave. (Milwaukee Ave.) | 773-235-5700

www.sixcornersbar.com

A “friendly” place to “relax and watch the game” while downing a “heavy drink”, this Bucktown bar lures stat-seekers with “lots of screens” – one cinema-sized – and an “innovative” pub menu with something for “everyone’s palate”; even though it gets “loud on Sundays” (“in a good way”), the “pro” staff adds to its “spare-time” appeal.

Third Rail Tavern

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
24	22	23	M

West Loop | 1133 W. Madison St. (May St.) | 312-432-9107

www.thirdrailtavern.com

“Local folks” like to stop by this West Loop watering hole and grab a stool at the long mahogany bar, having a “drink, dinner and watching the game”, or grabbing a quick one “before heading out to United Center”; it’s wallet-friendly and the “staff is great”, so it always feels like “hanging with old friends” – “no complaints.”



Los Angeles

The Black Boar

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
25	21	22	M

Eagle Rock | 1630 Colorado Blvd. (bet. Townsend & Vincent Aves.) |
323-258-8800

This “nicely decorated” Eagle Rocker still bears the ski-lodge stylings of its previous incarnation as the Chalet (i.e. wood paneling, stone walls, fireplace), which works fine for the current English pub theme that includes an “unexpectedly good beer list” – with plenty of Blighty brews like Old Speckled Hen – and football matches on the telly; throw in “awesome” bartenders, and some locals swear it’s “simply the best bar” in the nabe.

Daily Pint

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	18	20	M

Santa Monica | 2310 Pico Blvd. (bet. Cloverfield Blvd. & 23rd St.) |
310-450-7631

www.thedailypint.net

Everybody is “really friendly” at this “unpretentious”, “authentic” “college and neighborhood” bar in SaMo that’s a “little dumpy” but the “perfect place” for a “casual weekend game of shuffleboard or pool”; with an “out-of-this-world” scotch selection and “lots of craft beers” to choose from, the “quality and variety” of “relatively cheap” libations is “hard to beat.”

Eagle Rock Brewery

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
24	22	24	M

Glassell Park | 3056 Rosewell St. (Delay Dr.) | 323-257-7866

www.eaglerockbrewery.com

Despite the name, this “wonderful”, “diamond-in-the-rough” craft brewery is actually located “off the beaten path” in Glassell Park (in an industrial building with no sign); it may be “hard to find”, but hopsheads say it’s “awesome” for its “outstanding” beer, “down-to-earth” personalities and “community vibe”; P.S. no eats inside, but food trucks regularly roll into the parking lot.

El Prado

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	19	21	M

Echo Park | 1805 W. Sunset Blvd. (Lemoyne St.) | 213-484-6079

www.elpradobar.com

You “can’t go wrong” with “craft beers and amazing music” (old-school records on an actual record player) at this “neat little place” in Echo Park that’s convenient for a drink after a show at the Echo/Echoplex down the street; drawing neighborhood scenesters, the “pretty”, understated space features wood paneling of a vaguely Scandinavian flavor, dim lighting and a patio in the back.

Golden Gopher

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	20	20	E

Downtown | 417 W. 8th St. (bet. Hill & Olive Sts.) | 213-614-8001

www.213nightlife.com

A “cool hideaway” “among the lofts” of Downtown, this “hip but not too hip” watering hole serving up “handcrafted cocktails” and a “good selection” of microbrews is a “sublime little retreat” on the weeknights “when it’s slow” (on weekends it morphs into a “claustrophobic”, “obnoxious USC hangout”); fans award points for “childhood video games” and an “unusual” takeaway liquor license for “bottles to go.”

Happy Ending

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	18	21	1

Hollywood | 7038 W. Sunset Blvd. (Sycamore Ave.) | 323-469-7038

www.thehappyendingbar.com

A “college bar without the college”, this “fun” spot for the “light-hearted” in the middle of Hollywood is “one big frat party” with pizza nights, video games, dancing and “a beer pong table”; it’s a “zoo” when “crowded”, but with plenty of flat-screens and “cheap” brews, it’s an “awesome place to watch sporting events” – that is, “if you can find parking around Sunset Boulevard.”

Lucky Baldwins

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	19	21	1

Pasadena | 17 S. Raymond Ave. (bet. Colorado Blvd. & Green St.) | 626-795-0652

www.luckybaldwins.com

“Get loud” at this “total dive” of a British pub in Pasadena boasting an “exceptional” beer selection (including a “cornucopia” of Belgian brews), “friendly” if “busy” servers and a patio with a “gritty feel” (“as if it’s been there for 100 years”); some insist it’s the “best place to watch a soccer match” in the area, but “arrive early for big games.”

Short Stop

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	20	20	M

Echo Park | 1455 W. Sunset Blvd. (Sutherland St.) | 213-482-4942

“Looking for a party? – you’ll find it” at this dark and windowless former cop hangout (it looks like a bunker from the street) in Echo Park where “poor, smug, mustached” types mix with “hot Latinas”, “art chicks” and “skateboarders” while drinking “cheap” booze, playing pool or getting down on the serious dance floor; it’s also a “must-go before any Dodgers home game.”

1642

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	21	22	M

Echo Park | 1642 W. Temple St. (Dawson St.) | 213-989-6836

An “offbeat hangout” beloved for its “unpretentious” vibe, this “gorgeous beer and wine spot” is hidden on a sleepy strip just west of the 101 Freeway (some call it Echo Park, others Historic Filipinotown); along with the “nice-folks” neighborhood devotees, an upright piano (ready for patron tinkling), hardwood bar, unfinished brick walls and refreshingly low-decibel acoustics add up to a “lovely experience.”

Surly Goat

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
18	17	18	M

West Hollywood | 7929 Santa Monica Blvd. (Hayworth Ave.) | 323-650-4628

www.surlygoat.com

On the far edge of Boystown, this WeHo brew specialist draws a hopshead crowd (mostly the straights) with its “stellar” selection of craft beers on tap, “funky” (some say “trashy”) “offbeat environment” and classic arcade games; the space features a bar watched over by a stuffed goat’s head, banquettes lining the walls and music so loud that it’s “painful” – escape the indoor din on the outdoor patio.

Tony’s Darts Away

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	19	23	E

Burbank | 1710 W. Magnolia Blvd. (bet. Orchard Dr. & Reese Pl.) | 818-253-1710

www.tonysda.com

A perfect storm of “unpretentious” “beer enthusiasts”, a “helpful” staff and an “environmentally friendly” philosophy make this “unusual” Burbank gastropub “a blast” for fans who cheer the all-draft, all-“California-made” brews; decor is “nothing special”, but the pub grub (with a focus on “great” sausages) is “really good” and offers “plenty” of vegan options – and yes, there’s darts, and shelves of board games.

Verdugo Bar

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	19	20	M

Glassell Park | 3408 Verdugo Rd. (bet. Aves. 34 & 35) | 323-257-3408

www.verdugobar.com

An “excellent beer selection” plus a “wide variety of rotating DJs”, pleasant patio and “laid-back, cool” crowd can be found behind this Glassell Park spot’s “very unassuming” exterior; even more “amazing”, “food trucks” stop by most nights, providing chow to soak up the “cult” craft brews.



New York City

The Ainsworth

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	22	19	E

Chelsea | 122 W. 26th St. (bet. 6th & 7th Aves.) | 212-741-0646

www.ainsworthnyc.com

The sports bar gets kicked “up a notch” or three at this “gigantic” Chelsea plasma-screen palace, an “upscale” “football heaven” with “TVs on every possible surface” and a surprisingly “cool crowd”; rustic pine-and-wrought-iron decor plus “nice spins on classic pub food” make it the rare ESPN zone that “even ladies can enjoy.”

Bar Great Harry

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
21	14	19	M

Carroll Gardens | 280 Smith St. (Sackett St.) | Brooklyn | 718-222-1103

www.bargreatharry.com

A “beer snob bar without the snobbery”, this Carroll Gardens bar is “fairly average” in the looks department and “above-average” when it comes to suds, with an “astonishing” selection of rotating craft brews and lots of other “hoppy tipples”; fans also like its “pooch”-friendly disposition.

Beer Authority

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
-	-	-	M

W 40s | 300 W. 40th St. (8th Ave.) | 212-510-8415

www.beerauthoritynyc.com

Craft beer comes to the rapidly gentrifying area around Port Authority via this Rattle N Hum spin-off, where 90 taps spout a globe-trotting variety of brews backed up with a 100-strong bottle selection (plus growlers to go from the downstairs bar); large windows lend an airy feel to the vast triple-decker space, which is otherwise simply furnished.

Blind Tiger Ale House

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	16	20	M

W Village | 281 Bleecker St. (Jones St.) | 212-462-4682

www.blindtigeralehouse.com

A “beer lover’s El Dorado”, this “justifiably renowned” West Village suds specialist serves a “daunting” selection of craft brews; since it’s “always crowded” – it “suffers from its fame” – hopsheads turn up during “off hours” to sample “more beers than you can wrap your liver around.”

Brooklyn Bowl

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
27	26	23	M

Williamsburg | 61 Wythe Ave. (bet. 11th & 12th Sts.) | Brooklyn |
718-963-3369

www.brooklynbowl.com

“So much more than a bowling alley”, this “unique”, “warehouse-size” Williamsburg multitasker incorporates 16 state-of-the-art lanes with a 600-capacity performance space and tops it off with “spot-on” food courtesy of Blue Ribbon; quite simply, it’s a “blast” and one of the “best” in the city – fans think “this must be what heaven looks like.”

Brooklyn Brewery

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	15	19	M

Williamsburg | 79 N. 11th St. (bet. Berry St. & Wythe Ave.) | Brooklyn |
718-486-7422

www.brooklynbrewery.com

Only open on Friday nights plus Saturday and Sunday afternoons, this “stellar” Williamsburg microbrewery offers hopsheads the chance to go “straight to the source” and sample “cheap”, “none-fresher” frosties; even though lines to the tap “can be long” and the “only food available is via delivery”, it’s still a “great all-around” experience.

D.B.A.

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	15	18	M

E Village | 41 First Ave. (bet. 2nd & 3rd Sts.) | 212-475-5097

D.B.A. Brooklyn

Williamsburg | 113 N. Seventh St. (bet. Berry St. & Wythe Ave.) | Brooklyn |
718-218-6632

www.drinkgoodstuff.com

Both “the connoisseur and the casual drinker” are drawn to this “homey” twosome known for their “Darn Big Assortment” of “smartly curated” hooch ranging from beer to bourbon and beyond; though the decor is strictly “bare-bones”, the “eclectic crowd” is too busy “discussing the world’s problems” to notice.

Dram Shop

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
18	14	18	M

Park Slope | 339 Ninth St. (bet. 5th & 6th Aves.) | Brooklyn | 718-788-1444

www.dramshopbrooklyn.com

A kinda-sorta “sports bar” where the “crowd leaves its testosterone at home”, this “grown-up” Park Slope playroom offers darts, billiards, shuffleboard and board games as well as action on the tube; for sedentary sorts, “comfy banquettes” make swell staging grounds for sampling the “great tap selection.”

Earl's Beer & Cheese

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
-	-	-	I

E 90s | 1259 Park Ave. (bet. 97th & 98th Sts.) | 212-289-1581

www.earlsny.com

A hot hang in the underserved UES area just north of Carnegie Hill, this blink-and-you-missed-it bar taps a daily rotation of four craft beers – matched with cheese boards and other lactic bites – in a tiny space done up in a vaguely outdoorsy style; it’s perpetually jammed, so go early to snare a stool or a seat at the rowdy communal table.

George Keeley

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
21	15	21	M

W 80s | 485 Amsterdam Ave. (bet. 83rd & 84th Sts.) | 212-873-0251

www.georgekeeley.com

A “change of pace amid the sameness” of the Amsterdam Avenue bar scene, this “basic” pub boasts a “hands-down, bottoms-up” selection of “fantastic” craft brews along with some cask ales; hard-core hopsheads “taste 100 beers and get their name on the wall.”

The Growler

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
-	-	-	M

Financial District | 55 Stone St. (bet. Broad St. & Hanover Sq.) |
917-409-0251

www.thegrowlernyc.com

Sited on the FiDi’s picturesque Stone Street, this handsome tavern rolls out 20-plus craft brews (available in growlers for the road) along with cocktails with canine names; the warm, low-lit interior is equipped with a long bar, but in warm weather the outdoor seats are the place to be.

Harefield Road

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
25	21	23	M

Williamsburg | 769 Metropolitan Ave. (bet. Graham Ave. & Humboldt St.) |
Brooklyn | 718-388-6870

“Lots of wood” and “exposed brick” gives this Williamsburg saloon a “lodgey” feel, while its far-flung address makes it “less crowded and noisy” than others in these parts; a “sweet” selection of microbrews and a “backyard patio” are catnip to its “hipster” following.

Lansdowne Road

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	19	22	M

W 40s | 599 10th Ave. (bet. 43rd & 44th Sts.) | 212-239-8020

www.lansdowneroadnyc.com

Named after a Dublin rugby stadium, this Irish sports bar in West Hell’s Kitchen is a “comfortable” place with an “ice strip on the bar to keep your drinks cool”; “attentive” service, “abundant beers” and “delicious wings” are your just “reward for making it to 10th Avenue.”

Mug's Ale House

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
20	13	20	I

Williamsburg | 125 Bedford Ave. (10th St.) | Brooklyn | 718-486-8232

www.mugsalehouse.com

“Beer is the reason you’re here” say the mugs who frequent this “friendly” Williamsburg suds specialist that’s “justifiably known” for tapping an “amazing” lineup of “hard-to-find” brews for “decent” dough; otherwise, there’s “not much else going for it” besides the “neighborhood” tavern vibe.

Pencil Factory

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
24	22	21	M

Greenpoint | 142 Franklin Street (Greenpoint Ave.) | Brooklyn | 718-609-5858

www.pencilfactorybar.com

With a rough-hewn interior recalling its days as a dockworkers’ haunt, this “inviting” Greenpoint watering hole is now a “solid” bet for beer buffs in search of a “carefully chosen” tap selection for “low” dough; pretty “perfect” for an unpretentious pop, it’s a “big neighborhood fave.”

Pony Bar

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	17	21	1

W 40s | 637 10th Ave. (45th St.) | 212-586-2707

E 70s | 1444 First Ave. (75th St.) | 212-288-0090

www.theponybar.com

“If you’re into draft beer”, the “impressive tap lists” at these Hell’s Kitchen and UES suds specialists “stand out” with a “dizzying” rotating selection featuring “American craft brews only” at \$5 a pop; “informative” staffers oversee the “small”, “rustic” digs, and those who “try 100” varieties get a T-shirt and a place on the plaque of honor.

Rattle N Hum

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
-	-	-	M

Murray Hill | 14 E. 33rd St. (bet. 5th & Madison Aves.) | 212-481-1586

www.rattlenhumbarnyc.com

Craft beers – and lots of ’em – are the draws at this Murray Hill pub where 40 taps and over 100 bottled brews keep hopsheads happy; otherwise, it’s typical for the genre with tube sports, pub grub munchies and communal tables for making new friends.

Stag's Head

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	19	22	M

E 50s | 252 E. 51st St. (bet. 2nd & 3rd Aves.) | 212-888-2453

www.thestagsheadnyc.com

Serious “beer drinkers” tout this East Midtown duplex for its rotating roster of all-American craft brews served in “relaxing” “tavern”-like digs by barkeeps who “know their stuff”; the tabs can add up, but that keeps a “better-than-average” clientele staggering in.

St. Marks Ale House

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
18	12	20	I

E Village | 2 St Marks Pl. (3rd Ave.) | 212-260-9762

www.stmarksalehouse.com

With “so many TVs to watch”, there’s “no bad seat in the house” at this “big-ish” East Village sports bar where brewskis and “noisy” cheerleading are “de rigueur” on game nights; though a totally “nondistinctive” “frat-boy hangout”, at least it’s “priced right.”

Taproom No. 307

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
-	-	-	M

Murray Hill | 307 Third Ave. (bet. 23rd & 24th Sts.) | 212-725-4766

www.taproom307.com

Murray Hill's Third Avenue runway gets a craft beer specialist via this popular spot offering 42 tap lines and a variety of bottled bevies that span the globe; dark-wood paneling and upscale bar bites up the ante and help explain why this one's been a hit right out of the box.



San Francisco

Ale Industries 

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	20	24	M

Concord | 975 Detroit Ave. (Whitman Rd.) | 925-470-5280

www.aleindustries.com

“Not really a nightlife place per se”, but rather a “nice” taproom in a Concord brewery, this “warehouse”-like space is staffed by “highly knowledgeable” people who pour “awesome microbrews” made on-site; beer buffs say it’s a “fun place” to taste “really interesting” stuff before buying some growlers to go; P.S. hours vary.

Beer Revolution

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	20	24	M

Oakland | 464 Third St. (bet. B'way & Washington St.) | 510-452-2337

www.beer-revolution.com

“Viva la revolución” cheer suds lovers who enjoy “meeting other beer geeks” while exploring the “always-changing” roster of “unusual” brews “on tap and in bottles” at this Oakland bar; “overcrowding” can be an issue, but the “knowledgeable” staff “strives to serve everyone promptly”, and the “sunny patio” is the “perfect” perch for “sipping” a cold one.

Bergamot Alley

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
25	20	23	E

Healdsburg | 328 Healdsburg Ave. (bet. North & Plaza Sts.) | 707-433-8720

www.bergamotalley.com

Brick walls and reclaimed furniture establish a cozy yet casual vibe at this hip new bar just steps from Healdsburg Plaza; though the “great beer selection” is mostly Californian, the wines are strictly Mediterranean – an unusual twist in the Wine Country; equally intriguing is the record player spinning vinyl, except when live musicians set up on Sundays; P.S. no liquor.

Danny Coyle's

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
24	21	22	M

Lower Haight | 668 Haight St. (Pierce St.) | San Francisco | 415-558-8375

www.dannycoyles.com

With “loads of beer on tap” and “plenty of TVs”, this “great-looking Irish bar in the Lower Haight” is especially popular for “watching rugby, soccer and other international sports” (it even opens at 6 AM for European and Premier League football matches); a Wednesday “trivia night” and weekday happy hour until 7 PM are further reasons locals “love” it.

Fat Angel

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
25	24	24	M

Western Addition | 1740 O'Farrell St. (bet. Fillmore & Steiner Sts.) |
San Francisco | 415-525-3013

www.fatangelsf.com

You could go “every day for a month” and “try something new each time” at this “cool” Western Addition watering hole where “knowledgeable” servers “keep the patrons happy” with a solid wine list (including several varieties on tap) and a beer selection that “excels”, plus “interesting small plates”; insiders say the compact, “comfortable” space with lots of “two-seaters” is “great for dates”, even if some wish it were “easier to get a table.”

Fireside Lounge

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	21	23	M

Alameda | 1453 Webster St. (Santa Clara Ave.) | 510-864-1244

www.thefiresidelounge.com

When Alamedans want to “unwind” and perhaps shoot a game of pool, they head to this “friendly”, affordable hangout boasting a “great beer selection” (including lots of local craft brews) as well as many small-batch spirits; it can get “wild” when live bands amp up the energy and it’s popping for the popular Tuesday Trivia and Tacos, but it’s usually just a spot to chill with a well-made cocktail in a “nice atmosphere.”

Jack’s Cannery Bar

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
24	23	24	I

Fisherman’s Wharf | 441 Jefferson St. (Leavenworth St.) | San Francisco | 415-931-6400

Given the “great selection of beer” spanning 85 taps and “good food too”, all at “reasonable” prices, it’s no wonder locals “love” this “friendly” Fisherman’s Wharf watering hole where there’s plenty of seating at booths and tables, and neon beer signs glow above the bar; some arrive as early as 6 AM to plug quarters into the jukebox or chill on the small patio, and occasional live music is another plus.

Jupiter

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
25	21	21	M

Berkeley | 2181 Shattuck Ave. (Allston Way) | 510-843-8277

www.jupiterbeer.com

This “relaxed but happening” Berkeley microbrewery appeals to both “students and Downtown workers” who especially like to “score a seat” on the “beautiful patio” to enjoy its “delicious” suds, “rustic” pizzas, “people-watching” and frequent live music; fans deem it “fairly priced” for the quality, and while service can be “a little lackluster when it’s busy”, most find it an “inviting” respite after “a hard day’s work.”

The Liberties

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
25	21	24	M

Mission | 998 Guerrero St. (22nd St.) | San Francisco | 415-282-6789

www.theliberties.com

“Everybody is a little bit Irish” at this “stylin’ pub” on a mostly residential block of the Mission, a “relaxed place” with “decent service” whether you’re catching the game in the main bar or supping on upscale pub grub in one of the more sedate side rooms; either way, the “awesome atmosphere”, “terrific specials throughout the week” and sidewalk seating (weather permitting) add to its “value.”

Los Gatos Brewing Co.

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	22	22	M

Los Gatos | 130 N. Santa Cruz Ave. (Grays Ln.) | 408-395-9929

San Jose | 163 W. Clara St. (bet. 4th & 5th Sts.) | 408-292-9928

www.lgbrewingco.com

You can sample a “nice selection” of “beers brewed on the premises” at this midpriced Los Gatos brewery (with a San Jose sib serving the same suds and screening sports on numerous TVs), and there’s also a “full bar” for “something stronger”, plus a menu that goes “way beyond pub food”; though the mahogany- and oak-trimmed space can be “noisy at times”, that’s because it’s a “popular” “local hangout” and happening “happy-hour meeting place.”

Make Westing

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
25	23	20	M

Oakland | 1741 Telegraph Ave. (18th St.) | 510-251-1400

www.makewesting.com

“Roomy and good for groups”, this bar/lounge in a “prime uptown location” has become “one of Oakland’s more popular spots”; sporting a rustic/industrial look, it’s “always busy” thanks to a “nice assortment of local beers”, “delicious cocktails” and “gourmet snacks” – not to mention the “very cool” “indoor bocce ball courts”, conducive to “good ol’ drunken fun.”

Mill Valley Beerworks Brewery & Beer Café

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	20	21	M

Mill Valley | 173 Throckmorton Ave. (bet. Ethel Ct. & Miller Ave.) |
415-888-8218

www.millvalleybeerworks.com

“Kind of like an Epcot Center for beer”, this “bustling”, minimalist Mill Valley microbrewery (which recently expanded to include a full kitchen) offers a “ridiculous variety” of brews “from around the world” as well as housemade versions stored in stainless-steel tanks on view inside; a few find it “yuppified”, but “helpful” service and moderate pricing work in its favor.

Pacific Coast Brewing Company

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	19	22	M

Oakland | 906 Washington St. (10th St.) | 510-836-2739

www.pacificcoastbrewing.com

Join “a jovial crowd” for “casual fun” at this “chill”, brick-walled brewpub in “Old Town” Oakland; “awesome house brews” plus a “nice variety of guest taps” keep beer buffs busy in between bites of the “solid”, “affordable” American fare, which is best enjoyed on “the patio on a hot day.”

Rogue Ales Public House

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	19	23	M

North Beach | 673 Union St. (Powell St.) | San Francisco | 415-362-7880

www.rogue.com

A “happy, loud crowd” congregates indoors or on the spacious patio at this warm, brick-walled North Beach beer hall, which serves 24 of its own “excellent” brews as well as a solid selection of guest taps (suds lovers say “stay a while and sample them all”, especially the “to-die-for” IPA); allow plenty of time on Thursday nights though, since trivia geeks “show up early” to snag seats for the “highly competitive, highly entertaining” pub quiz; P.S. sandwiches, burgers and other eats are also served daily.

Silverado Brewing Company

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	20	19	M

St. Helena | 3020 St. Helena Hwy. N. (Lodi Ln.) | 707-967-9876

www.silveradobrewingcompany.com

When you want to “un-wine” – “especially” after visiting local tasting rooms “all day” – this affordable St. Helena microbrewery delivers “delicious” American fare, the perfect match for “yummy” house-brewed ales and lagers; a “quality” staff and “classy” setting inside a stone-walled, circa-1895 building makes it “one of the most comfortable places in the Napa Valley”, as evidenced by the “good crowd” that congregates on the shady patio.

Steelhead Brewing Co.

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	20	21	M

Burlingame | 333 California Dr. (Burlingame Ave.) | 650-344-6050

www.steelheadbrewery.com

For “excellent” house-brewed pints and “hearty” food to match, head to this midpriced Burlingame pub, a branch of a small Oregon-based chain; it’s a “good-looking”, “open” space, with plenty of “pool tables in the back room”, and if some say it’s “a little too big for the crowd”, others appreciate a “quiet place to have a conversation with a brew.”

Trappist

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
25	24	22	M

Oakland | 460 Eighth St. (bet. B’way & Washington St.) | 510-238-8900

www.thetrappist.com

“If you can’t find something you like here, beer is not your drink” say “brewheads” of this “Belgian-style ale house” in Oakland that stocks an “unbelievable selection” of both draft and bottled suds; housed in a circa-1870s Victorian building, the “cool”, “intimate” space “gets crowded and loud quickly”, but “friendly” servers who “know their wheats and barleys” will “guide you through the labyrinth” of a menu and set you up with a “nice cheese plate” or other snacks.

Triple Rock Brewery

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
22	19	20	M

Berkeley | 1920 Shattuck Ave. (bet. Berkeley Way & Hearst Ave.) |
510-843-2739

www.triplerock.com

It's "all about beer" at this "crowded" Berkeley "hangout", from the "signs and serving trays from old breweries" everywhere to the "wonderful selection" of "unique", "seasonal" beverages "brewed on-site"; "if you're looking for Bud or the hard stuff, you're at the wrong place", but if you don't mind a "noisy" setting and sometimes "slow" service, you can join the "graduate students, professors" and "college kids" enjoying "better-than-average pub food" on the "cool" "rooftop patio."



Washington, DC

Bier Baron

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
25	21	24	M

Dupont Circle | Baron Hotel | 1523 22nd St. NW (bet. P & Q Sts. NW) |
202-293-1885

www.bierbarondc.com

Formerly the “legendary” Brickskellar, this “beer-lover’s heaven” spread over two dark levels in Dupont Circle’s Baron Hotel offers an “awesome” selection (52 drafts, 500 bottles) of reasonably priced suds; add in trivia nights, live music and an “excellent” staff “happy to give suggestions”, and you can “definitely have a lot of fun here.”

Birreria Paradiso

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	22	24	E

Georgetown | 3282 M St. NW (33rd St.) | 202-337-1245

www.eatyourpizza.com

For some of the “best beer below ground”, hopsheads turn to this sudsy subterranean bar beneath Georgetown’s Pizzeria Paradiso where “knowledgeable servers” guide tipplers through the “fantastic selection” (200 bottles, 16 drafts) of domestic and international craft brews; a stone fireplace and beams overhead make it “perfect for a cold night”, especially if you’ve ordered some of the “spot-on” chow from upstairs.

bread soda

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
24	21	23	M

Glover Park | 2233 Wisconsin Ave. NW (bet. Hall & W Pls.) | 202-333-7445

www.breadsoda.com

“Get your competitive streak going” at this “neighborhood spot” in Glover Park, which sports pool, shuffleboard, darts and more in a 1970s-style basement-level bar; a “kind staff” pours a “unique” selection of brews for the “fratboy and sorority girl crowd”, and there’s “great outdoor seating” overlooking Wisconsin Avenue when you need to call a time-out.

Buffalo Wild Wings

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	21	22	M

College Park | 10240 Baltimore Ave. (Ikea Center Blvd.), MD | 301-486-0333

Crystal City | 2450 Crystal Dr. (26th St.) | Arlington, VA | 703-413-0160

www.buffalowildwings.com

“Enjoy a crowd on game night” at these College Park and Crystal City chain links, “ultimate-mega sports bars” where “TVs everywhere”, “friendly” servers and sometimes “rowdy” patrons make for an “energetic atmosphere” (i.e. “noisy but fun”); fans also cluck over the “wonderful selection” of draft beers and the “guilty pleasure” of overindulging in the “spicy”, “delicious” wings.

Darnell’s

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
26	22	24	M

U Street Corridor | 944 Florida Ave. NW (bet. V & W Sts. NW) | 202-290-2865

www.darnellsbar.wordpress.com

“It’s like being at a friend’s house” at this “cute lounge with a homey feel” in the U Street Corridor, though your pals probably don’t have “friendly” staffers serving stiff drinks, good beers and a limited Southern menu; a low-key crowd is nestled in the “quaint” interior filled with vintage furniture or outside on the sidewalk, but either is a “relaxing getaway” from the bustle of Shaw.

Dodge City

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	20	23	M

U Street Corridor | 917 U St. NW (bet. 9th & 10 Sts. NW) | 202-588-9080

www.dodgecitydc.com

An “awesome beer list” heavy on craft labels and an “amazing DJ” have U Streeters trying to “dodge past the clientele” “spilling out onto the street” to get into this “cool little spot”; the art-filled, two-level space gets “crowded on weekends” when there are “small dance parties” upstairs, so retreat to the “great outdoor space” to chill out.

Growlers

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
23	22	24	M

Gaithersburg | 227 E. Diamond Ave. (Summit Ave.), MD | 301-519-9400

www.growlersgastropub.com

“They brew their own” craft beer at this “off-the-beaten-path” Gaithersburg micropub set in a restored 1903 brick storefront and staffed by “friendly” “bartenders who’ve tried most” of the “brewskis” (so go ahead and “ask for a description”); “reasonable prices”, frequent “live bands”, “satisfying” pub grub and a “huge outdoor deck bar” help keep it “crowded.”

Little Miss Whiskey's Golden Dollar

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
25	23	21	M

Atlas District | 1104 H St. NE (bet. 11th St & 12th Sts.)

www.littlemisswhiskeys.com

“Look for the purple light and the fleur-de-lis flag” to find this Atlas District “watering hole”—meets—“hip” lounge “hidden away” on H Street where retro neon signs, gilded vintage lights and “interesting people” create a “cool vibe”; an “impressive” beer selection, unusual cocktails and a hopping upstairs dance floor add up to a sometimes “crazy”, “anything-goes” atmosphere (especially on Costume Karaoke nights), but whiskey mavens agree, it’s “a delight”; P.S. it’s cash-only.

Mason Inn

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
29	24	25	E

Glover Park | 2408 Wisconsin Ave. NW (Calvert St.) | 202-337-1313

www.masoninndc.com

“Get smashed with other young professionals” at this Southern-tinged Glover Park sports bar where the lively crowd “mingles a lot” in front of the 50-ft.-long oak bar and over a dozen TVs (often tuned to SEC games) while downing draft beers or cocktails served in mason jars; fans drawl that service is “quick and efficient” even though it can get “really crowded on weekends.”

The Mighty Pint

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
20	16	22	M

Dupont Circle | 1831 M St. NW (bet. 18 & 19 Sts. NW) | 202-466-3010

www.themightypint.com

It's a "beer-lover's paradise" at this Dupont Circle sports bar where all the bevs are "served in pint glasses" and "game days" mean Pittsburgh teams on the flat-screens being cheered on by a "packed house" of "recent college grads"; despite a "generic" exposed-brick-and-tile-floor space, the "excellent bartenders", "great drink specials", plus a weekend DJ spinning even "greater music" make it a plenty-"fun" place to "hang out and chill."

Philadelphia Tavern

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
24	22	22	M

Manassas | 9413 Main St. (Center St.), VA | 703-393-1776

www.philadelphiatavern.com

Manassas residents feel the brotherly love for this "small" Philly-themed "local watering hole" where an antique wooden bar, street lamps and vintage photos set the scene for a roster of craft microbrews and karaoke; "consistent" service adds to the enthusiasm of fans who cheer it's a "great hangout spot" for "anyone looking for a good time."

Public House No. 7

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
25	21	25	E

Falls Church | 6315 Leesburg Pike (Castle Rd.), VA | 703-942-6383

www.publichouse7.com

“England comes to America” at this Falls Church pub where the “quenching drafts” of “good ales”, Anglo-centric specialty cocktails (Pimm’s Cup, shandies) and “different activities every night” (like trivia, live bands, karaoke and darts) make it a “neighborhood” “hot spot”; walls decked with Brit-chic memorabilia keep the “little-bit-of-the-U.K.” vibe going, as does the slightly “rowdy” crowd on weekends.

Red Derby

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
26	22	24	I

Columbia Heights | 3718 14th St. NW (bet. Quincy St. & Spring Rd.) |
202-291-5000

www.redderby.com

This “small” “hipster dive” in Columbia Heights “specializing in canned beer” is a “friendly” place to “chill with friends” on the “great rooftop” or inside in the crimson-hued bar where the eponymous derby hangs; a stock of “excellent board games” ups the “quirky” quotient, while the “laid-back vibe” and “inexpensive” prices (cash only) make it “easy to become a regular.”

RFD

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
19	16	19	M

Chinatown | 810 Seventh St. NW (bet. H & I Sts. NW) | 202-289-2030

www.lovethebeer.com

“A beer lover’s haven” in Chinatown, this ale house with an “enormous”, “standout” brew selection (“both on tap and bottle”) overseen by a “very knowledgeable staff” is especially “packed” after games at the nearby Verizon Center; the “cafeteria”-like space with “sticky floors” is “always loud” and attracts a “stereotypical frat-boy” crowd, leading a few to “pass” on the sudsfest or at least opt for the back patio.

Trusty’s Full Serve

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
24	23	25	M

Capitol Hill | 1420 Pennsylvania Ave. SE (bet. 14th & 15th Sts.) |

202-547-1010

www.trustysdc.com

“Relive your childhood” at this kitschy Capitol Hill “dive bar every neighborhood wants” where the “excellent bartenders” pour “interesting beer choices” for a “young crowd”; the gas-station decor, a second-floor “school-bus bar” (fashioned from a real yellow kid-carrier) and an open-air patio add to the already playful vibe of “hilarious games” and jukebox “sing-alongs.”

Vintage 50

ATMOS.	DECOR	SERVICE	COST
25	25	24	VE

Leesburg | 50 Catoctin Circle NE (E. Market St.), VA | 703-777-2169

www.vintage50.com

“One-of-a-kind”, “brewed-on-the-premises” craft suds riffing on Euro traditions are paired with “an excellent wine list” to lure cask lovers to this “hidden-gem” resto-pub tucked into a Leesburg office building; service is highly rated, and the attractive modern space – with a long bar, lounge area and patio – is “great” for “intimate, romantic dinners” or “casual conversation with friends.”

