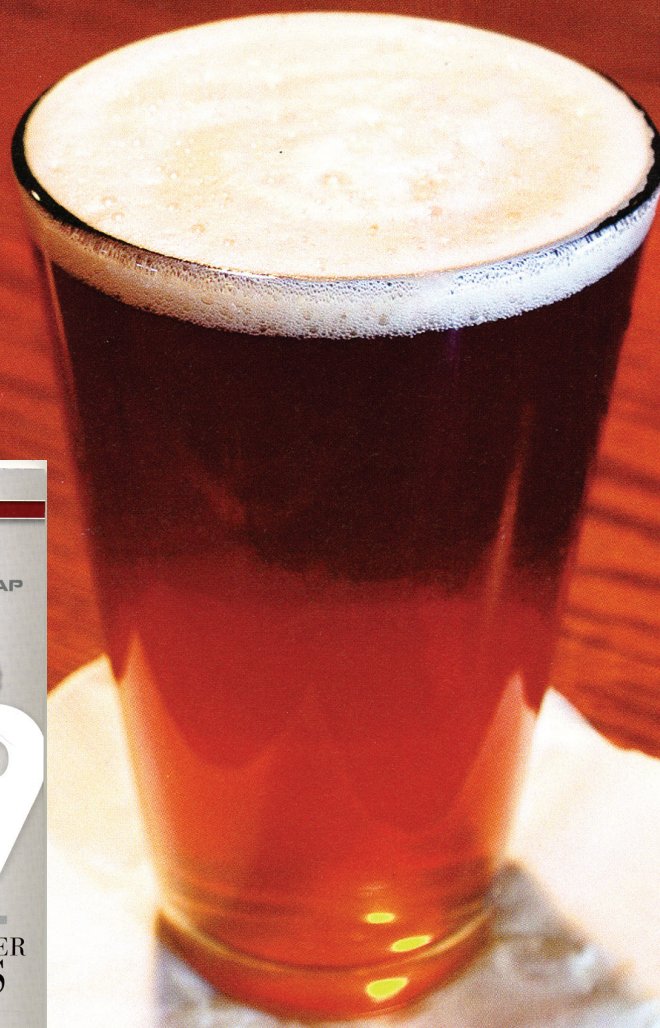


BEST BEER BARS IN AMERICA

For you and for us, bars are more than just casual hangouts. They are where we engage with our passion, tasting, smelling, savoring and learning about new and beloved brews. Because of this, DRAFT combed the country for the best bars out there and evaluated each one on its ambience, food, service and, of course, its beer. We toasted at every one of these bars we recommend here and found tempting haunts in the likeliest—and unlikely—of places. Plus, we took heed of your suggestions, and included readers' picks, places where you can find fellow DRAFT fans sipping away. There are Irish pubs, Scottish pubs and English pubs; biercafés, taverns and alehouses; dives and hotspots. We were, in short, an equal-opportunity taster, and the result is this list we hope you'll put to the (taste) test yourself.



-  Serves Food
-  Excellent Beer Selection
-  Super Service
-  Games
-  Live Music

The Raleigh Times Bar

14 E. Hargett St., Raleigh, NC 27601

919.833.0999 | www.raleightimesbar.com

When we first heard about this bar, we were sold on the concept alone: a downtown Raleigh establishment situated in the historic "Raleigh Times" building with a reputation for being passionate about Belgian beer. And though the newspaper is long gone, we think this bar deserves some ink.

The staff of The Raleigh Times is extremely approachable, affable and excited about the beer selection. Don't hesitate to ask what's new behind the bar; they know their beer and can help you navigate the menu. A wealth of exciting offerings like Troubadour Obscura, Gaffel Kölsch and Jolly Pumpkin Calabaza Bianca make appearances on tap and, in an attempt to outdo itself, the bar also pours Pierre Celis' Ertvelds Wit. Celis recreated the original Hoegaarden beer in the 1960s, and brewed that recipe through the '80s when Interbrew purchased the label and, some say, changed the recipe. Today, Celis still brews the original recipe in small batches from Van Steenberge Brewery in Belgium, and The Raleigh Times has secured enough of it for a few trips down memory lane.

Those interested in the past can also choose from the bar's vintage selection which includes Samichlaus 2006 from Austria, and J.W. Lees limited edition 1998 Harvest Ale from England.

Then, of course, there are the regular bottles. Try Piraat IPA, Castelain Blonde or Fantome La Dalmatienne. You really can't go wrong, and with some help from the friendly staff, you're bound to find a new beer to fall in love with. If, on the other hand, you're looking for a new band to fall in love with, talk to Matt, the guy behind the bar who might suggest Yeasayer, Akron Family or the Born Ruffians, among others. He'll pour you a beer while he's doing it, and before long, you'll be jotting down brews and bands worthy of exploration for years to come.



and nearly 250 bottled beers to thirsty customers. Once you've navigated the beer list, choose between scholarly pursuits (like Beer 101 on Sunday nights) and those of a more leisurely nature (think the game room with pool tables and dart boards). As a final bonus, the downtown Richmond location—there are four throughout Virginia—is adjacent to the Capital Ale House Music Hall, where you'll get up close and personal with nationally touring bands.



Preservation Pub

28 Market Sq., Knoxville, TN 37902

865.524.2224 | www.preservationpub.com

Is it called Preservation Pub because the bar so easily grips a crowd? Live music seven days a week, nearly 200 brews to weed through and a 27-item list of strong beers you can only have one glass of (Orkney Skull Splitter, Black Eye Ale) keep the masses coming back and staying here.



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