



## *Cheers to Local Beers!*

With 23 craft breweries in the city limits—and more brewing all the time—a hoppy haven is always just a hop, sip and jump away. Ready to raise your glass to the wealth of choice? Here are a few ways to dive into the city's craft beer circuit. BY JILL VON SPRECKEN + PHOTOS BY KK LAW



Brassneck's tasting room, growler-fill station and an endless line of taps. (Opposite page) A custom-designed growler from Sigil & Growler shows off Vancouver's beloved landmarks



## Tapped In

Brewery Creek, once the turn-of-the-century hub of the local brewing scene, is enjoying a renaissance that has put the historic area back on the map. Anchored by hip-and-happening Main Street, a cluster of breweries offer sippers ranging from easy drinking to experimental. It's the perfect jumping-off point for exploring craft beer by the flight or pint, and easily accessed on foot or—to really blend in with the locals—by bicycle.

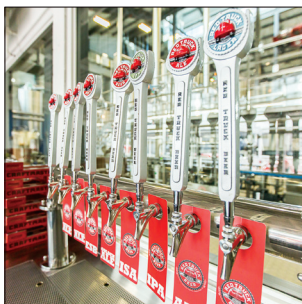
**33 ACRES** The pristine aesthetic at this brewery and tasting room is a design buff's dream, and the perfect locale for sipping the array of approachable beers. Quench your thirst with 33 Acres of Life, a smooth California-common-style beer, or 33 Acres of Sunshine, an unfiltered white ale. Unexpected but warmly welcomed: espresso drinks and a menu of locally sourced snacks, such as cheese, charcuterie and handmade ice cream. See page 92.

**BRASSNECK** Reclaimed wood and zany artwork line the walls, while the frequently rotating taps attempt to keep pace with even the most enthusiastic beer lover's thirst for new and inventive brews. Fill a tasting paddle with the eclectic pours, and be sure to include the flagship Passive



## Souvenir Savvy

Beer buffs looking for a cool keepsake seek out Sigil & Growler's laser-engraved growlers. Browse their designs or create your own, for the perfect way to tote beer and memories of your trip all at once. Visit [www.sigilandgrowler.com](http://www.sigilandgrowler.com).



Red Truck Stop boasts a truck-themed space, complete with red vintage vehicles always on-site, plus a bright and airy tasting room and a line-up of taps for pouring perfect house-made pints

Aggressive, a dry-hopped pale ale that is also the first beer ever brewed here. See page 92.

**MAIN STREET BREWING** Tucked away just east of Main Street, this industrial heritage space serves a rotating menu of cask-conditioned beer alongside a solid selection of regular draft options such as Westminster Brown and the Saison No. 7, with its subtle splash of pepper and citrus. A small menu features beer-appropriate—and locally sourced—bites like wings and soft pretzels, perfect for fuelling long musings over ales and lagers. See page 92.

**RED TRUCK STOP** This sleek tasting room is reminiscent of a classic truck-themed diner, and pours no-fuss brews such as N.W.A, a crisp and smooth Northwest pale ale, and the Red Truck Golden Ale, ripe with orange and coriander flavours. If the sun is shining, snag a spot on the patio and pair your sipper with menu items

that run the gamut from hot dogs to New York-style cheesecake. See page 93.

**STEEL TOAD** This refurbished industrial space boasts an airy mix of glass and wood, and small-batch brews that range from the authentic Yorkshire Best Bitter to the adventurous Raspberry Sour ale. Guest taps and bottles offer sips from farther-flung locales, and the menu has inventive bites, from bar snacks to cedar-plank salmon. See page 99.

### *Tour de Hops*

Take a peek behind the scenes—and share the experience with other hops aficionados—with a guided tour. Vancouver Brewery Tours (page 84) whisks groups between local breweries, and offers a look into what happens beyond the tasting room walls. Cycle City Tours (page 76) is perfect for pedal-pushers who prefer to see sights between suds, as the tour takes craft-beer enthusiasts through Vancouver's historic neighbourhoods. Grab a few bot-

tles or fill a growler; there's room to take souvenir brews along for the ride. Want to satisfy your appetite and your curiosity for local lagers? Tag along on Craft Beer 'n' Bites with Vancouver Food Tour (page 84), which proves that food-and-drink pairings aren't just for wine anymore.

## Beerchanalia

The city's annual Vancouver Craft Beer Week (to Jun. 5; page 86) is a frothy celebration of beer, live music and special events. It all culminates at the three-day VCBW Festival (Jun. 3 to 5), which brings over 100 breweries and cideries—and more than 350 unique pours—to a single venue. Among the festivities: concerts on three stages, including acts like blues rockers Band of Rascals and alt-country quintet The Matinée, and bites from Car-tems Donuterie and Big Red's Poutine.

## Local Stalwarts

These local favourites set up shop beyond Brewery Creek, but are still

worth seeking out. Find their sippers on drink menus or in their tasting rooms.

**PARALLEL 49 BREWING** An East Van institution, this microbrewery is famed for its ever-evolving roster of inventive beers and equally inventive—and eye-catching—labels. See page 92.

**POSTMARK BREWING** Housed in Rail-town's multi-purpose Settlement Building, the beers here are clean, unfussy and eminently crushable. See page 93.

**POWELL STREET** This tiny start-up was catapulted from nano-brewery beginnings to fame when the Old Jalopy Pale Ale won "Beer of the Year" at the 2013 Canadian Brewing Awards. See page 93.

**STORM BREWING** Established long before the craft beer craze, this unpretentious brewery serves seriously inventive small-batch beers like orange creamsicle ale and tropical mint pilsner. See page 93. **W**

## Brewery Creek

- 1 33 Acres
- 2 Brassneck
- 3 Main Street Brewing
- 4 Red Truck Stop
- 5 Steel Toad
- 6 Postmark Brewing
- 7 Storm Brewing
- 8 Parallel 49 Brewing
- 9 Powell Street

