

HILL TO HILL:

AROUND ST ANDREW'S ROADSIDE GEMS

Our island is full of under-rated treasures hiding in plain sight along busy roadways or tucked away in mountainside nooks. We're taking you on a tour from Stony Hill to the Blue Mountains exploring some of St Andrew's roadside bar and restaurant gems.



Good Hope Hot Spot, Stony Hill Square

At first glance, Good Hope Hot Spot is a small roadside place, so it's a shock to see the back of the bar open out into a cool wooden deck.

If you like soup, you'll want to go on a Friday when they cook chicken foot or red peas soup. There's also 'Month End Fridays' with reduced prices for some spirits or two-for-one deals on rum.

According to owner Hazel Kirland, her partons' most requested drinks are Wray & Nephew White Overproof Rum, Wray rum and Campari or Wray rum and Boom

MUST BE LEGAL DRINKING AGE. PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY.



Irish Pub, Irish Town

If you blink, you might miss the sunny yellow and green Irish Town Pub nestled on the curve of the road heading through the mountains. So, try not to blink because it's a gem.

The pub's regulars are partial to Wray & Nephew White Overproof Rum and Appleton Estate Jamaica rums. Visitors from outside the area stop by and enjoy Appleton Estate 12-Year-Old rum, vodka, and wine.

What makes the space really special is the deck which Natoya calls the Irish Café and Smoothie Bar. Here she serves coffee and smoothies, including a special blend with star apple.

Hill View Pub, Papine

Sitting on the right of Gordon Town Road as it snakes toward the mountains, you'll spot the bright yellow and green of Hill View Pub.

Clive Hinds has been running the friendly community bar for some 17 or 18 years.

Hill View Pub gets visitors from the community, from Clive's friends from all over the island, UWI and UTECH students, and people heading up to the mountains.

On Fridays, you'll find jerk chicken, pork, goat head soup or pigtail, to go with your drink.



Original Kentucky Drinking Saloon, Gordon Town

Angela 'Angie' Oakley runs this spot in Gordon Town Square. Colourful murals adorn some of the walls surrounding the square, mountains rise in the distance, and a statue of Miss Lou surveys the scene.

Angie's been in charge of the Original Kentucky Drinking Saloon for the past six years.

She shares bartending tasks with her sister doing out the favourite drinks of Wray & Nephew White Overproof Rum or Campari.

If you're heading up into the mountains, stop in Gordon Town Square, have a drink at the saloon and admire the view.



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Burlington Lounge, Burlington Avenue

Set behind a tiled courtyard, at the back of a small complex on Burlington Avenue, is a little oasis: Burlington Lounge.

On Saturdays, Tiffany Thompson, who runs the bar, cooks up soup.

"We do red peas soup with pigtail, gungo peas with pigtail, chicken or beef, and meatless soup. There are always three options."

On Tuesdays, Gladdy from Wild Bunch comes to play at the bar.

You can sit here with your drink from the bar soaking up the fresh air and taking in the beautiful views of Kingston and the sea.

Pop by on Sundays for a Jamaican-style breakfast or on Fridays for some fish tea.

Now that you know some of St Andrew's best little spots, it's time to get out there and explore, safely and responsibly.



Crystal Edge Restaurant, Irish Town

Looking at Crystal Edge, with a deck crouched on the mountainside overlooking a valley, buzzing with people, it's hard to believe it started as a pan chicken stand. Winsome Hall's Irish Town spot gradually grew into a full restaurant and bar.

The restaurant serves up only Jamaican food, from fried chicken and stewed pork to escovitch fish.

You'll find people enjoying their meals or drinks on the ever-popular outdoor deck or inside watching sports on the TV.

"It's a nice hangout area. Nice and cool. It's a nice little break from Kingston," says Winsome.

"We get a mixture of people coming to Crystal Edge. Most come from outside the area. We get tourists and people from all around."

Their patrons' favourite drinks? Wray & Nephew White Overproof Rum, Appleton Estate Jamaica rums, and Campari; perfect for enjoying in the cool mountain air.



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Bennett Bar, Temple Hall

Around 20 minutes outside of the hustle and bustle of Manor Park is Bennett Bar, a small roadside spot decked out in red.

People from the community and those just driving by stop here to drink, play dominoes, and listen to music, especially on Thursdays and Fridays.

So, what do people drink here?

The general favourite is Wray & Nephew White Overproof Rum and soda though people also often ask for Campari chased with Wray Rum.



The Magic Spot, Guava Gap

Tucked away in the community of Guava Gap on the way between Stony Hill Square and Mannings Hill is The Magic Spot.

The Magic Spot is housed on the ground floor of a two-storey converted container structure painted vibrant red. Tables and chairs sit outside. Inside there's a glitzy gold mosaic bartop, liquor bottles decorated with glitter, and a large window ushering in cool breeze.

The kitchen makes tasty Jamaican food with the fried chicken and fried chicken back being favourites among the community. They also serve breakfast on Sunday.

