

SPORTS BAR MADNESS

By Lakendra Lewis

With travel restrictions being what they are these days, crossing the pond to get a pint at an authentic UK pub can be well...complicated. Luckily, patrons who enjoy watching the big game at ye olde pub don't need to go overseas to enjoy a bit of sport and ale thanks to downtown establishments that have brought the look and feel of the international pub scene to the city streets of San Antonio. Here are a few to consider for your next pub crawl.

MAD DOGS BRITISH PUB

Looking for guys and gals in kilts, British pub food and refreshing cocktails? Then look no further than this theme-styled pub, where a yank can indulge in a little taste of Britain in the heart of Texas.

Situated directly on the River Walk at the base of the Hyatt Regency and just a short walk from the Alamo, Mad Dogs, which opened its doors in San Antonio in 1995, is famous for its happy hour drink specials as well as a menu that boasts its famous fish and chips and other mouthwatering British faves such as cottage pie, Scotch eggs and bangers & mash. The pub also serves popular stateside dishes that include fresh salads, sandwiches, steaks, burgers and vegetarian options. Those with a penchant for a pint can also pull up a pub chair and enjoy a British draught beer while surrounded by an array of authentic British pub décor complete with red telephone boxes and Union Jacks.

Looking for live entertainment? Say no more! Mad Dogs offers live music seven nights a week, including karaoke on Monday nights from 9:00pm-1:00am, disc jockeys and monthly theme parties. According to their website, this pub also was christened—per'aps by the Queen—the Best

Damn Sports Bar on the River Walk. So, whether it be the NBA Playoffs, the Final Four or the Alamo Bowl, Mad Dogs, you can sit back and enjoy the game on one of 16 high-definition tellies and two jumbo screens.

MADDY MCMURPHY'S IRISH SPORTS BAR

If yer seekin' a bit o' Irish food and fare, pop over to this premier sports bar, situated right smack in the heart of the downtown tourist district, where everyday is St. Patrick's Day and every lad and lass behind the bar knows yer name.

Located about a block from the Alamo, Maddy McMurphy's is a mecca for the serious sports lover, featuring 20 high-definition big screens, surround sounds, NFL Sunday Ticket, NHL Center Ice, MLB Extra Innings, NBA League Pass and boxing/ UFC pay-per-views. Patrons can even ask their server to switch on a particular game if it's not showing.

Those who prefer to host a private affair can take the party downstairs on the main floor for a gathering that accommodates up to 195 and houses more than 15 large-screen high-definition televisions, a four-screen video wall and a giant 160-inch jumbo screen above the bar. Or take the fun



Mad Dogs British Pub



High Velocity



Maddy McMurphy's Irish Sports Bar



Moses Rose's Hideout



Drink Texas Bar



High Velocity



Mad Dogs British Pub



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upstairs to the private loft-style Sky Lounge that contains its own bar and bathroom, plus seven large high-definition screens and a private mezzanine overlooking the main floor.

Drink specials are offered nightly along with a full menu of traditional bar food that also showcases specialty pizzas, subs, nachos and signature faves like McMurphy's Meatballs (a blend of beef, pork, parmesan cheese and fresh herbs formed into authentic style meatballs topped with pomodoro sauce and served with jumbo croutons) and the Pat's O'Pretzel, a cinnamon sweet dessert with a chocolate and caramel drizzle. Faith and begorrah!

MOSES ROSE'S HIDEOUT

Pooches love the pub, too, and at this dog-friendly establishment, your pet is welcome to rest its paws while you kick back with a cold beverage, watch the game and order a bite from the menu.

Named for Louis "Moses" Rose who legend has it was the only man who chose not to defend the besieged Alamo when Colonel William Travis drew his now famous line in the sand, this hidden gem can be found just off the corner of Alamo and Houston Streets in a beautiful old brick structure with antique tin ceilings that dates back to the early 1900's.

Live music, large TV's with lots of sports, and a full menu complete the atmosphere where customers and their canine companions can enjoy a plate of BigTex Onion Rings. Other menu items include salads, fried pickles, chips and green chili queso, plus burgers, sandwiches and brisket, fish or jalapeno sausage tacos you can wash down with a Texas craft beer, whiskey or cocktail.

The Hideout is open seven days a week and also offers nightly music and dancing. All guests are required to know the password to get inside—it is a hideout, after all—but not to worry. All "Texas Worthy" patrons who don't know the password will still be allowed inside.

HIGH VELOCITY

This upscale sports bar located within the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort and Spa is the perfect spot to schmooze while watching the big game on its 120-foot-long high-definition, wrap-around screen, scrolling scoreboard and video walls that will make you feel as if you're right in the middle of the action.

Sports fans can raise a glass to their favorite team with crisp ales supplied by the Real Ale Brewing Company as well as munch on made-from-scratch appetizers before dipping into a menu of classic American cuisine that includes fish tacos with shredded cabbage and spicy chipotle ranch dressing and the Green Chili Poblano, a dish made of 100% Angus beef grilled with roasted poblano and topped with bacon, Chihuahua cheese, lettuce, tomato and jalapeno mayo.

High Velocity also has a private enclosed area called the Sky Box that seats up to 90 guests and contains several flat screen televisions, and a clubhouse that is a semi-private open space with personal video walls, comfy lounge sofas and tables complete with a personal private bar that accommodates up to 60 guests. Small party rooms also are available for rent.

DRINK TEXAS

This go-to watering hole is a popular draw for locals and out-of-towners alike, boasting a marathon happy hour from 2:00-9:00pm and more than a dozen signature homespun drinks made with natural ingredients and local Texas spirits, as well some of the friendliest bartenders in San Antonio.

Located just a few steps from the San Antonio Riverwalk at the corner of Market and Navarro across from the Hotel Contessa, this comfy, upscale establishment lives up to its name with a wide variety of Texas cocktails on which to imbibe, including the Texas Cucumber Martini, a mixture of cucumber vodka, fresh lime, cucumber and syrup; and the Texas Peanut Butter Old-Fashioned, made of peanut butter, bourbon, bitters and simple syrup. Cheers!

WRITER'S BIO

Lakendra Lewis is an arts and entertainment journalist, editor and author whose articles have appeared in Edible San Antonio Magazine, The Texas Observer and San Antonio Christian Woman Magazine. She enjoys movies, music, cooking, singing and telling other people's stories. You can contact her/read more of her stories at lakendralewis.journoportfolio.com.

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www.Drinktexas.com/downtown