

BREW CITY

A CRAFTY GUIDE TO LOCAL BREWS

BY HEIDI TRAVIS

You've just come in from a scorching day of tedious yard work, you're at a get together with a bunch of your friends, it's been a hell of a week at work and you just need a little something to take the edge off - What do you reach for? BEER, of course! Beer is the nation's leading alcoholic beverage, with 40 percent of alcohol consuming Americans calling it the drink of their choice according to a 2017 Gallup poll. Beer has always been a fan favorite with its genesis dating back as far as 3400 B.C. in what is now modern day Iran. The oldest evidence of beer, however, a stone tablet depicting people and gods drinking beer through straws, suggests the Sumerians were at it long before then. The Sumerian variety of beer likely wouldn't be a crowd pleaser these days, though. It was said to be thick as porridge with plenty of bread and herbs in it - thus the straw to filter it all out. Not particularly refreshing.

Of course, since then, beer has come a long, long way. Now beer comes in many shapes and forms not least of which is the increasingly popular craft beer, which has become a global phenomenon. The Brewer's Association defines a craft brewer as small, independent, and traditional. This means they must produce a total of six million barrels of beer or less annually, less than 25 percent of the brewery should be controlled by

an alcohol industry member that is not a craft brewer itself, and that the majority of its beverage volume be derived from traditional brewing ingredients. According to the Brewers Association, as of last year, there were a total of 243 craft breweries in the state of Florida alone.

Well, this little chunk of Florida is no exception. In recent years, Pensacola has seen a surge of craft breweries emerging with the promise of even more to come throughout the area. In fact, by the end of the year, Pensacola will be home to a total of nine breweries, so we are spoiled for choice here. It's no wonder too. craft breweries are more than just businesses. It's also about *community*. They are cozy clubs, a home away from home, where you and your friends can gather for an afternoon or evening and get a taste for something a little bit different. Maybe you'll discover something new and delicious. Maybe you'll make new friends. Maybe you won't like *everything* you taste, but that doesn't matter. With craft beer, it's all about the journey, not the destination. Ah, but where to begin? Especially if you are relatively new to the craft beer scene, it may be hard to know where to go or what to drink. Say no more! We are here to help. We've created a handy dandy map to point you in the direction of the best brew for you.

1. Spahr Brewing Company

3541 W Fairfield Dr.

spahrbrewingcompany.com

Number of beers on Tap: 8

Signature Beer: German Pils

2. Goatlips Chew & Brewhouse featuring The Redneck Riviera Brewing Project

2811 Copter Rd.

goatlips.com

Number of Beers on Tap: 6 to 7

Signature Beer: Raiders of the Last

Hops, Sweet Potato (Ale in the fall),

Jalapeno Cream Ale

3. A Little Madness Brewing Company (Opening Soon)

9838 N. Davis Hwy.

alittlemadnessbrewingcompany.com

Number of Beers on Tap: 14

Signature Beer: Lavender Iron Wit

4. Gulf Coast Brewery

5000 Heinberg St.

gulfcoastbrewery.net

Number of Beers on Tap: 23

Also have a Cigar shop and lounge

Signature Beers: Karma Driven IPA,

Backstabber Coffee Porter,

Summer Blonde Ale

5. McGuire's Irish Pub

600 E. Gregory St.

mcguiresirishpub.com

Number of Beers on Tap: 7 + 1 root

beer

Signature Beer: Red Ale

6. Perfect Plain Brewing Co.

50 E. Garden St.

perfectplain.com

Number of Beers on Tap: 12- 16

Signature Beers: Rotating beers on a month-to-month basis

7. Big Top Brewing Company (Opening Soon)

21 W. Romana St.

bigtopbrewing.com

Number of Beers on Tap: 24

Signature Beers: Hawaiian Lion,

Big Life Tropical Lager

8. Casks and Flights

121 S Palafox St.

swanneck.moonfruit.com/casks-and-flights

Number of Beers on Tap: Casks

and Flights will offer Swan Neck

mead as well as a variety of wines

on tap

9. Pensacola Bay Brewery

225 E. Zaragoza St.

pbbrew.com

Number of Beers on Tap: 20 to 22

Signature Beer: Riptide Amber

BREW MAP



If you're curious to know what all the hubbub is about but don't want to bother with the hassle of having your designated driver take you all over town, then the annual Emerald Coast Beer Festival is the one-stop answer for you. On September 6 and 7 at Rosie O'Grady's Good Time Emporium in Seville Quarter, several of our local brewers will be serving up their best craft beers for you to taste and all you have to pay is the price of the ticket. With over 250 beers offered by home brewing clubs, craft breweries and distributors, the possibilities are endless. Unlimited beers. One ticket! And it's all for a good cause. The proceeds of the festival will go towards two charity organizations: The Alfred-Washburn Center and the Seville Rotary Club.



Not a drinker?

If beer or alcohol is not your cup of tea, no worries! Big Jerk Soda Company's got you covered. With a variety of unique and tasty, fizzy drinks to offer, like Ginger Beer, Lavender Lemonade and Blueberry Peach, you're sure to find something to your taste. Big Jerk Soda Co. has two new flavors—Coffee Soda and Cherry Limeade—coming out soon and a rotating selection that changes seasonally so be sure to keep an eye out!

