

BEER DESTINATIONS

WORCESTER, MASS. AREA

By Jim MacMillan, © 2017-18

Love craft beer? Want to find out where it's made? Looking for new brews that you've heard or read about? Well here's a perfect opportunity to find out about all of these things and more!

This is the fifth of a series of articles providing information about what I refer to as 'Beer Destinations' and will give you a bit of knowledge about multiple brewery spots in the greater New England area. In this series, I will select a number of breweries, brewpubs, eateries and craft beer bars in which to travel. You can sample their offerings, move on to the next, and manage to hit them all if you're up for the challenge...

I am dedicating this article to my late brother-in-law who lived in this area and always knew of great places to hang out and enjoy life; here's to you Brian... Cheers!!!

There are some great breweries out there making awesome beer just for you! I live in New Hampshire, but in this issue, we will focus on Worcester, Massachusetts area and its plentiful beer production within this region. Look over the map and see where breweries of interest reside then plan out your trip to find your Beer Destination!

There are over 145 breweries in Massachusetts alone with that number increasing every year. The term 'brewery' refers to a nano or micro brew-on-premise establishment (usually with food), tap or tasting room, or even a macro brewery, such as the likes of Harpoon in Boston.

DOWNTOWN WORCESTER:

ARMSBY ABBEY

144 Main St, Worcester, MA

Armsby Abbey is a beer lovers dream! They have a huge list of draft and bottled beers from all around the world. They have more of Vermont's Hill Farmstead beers than any other tap house. Their Belgian and German offerings are bewildering. Frankly their is more great beer (and food) here than anyone else could want elsewhere. Check their website for current draft beer lines at: armsbyabbey.com

BREW CITY GRILL + BREW HOUSE

104 Shrewsbury St, Worcester, MA

Brew City Grill & Brew House has over 40 taps of world-famous beers and over 100 bottled beers.

Food and beer pairing is highly encouraged here and their casual dining will have you coming back. Check out their website for food and beer menus at brew-city.com



WORMTOWN BREWERY

72 Shrewsbury St, Worcester, MA

Wormtown Brewery is just around the corner from Brew City. It has an impressive selection of finely crafted beers made just outside the tasting room. Opened in 2010, Wormtown has grown by leaps and bounds and is about to be sold in New Hampshire. Their flagship beer, Be Hoppy, will surely find a place in your heart.

Follow them at: facebook.com/wormtownbrewery and at wormtownbrewery.com



THE DIVE BAR

34 Green Street, Worcester, MA

The Dive Bar, which is also near Wormtown, is almost what its name implies... but it's not. A trendy night spot with a huge beer garden out back and live entertainment in the warmer months. Get your fill of delicious pub food and a beer list that will amaze you!



FLYING DREAMS

455B Park Ave, Worcester, MA

Flying Dreams is not far from Wormtown and is available to visit only 3 days a week. Opening in 2015, they now have a small tasting room and sell 22 oz bottles of their draft line.

You can learn more about them at: www.flyingdreamsbrewing.com



3CROSS BREWING

4 Knowlton Ave, Worcester, MA

3cross Brewing opened its doors in 2014 and began selling great brews to their fans. The term 3cross comes from the idea that a bicycle spoke crosses over 3 other spokes from rim to hub. Obviously, these owners are into serious biking with bikes hanging from the walls and ceiling. Find out more at 3crossbrewing.com



EAST OF WORCESTER AREA:

DEJA BREW

510 Boston Turnpike (Rt 9), Shrewsbury, MA

Deja Brew is a place where you can learn to brew your own beer. With over 200 recipes, you'll pick one to brew and then return in 2 weeks to bottle the batch and take 22 oz bottles home with you. They take care of the clean up and you get to enjoy the beer you have created.



OWEN O'LEARY'S

17 Connector Rd, Westborough and
50 Turnpike Rd, Southborough, (further along Rt 9)

Both locations offer Irish pub fair and great brews to quench your appetite and thirst. Look over their menus and beer list at www.owenolearys.com

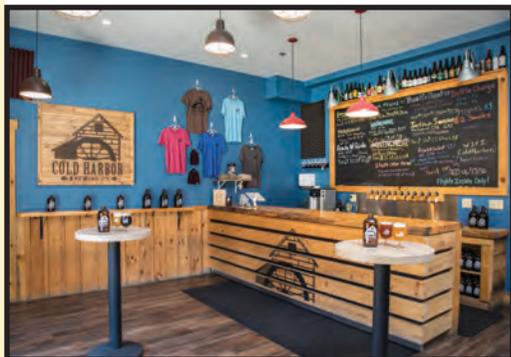
COLD HARBOR BREWING

108 Milk St #6, Westborough, MA (just off Rt 9)

Cold Harbor Brewing was established in 2015 with the goal of creating some of the finest craft beer offerings available in the area. With a modest tasting room and growler take-aways, you will find this establishment a vibrant stop along your way to brewing perfection.

Visit them at:

coldharborbrewing.com



BOLTON BEER WORKS

100 Wattaquodock Hill Rd, Bolton (part of Nashoba Valley Winery)

Bolton Beer Works opened in 2004 making small batch beers for its wedding and reception hall space. This spacious and beautifully kept farm is worth a visit just to appreciate pristine surroundings.

Learn more at their website: boltonbeerworks.com



SOUTH OF WORCESTER AREA:

CRAFTROOTS BREWING

4 Industrial Rd, Milford, MA

CraftRoots Brewing is one of the more recently opened breweries list here. With 25 beers to their credit already, watch for this place to take on the thirsty craft lovers.

Look up their brews and FAQ's on their site: craftrootsbrewing.com



PURGATORY BEER COMPANY

670 Linwood Ave Building C, Northbridge, MA

Purgatory Beer Co. is a small startup brewery that is setting its sights high. This brewing duo (partners) have made some delicious creations which await your thirsty lips. Check them out on: facebook.com/PurgatoryBeerCo

KRETSCHMANN BREWING CO.

9 Frederick St Webster, MA

Kretschmann Brewing Co. is a fun place to stop, especially in the warmer months since they have outdoor live music, games and other festivities. Their brews are a mix of on premise brews and other local guest taps. They also encourage you to BYOF (bring your own food).

Learn more at: kcbrewing.com



WEST OF WORCESTER AREA:



TREEHOUSE BREWING

129 Sturbridge Rd, Charlton, MA

Along Rt 90 is one of the most revered brewers in Massachusetts. Their beers are treasured and enjoyed by many an imbibers. In a vast brewing facility, they create award-

winning beers canned for the masses. Long lines of fans line up daily to get their share of what is available before the stock runs out. With this in mind, it is wise to show up early to get your share.



Find out more about them at: treehousebrew.com

HOMEFIELD KITCHEN + BREWERY

3 Arnold Rd, Sturbridge, MA

Further west is a quaint stop along the way to wet your whistle. They have unusual food to go with their small batch brew offerings. Live music happens infrequently and the vibe is always in a country setting.



Check them out at: facebook.com/HomefieldBrew

RAPSCALLION BREWERY

195 Arnold Rd, Sturbridge, MA

Rapscallion Brewery was established in 1993 making it one of the oldest breweries within this article. While their restaurant is in Acton, the Sturbridge location has much more local flavor with live music on the weekends outside as well as a disc golf course in the woods nearby. Many great brew recipes are making quite a name for this MA-only, draft-only brewery.



Visit their informative site at: drinkrapscallion.com



NORTH OF WORCESTER AREA:



STONE COW BREWERY

500 West Street (Rt. 122), Barre, MA

Stone Cow Brewery is a walk back to simpler life and country living. Great beers brewed inside a beautifully restore barn along with awesome pub food makes this experience worth a stop. **Look over their nicely adorned site at:** stonecowbrewery.com

GARDNER ALE HOUSE

74 Parker Street, Gardner, MA

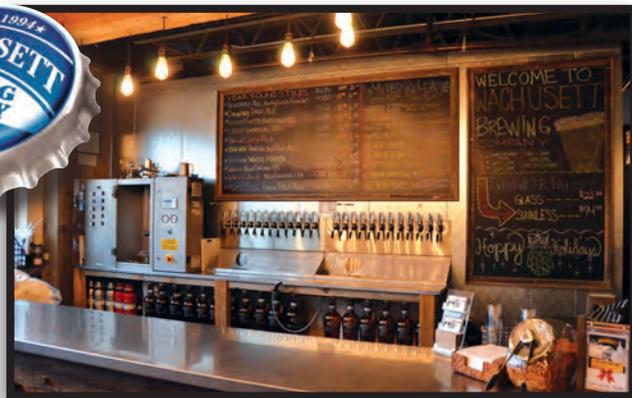
Gardner Ale House is a brew pub and restaurant with a rowdy side to it. Moon Hill Brewing within the establishment creates some of the most intriguing beers while the kitchen ensures the crowd is well fed. A nightly lineup of musical talent rounds out your experience. Take a growler away with you as you depart too.

See more about them at: gardnerale.com

WACHUSETT BREWING Co.

175 State Rd E, Westminster, MA

Wachusett Brewing Company is the most well established and largest of the breweries within this article. Supplying Massachusetts and beyond with bottles and cans of their awesome brews since 1994, Wachusett offers a great environment to visit and socialize with friends, new and old. A recent expansion of their tasting area includes a gorgeous stone fire pit, an Airstream trailer which has been modified to be a 24 tap serving station which will assist their existing 20 tap station. Pub food will be served in their expanded kitchen area as well. **Make it a point to visit them soon and find out more about:** WachusettBrewingCompany.com



RIVER STYX BREWING

166 Boulder Dr, Fitchburg, MA

River Styx Brewing is the last stop on our tour. Receiving high marks from those who reviewed, fans seem to love their 16 different beers. In simple surroundings, you will be able to bring your kids and animals in tow as you enjoy their offerings.

Find out what's on tap at: riverstyxbrewing.com

There is just so much to see and enjoy in Massachusetts area. The next issue will focus on the breweries and pubs within the Rt. 495 to Boston area.

Photos courtesy of business websites / publications
All other photos by Jim MacMillan, © 2017-2018

SO MAKE IT A BEER DESTINATION!

Cigar bars are also trending in the downtown Worcester area. Ones to look for are:



- **Victory Bar and Cigar** 56 Shrewsbury Street
- **Michael's Cigar Bar** 1 Exchange Street
- **Smokey Joe's Cigar Bar / Lounge** 373 Park Ave

A cool way to safely visit breweries in Massachusetts is by using the Mass Brew Bus. They have many different tours in the region which is sure to put a smile on your face.

See their listing at thmassbrewbus.com

Here's another cool way to read so much more about Massachusetts breweries:
massbrewbros.com/how-many-craft-breweries-are-there-in-massachusetts

