

BEER DESTINATIONS

BURLINGTON, VT

Written and Photos By Jim Macmillan



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

This is the fourth 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 try to select a number of breweries to travel to in one trip where you can sample their offerings, move on to the next, and manage to hit them all if you're up for the challenge...

There are a TON of awesome breweries out there making terrific beer just for you! I live in New Hampshire, but there are just so many great breweries located in Vermont, I've decided to concentrate on the Burlington brewer's mecca as your Beer Destination in this issue. Also included here are some of the best eateries while you quench your thirst.

In 2015, Vermont was ranked #1 in the country for the most craft breweries per capita.

Another way to look at this statistic is the amount of population vs breweries. And they are ahead of both Maine and NH in beer production for the population. So there are about 675,000 people living in Vermont, but the 21 and older populous are offered almost 17.5 gallons per person; that's more than any other state in the union!

On your way over Rt 89 heading north westward, you will come upon the following towns and cities that contain quite popular breweries. Here are some of the best according to their notoriety...

☀️ ALCHEMIST

100 Cottage Club Road, Stowe, VT

On your way to Burlington, you'll see signs for Stowe; take the exit and look up the Alchemist Brewery to find some of the most coveted of Vermont's beers. If you are after their flagship beer, Heady Topper, good luck getting it since it is always in short supply. But if you are lucky enough to find it for sale, you are only allowed 1-2 four packs. This is what to expect from this enterprising brewery.

See their site for more info: www.alchemistbeer.com

☀️ THREE PENNY TAPROOM,

108 Main Street, Montpelier, VT

Without a doubt, Three Penny is a must-see beer extravaganza and awesome food as well. After your long journey, settle back with the folks at Three Penny and talk beer and food pairing, or just chat about the weather. Either way, you'll be welcome there and leave contented.

Check out their bountiful list of brews and food pairing menu at: www.threepennytaproom.com.

☀️ GOODWATER BREWERY

740 Marshall Ave, Williston, VT

Just off exit 12 of Rt 89 North, you will find the little town of Williston and home to Goodwater Brewery. This young brewery is showing some great promise in its craft recipes and has the capacity to create and can enough beer for their thirsty patrons.

Check them out at: www.goodwaterbreweryvt.com.



GOODWATER
— BREWERY —



BURLINGTON BEER COMPANY

25 Omega Drive #150, Williston, VT

Just down the street from Goodwater and around the corner, you find Burlington Beer Company. Serving awesome and creative beer styles and delicious pub food, BBC brings fun to each visit.

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

SIMPLE ROOTS BREWING

1127 North Ave #8, Burlington, VT

A high school teacher and wife team are setting out to take their tiny space to great heights as these two entrepreneurs want to present their brews with the public. They opened in 2014 with dreams of sharing years of homebrewing experience with loyal fans and visitors alike.

Visit their site at www.simplerootsbrewing.com



SWITCHBACK

160 Flynn Street, Burlington, VT

Just completing an expansion and remodeling project, Switchback continues to grow their brand into many more states across the country. Their signature Pale Ale is a restaurant staple and loyal fans always want more of their brews. Within their 40 bbl brewery and Tap Room, you'll find generous amounts of fun with friends. You can take home a growler or two along with their Switchback logo emblazoned on T-shirts, hats, keychains, bottle openers and more. Make this location one of your destinations along your trail. See what is on tap here:

switchbackvt.com

FOUR QUARTERS BREWING

150 West Canal Street, Winooski, VT

Not far from downtown Burlington, Winooski is home to Four Quarters Brewing. They are famous for their interesting twists on trending sours and fruit beers along with more traditional IPAs and breakfast stouts. Catch their music nights with local artists making patrons feel right at home. See what they are up to on: www.facebook.com/FourQuartersBrewing

HALYARD BREWING COMPANY

80 Ethan Allen Drive #2, South Burlington, VT

If you are into ginger beer, Halyard is a must-visit. With English and Irish roots, they have an eye to the wind and a heart for the difference that can be made in the craft brew world.

See what's going on at: www.halyardbrewing.us

MAGIC HAT BREWING COMPANY

5 Bartlett Bay Road, South Burlington, VT

Probably one of the most widely known VT breweries, Magic Hat offers the wild side of design as their norm. Crazy artistic packaging, huge selections of styles (#9 is their flagship ale) and life with a nod to odd make this brewer a stop on the top of your list.

See their outrageous website at:
www.magichat.net.



VERMONT PUB AND BREWERY

144 College Street, Burlington, VT

With 9 of the wonderful beers in downtown Burlington, the Vermont Pub and Brewery will win your approval while filling your belly with great things from their kitchen and awesome beers from their taps. Cozy inside or outside eating and great service make this establishment one of your approved stops along your beer journey.

Read more about their place at:
www.vermontbrewery.com

HOUSE OF FERMENTOLOGY

777 Pine Street, Burlington, VT

With close ties to Foam, HOF specializes in wild yeast fermentation techniques. Each of their beer names have a Dot color or association such as Crushed Dot, Green Dot, Orange Dot etc. They believe in barrel aging their beers for consistency and smoothness.

Check their story out at:
www.houseoffermatology.com



These last two breweries I found, in my opinion, to be my favorites during a trip to Burlington. They're both very creative and cool places to hang out and enjoy their offerings. The best part is that they are right across the street from each other which makes visiting both worth the trip.

QUEEN CITY

703 Pine Street, Burlington, VT

In an unassuming building across from Zero Gravity, Queen City makes awesome brews to stay ahead of their competition. This 30 bbl brewery is just over 3 years old but making a serious impact on the Burlington beer scene. With more than 14 taps and specialty brews, Queen City is a must-stop to sample their terrific creations.

Check them out at: www.queencitybrewery.net

ZERO GRAVITY

716 Pine Street, Burlington, VT

Among their 10 taps of excellent and diverse brews, Zero provides excellent pub food which will enhance your time spent there. In a spacious tap room and eatery, guests will choose from inside or outside seating depending on the weather. A friendly staff awaits your presence to feed and fill you with your favorite beers. "Growlers to go please!"

Look them up at www.zerogravitybeer.com

FOAM

112 Lake Street, Burlington, VT

With a cool vibe and stylish furnishings, Foam presents its patrons with a difference in brewery presence and ambiance. Food is offered outside by two different food truck businesses while inside, the passion of brewing is surrounded by hightop tables, carved metal sculptures and low intriguing lighting.

Visit them down by the water or online at
www.foambrewers.com.



Another way to visit many of these breweries by booking a ride on one of the buses available through This is a safe and fun way to join friends and new acquaintances alike. And you can reserve your seat on the bus online at:
www.citybrewtours.com/burlington



While in Burlington, make sure you walk up

CHURCH STREET

This is where there are so many great eateries and shops that will keep you fed and entertained while visiting.



SWEETWATERS AMERICAN BISTRO

120 Church Street, Burlington

Among the awesome other eateries of Church Street, Sweetwaters offers unbelievably great tasting food and a 34 tap beer menu. Since this area is so competitive, Sweetwaters goes beyond what others cannot provide and draws you into their indoor or outdoor seating with impeccable service with knowledgeable staff and quick food delivery. Make sure you try their muscles!

Look at their entire menu at www.sweetwatersvt.com



RI RA IRISH PUB

123 Church Street, Burlington

Just across from Sweetwaters, the Ri Ra Irish Pub attracts hungry and thirsty guests treating them to wonderful food and beverage better than you will find in the Emerald Isle.

Find out more at www.rira.com/burlington



MANHATTAN PIZZA + PUB

167 Main Street, Burlington

Awesome pizza and a superb craft beer line-up makes this great eatery a stop worth the time. Live music most every night helps patrons enjoy time with friends and savor the food and drink with song.

See what they have to offer at www.manhattanpizzaandpubvt.com



CITY MARKET COOP

82 S Winooski Ave, Burlington

If you are in the mood to eat more healthy, stop in and be amazed at the City Market Coop. With plenty of fresh and organic foods to choose from, you'll want to make this location a frequent stop.

Find out all about them at www.citymarket.coop

You can also look at the following website info on more Vermont breweries not covered in this article;

www.vermont.com/dining-restaurants/breweries