



Best Bets: Beer selection

Need a cold, refreshing drink? These bars move beyond the usual mass-market taps to offer beer hunters excitement.

BIRCH & BARLEY AND CHURCHKEY

1337 14TH ST. NW. 202-567-2576.
The new multilevel beer bar offers 50 drafts — D.C.'s largest selection — plus 500 bottles and five traditional English-style cask ales. There can be nightclub-length lines to get in at peak times on weekends.

BIRRERIA PARADISO

3282 M ST. NW. 202-337-1245.
One of the coolest beer bars around has an esoteric, rapidly changing list of 16 drafts and 80 bottles to go with the restaurant's gourmet pizza.

BRASSERIE BECK

1101 K ST. NW. 202-408-1717.
Attention, Belgian beer fans: This stylish bar is run by a knight of the Belgian brewers' guild, and some of the ales are served nowhere else on this side of the Atlantic.

BRICKSKELLER SALOON

1523 22ND ST. NW. 202-293-1885.
Listed in Guinness World Records as "the bar with the largest selection of commercially available beers": More than 1,000 fill the thick menu. (It does run out of more obscure selections, so it's smart to have a backup choice ready.) There are also a dozen taps at the upstairs bar.

FRISCO GRILLE AND CANTINA

8865 STANFORD BLVD., COLUMBIA. 410-312-4907.
Aside from decent Tex-Mex, the draw at Frisco is the large selection of regional and national microbrews on tap — think Dogfish Head, Avery, 21st Amendment and Baltimore's own Brewer's Art — plus a well-kept cask-conditioned beer and plenty of seasonal offerings.

GRANVILLE MOORE'S

1238 H ST. NE. 202-399-2546.
Pick one of more than 50 Belgian ales to accompany the award-winning mussels at H Street's laid-back gastropub.

MAGNOLIAS AT THE MILL

198 N. 21ST ST., PURCELLVILLE. 540-338-9800.
A turn-of-the-century mill is a picturesque setting for a bar with many interesting craft beers and frequent beer dinners.

RED DERBY

3718 14TH ST. NW. 202-291-5000.
Here's a novel idea: An all-can beer list that includes cheap domestics (Natty Bohl), American microbrews and imports from England, Belgium and Russia.

RFD WASHINGTON

810 SEVENTH ST. NW. 202-289-2030.
The Brickskeller's sister bar has dozens of beer on tap and big-screen TVs for sports viewing.



RUSTICO

827 SLATERS LANE, ALEXANDRIA. 703-224-5051.
More than 250 ales, lagers, ciders and stouts are on the menu at this neighborhood spot, and beer dinners and special events are always on tap.

THE SALOON

1207 U ST. NW. 202-462-2640.
The neighborhood tavern has no television, but it does have soft music, communal tables and an interesting selection of German and Belgian beers.
— Fritz Hahn

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