

# ALIBI ROOM

[ BY JOE WIEBE • PHOTO BY JIM JESSON ]

IN THE SUMMER OF 2006, Nigel Springthorpe went from being an employee of the Alibi Room to one of its owners. Since then he has systematically put his stamp on this “modern tavern,” transforming it into one of the city’s best sources of craft beer.

“It was never really the plan,” Springthorpe admits, “but as my own tastes changed and I started to discover the wonderful world of craft beer, I decided to explore the possibility of putting all of the best breweries, near and far, side-by-side in one location.”

He started by serving some of the more interesting local brews. Then, as he learned of breweries farther afield, he’d plan a road trip there just to pick up a keg or two. Now the restaurant has 25 taps pouring a diverse assortment, mostly from BC, along with three English-style beer engines that allow them to serve cask-conditioned ales—the holy grail of craft brewing.

The Alibi Room is situated in a hundred-year-old heritage brick building that boasts great old hardwood floors, solid beams and tall windows. It’s off the beaten track at the industrial end of Gastown near Main Street, but don’t be shy about walking to or from there—it’s a safe neighbourhood. Inside, you can sit at individual or communal tables, another aspect that really enhances the comfortable and convivial atmosphere.

The menu showcases local meats, produce and cheeses—small, shareable plates or larger, more substantial meals, featuring locally sourced, ocean friendly, naturally raised or free-run meat, fish and poultry.

Springthorpe says, “I think we’ve truly figured out the best products available and made it a one-stop shop



for beer lovers of all types—from the true beer connoisseur to those who just want to have a decent pint and some quality food in a place with a pleasant ambiance.”

And if you’re just not that into beer, fear not—the Alibi Room has an extensive and interesting wine list, too.

**Alibi Room**  
157 Alexander Street (@ Main)  
604.623.3383 [www.alibi.ca](http://www.alibi.ca)