

SUDS IN THE CITY

CRAFT BEER CENTRAL

If you're a fan of BC craft beer, Vancouver is now the place to be. This wasn't always the case. The craft beer revolution took a long time to take root in BC's largest city, but now, there is no denying Vancouver's status as craft beer central. Microbreweries are sprouting up like never before. Numerous tap houses each boasting dozens of craft beers can be found throughout the city and it's extremely rare for restaurants not to have at least a few good craft beers on tap.

The origins of BC's craft beer revolution date back to 1982, when Horseshoe Bay Brewing opened just north of Vancouver. Although that brewery did not last long, a trio of pioneer breweries opened two years later and all three are thriving today, including Granville Island Brewing in Vancouver.

Craft beer has been part of Vancouver's culture ever since, but growth was relatively slow at first. Shaftebury Brewing was the only other microbrewery to open there in the 1980s. The mid-1990s saw a mini-boom of brewpub openings – Yaletown Brewing (1994), Steamworks (1995), Dockside Brewing (1997) and Dix (1998) –

along with two small microbreweries, Storm (1994) and R & B (1997).

After that, while growth in the craft beer industry continued elsewhere in BC, especially in Victoria, the scene in Vancouver seemed to slow down. Shaftebury relocated to Delta in 1995 and was then bought by Sleeman Breweries. Several new breweries and brew pubs opened in the suburbs around Vancouver, but the relatively high cost of doing business in the city was too much of a deterrent for others to open there.

In spite of this, interest in craft beer continued to grow in the city, thanks in no small part to the city's popular brewpubs. A Vancouver chapter of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) opened in 2003 and cask-conditioned beer events began happening regularly at Dix and the Whip restaurant. Seasonal cask festivals became popular events. Craft beer-focused tap houses, such as the Alibi Room in Gastown with 50 taps and St. Augustine's on Commercial with 40 taps, began to flourish and others followed their lead.

Those tap houses are one of the most exciting aspects of the city's craft beer scene. Other communities have restaurants and bars that support their

local microbreweries, but in Vancouver, you will find pubs that offer beer from all over BC, as well as the Cascadian coast as far south as California and even from Europe. You can sample a wide range of Belgian brews at Biercraft's two Vancouver locations or taste some of Oregon's best at Portland Craft.

Vancouver is now the craft beer engine for BC. Brewers elsewhere in the province say the thirst for craft beer in the city is voracious. During a visit to Victoria's Driftwood Brewery shortly after their expansion was completed last winter, one of their brewers pointed to their big new fermentation tanks and said, "That's all Fat Tug for Vancouver!" He was referring to their exceptional Fat Tug IPA, which is widely considered one of the best beers in BC and can be found on tap throughout the city. Less than five years old, Driftwood had to open its own warehouse in Richmond just to deal with the demand for their products in Vancouver.

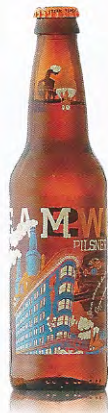
There is no denying that craft beer is booming in BC. Overall industry sales have nearly tripled over the past six years. Seven new breweries opened in 2012, and at least eight more are slated to open in 2013. Six of those new operations are in

CRAFT BEER IS TYPICALLY MADE IN SMALL BATCHES CORRESPONDING TO THE CURRENT SEASON. IF THE BEER OF LIMITED QUANTITY SHOWN HERE HAS SOLD OUT, BE SURE TO PERUSE YOUR LOCAL CRAFT BEER SECTION. THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING FRESH, NEW AND DELICIOUS TO TRY!

Vancouver proper, along with a few nearby in North Vancouver, New Westminister and Burnaby. Surrey's Central City Brewing is building a big, new \$20-million facility, and Steamworks and Red Truck Beer both have new facilities in the works, too.

Of the recently opened breweries, one of the biggest and most successful so far is Parallel 49, but smaller operations like Coal Harbour Brewing and Powell Street Craft Brewery are also making great beer. Other Vancouver breweries scheduled to open in 2013 include 33 Acres Brewing, the BrassNeck Brewery, Bomber Brewing and Dogwood Brewing. The people behind Main Street Pilsner, which has been on the market for a few years, are also opening Main Street Brewing in the historic Brewery Garage building at Scotia and East 7th Ave, which was part of the original Vancouver Brewery 100 years ago.

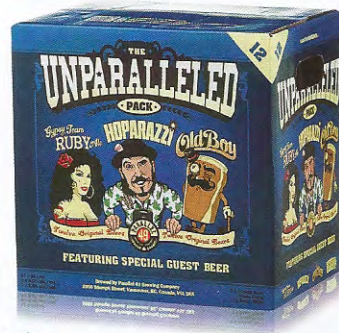
With so many options and such variety, there's never been a better time to be a craft beer fan in Vancouver. The quality of craft beer available there is nothing short of extraordinary.



STEAMWORKS PILSNER
BC **\$12.75** 127753 6 x 355 ml
The most popular beers in the world call themselves Pilsners, but they barely resemble the original from the city of Pilsn in the Czech Republic that gave its name to the style in 1842. Steamworks' version comes close, which explains why it has won Best Beer in BC for two years running. It is a rich, malty lager with a spicy, floral hop character – crisp, complex and delicious.



COAL HARBOUR 311 HELLES LAGER
BC **\$12.99** 93591 8 x 355 ml
Coal Harbour Brewing is part of a trio of new breweries that opened in East Vancouver, arguably the city's new "Brewery District." The brewery snagged a Canadian Brewing Award for its Powell IPA only a few months after opening and it also brews this exceptional German-style lager.



PARALLEL 49 THE UNPARALLELED PACK
BC **\$23.50** 698498 12 x 341 ml
Only one year old, Parallel 49 has already established itself as one of the city's top craft breweries. Brewer Graham With often puts a twist on the usual with his brews. For instance, instead of an IPA, he brews an India Pale Lager called Hoparazzi. Also in this mixed 12-pack are Old Boy, a British ale; Gypsy Tears Ruby Ale, a hoppy red ale and Seedspitter Watermelon Wit, a Belgian style witbier.



CENTRAL CITY RED RACER PALE ALE
BC **\$12.45** 600015 6 x 355 ml
Surrey's Central City Brewing helped reawaken Vancouver's love for craft beer with its Red Racer line-up in cans. This hoppy, malty brew could pass for an IPA in less hop-crazed parts of Canada, but here it is simply a great example of Pacific Northwest pale ale.



DRIFTWOOD FAT TUG IPA
BC **\$5.50** 844399 650 ml
Beer geeks love Driftwood Brewery, and justifiably so. Everything the Victoria brewery produces is excellent, but Fat Tug IPA is on a level all its own. Bursting with sweet, citrusy hop aromas and flavours, it doesn't get much better than this. It was winner of "Beer of the Year" at the 2011 Canadian Brewing Awards.



RUSSELL BREWING A WEE ANGRY SCOTCH ALE
BC **\$5.50** 878009 650 ml
Another Surrey brewery, Russell opened in 1995 and serves the Vancouver craft beer scene well with its Brewmaster Series. This beer is a strong, dark ale with a smoky character thanks to the use of peated malt.

