

Local brews make you feel fine

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A sign on the window at T.J. Finley's casually urges you to "drink real beer." And that cause has become easier to toast on [Long Island](#), [Nassau](#) and [Suffolk](#) boast more and more joints where you'll find great beer and ale, places where nobody cares whether Bud goes Belgian or Coors catches a silver bullet.

You can plot a staycation based on beer and a designated driver, through breweries and brewpubs, bars and restaurants, and retailers where you can take a quick tour of the beer world.

Begin the trip with these super-sudsers. And let us know your favorites, too.

Black Forest Brew Haus

2015 New Highway, Farmingdale; 631-391-9500, blackforestbrewhaus.com

Black Forest sells its own brews, and has a casual restaurant and small beer garden-patio. Try a "plowman's platter" of sausages and sauerkraut. The pilsner, amber and wheat beer are summery.

Blue Point Brewing Co. : 161 River Ave., Patchogue; 631-475-6944, bluepointbrewing.com
Down Blue Point's brews at the tasting room, in pubs and restaurants, and by the bottle at local retailers. Toasted Lager is smooth; Hoptical Illusion, a refreshing [India](#) Pale Ale.

Brick House Brewery : 67 W. Main St., Patchogue; 631-447-2337, brickhousebrewery.com
Party on with a pint of higher-octane Summer Buzz or hoppy Hurricane Kitty. The back room is good for families, the front for of-age revelers. Cuisine goes from sandwiches, burgers and pizza to sauerbraten, fajitas and chicken parm.

Canterbury's Oyster Bar & Grill : 46 Audrey Ave., Oyster Bay; 516-922-3614, canterburyalesrestaurant.com

Nine beers on tap and 99 by the bottle define Canterbury, a haven for devotees of oysters, burgers, steaks, in an informal, friendly chowder-house setting.

Croxley Ales

190 Main St., Farmingdale, 516-293-7700 129 New Hyde Park Rd., Franklin Square , 516-326-9542
7-9 S. Park Ave., Rockville Centre , 516-764-0470 croxley.com

You could spend the rest of the year tasting at Croxley Ales. The Croxley trio comes in with more than 160 well-chosen ales and lagers on draught, and an outstanding choice of bottles. Good, straightforward pubby food, too.

T.J. Finley's Public House : 42 E. Main St., Bay Shore; 631-647-4856, tjfinleys.com .

T.J. Finley's boasts more than 85 selections, in addition to weekly cask ales, which are unfiltered and contain unpasteurized yeast that conditions the brew - the real stuff. As the menu states: "Try something different." Nibble along with an order of mini "bottle-cap burgers."

John Harvard's Brew House : 2093 Smithhaven Plaza, Lake Grove; 631-979-2739, johnharvardsbrewhouse.com

The local link in the chainlet, serving, among other brews, Summer Blonde, nut-brown ale and pale ale. After shopping at Smith Haven Mall, refresh here.

Legends : 835 First St., New Suffolk; 631-734-5123, legends-restaurant.com

A very good New American restaurant-pub on the North Fork, that presents 15 brews on tap, advertises 34 countries and completes the deal with 200 offerings.

Once & For All : 8 E. Main St., Patchogue; 631-447-0519

A photo of Cary Grant rests atop the cooler at this cool and classy establishment. Seven taps and two devoted to cask brews. The specials change weekly. Have a burger, panino, perhaps an earful of live music.

The Original Canterbury Ales : 314 New York Ave., Huntington; 631-549-4404, canterburyales.com

The beer list has 20 on tap and twice that in bottles to complement Anglofare, Canterburgers, sandwiches, omelets and the like, in a kitschy olde setting.

Plattduetsche Park : 1132 Hempstead Tpke., Franklin Square; 516-354-3131, parkrestaurant.com

A full-blown biergarten is open Friday nights from June to September. Pick from 11 German beers on tap (Hacker-Pschorr, Warsteiner, Erdinger) or in bottle (Schwelmer Pils) to go with the schnitzel and wursts.

Southampton Publick House : 40 Bowden Sq., Southampton; 631-283-2800, publick.com

A fine microbrewery and good restaurant at a landmark site, the old Herb McCarthy's. Once host to celebs and stars, now a destination for the Double White Ale instead of a double Scotch. Consistent. Just sample away.

Waterzooi : 850 Franklin Ave., Garden City; 516-877-2177, waterzooi.com

Long Island's lone Belgian bistro, Waterzooi excels with mussels, fries, waffles and, of course, a truly grand list of Trappist and abbey ales.

GOOD BEER BUYS

At many shops, the varieties are pretty limited. Here are some Long Island beer retailers that provide a broad range of choices.

BELLPORT COLD BEER & SODA, 417 Station Rd., Bellport; 631-286-0760, bellportbeer.com

BIG Z, 1675 E. Jericho Tpke., Huntington; 631-499-3479

SUPERSTAR BEVERAGE, 516 E. Jericho Tpke., Huntington, 631-423-0292; 490 Walt Whitman Rd. (Route 110), Melville, 631-427-6690; 1371 Deer Park Ave., N. Babylon, 631-242-1145; 871 Connetquot Ave., Islip Terrace, 631-224-5854; 724 Montauk Hwy., Bayport, 631-472-9808; 3723 Route 112, Coram, 631-732-1169; superstarbeverage.com

SHORELINE BEVERAGE, 645 New York Ave., Huntington; 631-427-8488, shorelinebeverage.com

SYOSSET BEVERAGE CENTER, 600 Jericho Tpke., Syosset; 516-496-7271