



There are plenty of great places in town to throw back a pint. But which one is right for you?
BY ANNE VICKMAN

	NUMBER OF TAPS	NUMBER OF BOTTLES	STRENGTHS	SHORTCOMINGS	BEER SMARTS (ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 10)	VIBE	WHO GOES THERE?
LORD HOBO AREA 4'S OFF-THE-BEATEN-PATH BEER DESTINATION. 92 HAMPSHIRE ST., CAMBRIDGE, 617-250-8454, LORDHOBO.COM.	40	28	Brunch is a great time to drink here: fewer tipplers means a bartender with more time to talk about the merits of ordering Sculpin IPA on tap versus in the bottle.	The out-of-the-way location can complicate efforts to become a regular.	9 Server knowledge can be hit-and-miss—but bartenders know that the buckwheat in Mikeller's Boogoop adds a nutty flavor.	Brunch is relaxed, but evenings are always packed, so show up early if you want prime real estate. Bonus points for a great playlist.	A grab bag of beer fanatics and casual drinkers alike.
	PRICES \$3–\$27						
MEADHALL A SPACIOUS HANGOUT WITH PLENTY OF AFTERWORK IMBIBERS. 4 CAMBRIDGE CENTER, CAMBRIDGE, 617-714-4372, THEMADHALL.COM.	100	12	The smartest menu organization we've ever seen. Also gets the gold medal for glassware selection.	The food is pricier than beer-friendly fare should be (\$8 for a bowl of soup!). And can we get the website up and running already?	6 Recommendations aren't always spot-on, but you can request a sample of anything on tap.	The impressive array of taps, lively conversation, and circular bar make us feel warm and fuzzy. But the lackluster décor? Not so much.	MIT students? Check. Young professionals? Check. Slightly dude-heavy? Check.
	PRICES \$3.50–\$20						
CAMBRIDGE COMMON IF IT WERE ANY MORE COMFORTABLE, WE'D BE WEARING SLIPPERS. 1667 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., CAMBRIDGE, 617-547-1228, CAMBRIDGECOMMONRESTAURANT.COM.	31	12	Frequent beer dinners featuring regional brewers. The taps include beers from domestic brewers like Cambridge Brewing Company and Bear Republic.	You're less likely to find über-rare, exotic brews here. And while the typical pub food fills the belly, it isn't very memorable.	7 We miss former GM Suzanne Schlow's expertise, but the folks here can still explain the difference between two pilsners.	The key word is "casual"—generous bar seating, music that's neither too loud nor too soft, and plenty of customers. It's a comfortable, reliable bet any night of the week.	Working professionals, who, thankfully, balance out the student crowd from Harvard and Lesley.
	PRICES \$2.95–\$7.95						
JACOB WIRTH EVERY DAY IS OKTOBERFEST IN THIS HISTORICAL PUB. PROSIT! 31–37 STUART ST., BOSTON, 617-338-8586, JACOBWIRTH.COM.	43	31	If you're looking for a German-heavy beer selection, this is your pub—the import list is stellar, and the menu offers beer pairings.	Not much room at the bar, and the food is inconsistent. (Then again, almost anything tastes better with a Hacker-Pschorr Dunkelweizen.)	4 Staffers' beer descriptions can be a little weak. If you don't get the info you're looking for, ask for a taste.	No music, but the din speaks for itself. Historical charm abounds—opened in 1868, the place has plank floors and wood tables that create a perfect pub atmosphere.	Tourists, for sure, but also a fair number of theater fans and thirsty locals.
	PRICES \$2.75–\$13						
PUBLICK HOUSE BELGIAN BEER FANS, REPORT AT ONCE TO YOUR OFFICIAL HEADQUARTERS. 1648 BEACON ST., BROOKLINE, 617-277-2880, EATGOODFOODDRINKBETTERBEER.COM.	36	100+	Belgium is particularly well represented here. You'll also find lots of specialty bottles and descriptions that are actually helpful.	This spot is open only in the evening, so if you show up late, expect to wait.	10 Beer is a full-time job here, and the servers and bartenders are the Ph.D.s of their field. Suds are served at the right temp and in the right glass.	Wooden furniture and monastic flair (stained glass, lancet arches) and a blues- and soul-heavy soundtrack make a terrific, if unexpected, combination.	People from all walks of life. This is a true everyman's pub.
	PRICES \$4.75–\$60						
DEEP ELLUM AN ALLSTON BEER LOVER'S HOME BASE. 477 CAMBRIDGE ST., ALLSTON, 617-787-2337, DEEPELLUM-BOSTON.COM.	29	42	It may be named for a Dallas neighborhood, but this bar has a thing for Belgian-style beers, balanced by domestic IPAs and a hearty menu.	A recent study from England's University of Portsmouth showed that loud music affects your taste buds—so can we dial down the jarring, generic rock music, please?	5 Our server wasn't a beer drinker—surprising, but not a deal breaker. When all else fails, consult the bartender.	Cramped seating is pretty much a given, but sipping a St. Louis gueuze with duck-confit hash is worth the lack of elbow room.	The average customer is about 23. But real aficionados (the 30-plus set) can be found sitting at the bar.
	PRICES \$4–\$45						
SUNSET GRILL & TAP IF VARIETY IS A SPICE, THIS PLACE IS CAYENNE PEPPER. 130 BRIGHTON AVE., ALLSTON, 617-254-1331, ALLSTONSFINEST.COM.	112	362	For sheer variety, no other bar comes close: You'll find nearly every type of beer here—including pumpkin offerings in the winter. The menu, updated frequently, even has a brewing chart.	Even with Sunset's "Line Cleaning Freshness Guarantee," we still can't help but wonder if we're getting the tail end of a keg, given the huge selection.	8 Not everyone is an expert, but staffers genuinely enjoy drinking beer and will find an answer if they don't have one.	Whether you're pre- or post-game, having a hair-of-the-dog recovery session, or just in the neighborhood, easygoing is the name of the game.	This is the heart of Allston, folks, so mixed groups of college kids will always outnumber the rest of us.
	PRICES \$1.75–\$80						

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Meadhall



Lord Hobo