



DRINK STREET

A trip along College Avenue reveals Indy's thriving beer and wine scene.

→ **THERE MAY BE NOWHERE BETTER** in Indianapolis to indulge in a national obsession – tasting craft beverages – than along College Avenue. A stretch that runs from downtown to just north of the city in Broad Ripple is home to nationally recognized, award-winning, and locally loved breweries and wineries.

Perhaps none is more well known than **Sun King Brewery**. Founded in 2009, the beer-maker essentially kick-started Indy's craft beer boom, and has since racked up numerous awards for its core and specialty brews. The most recent honor? Indiana's Best Brewer Tap Room by ratebeer.com.

"It isn't like we marketed to people to help us win this thing," says Elizabeth Belange, Sun King's promotions director. "It was earned completely by visitors, guests, and

fans who said, 'Yes, we love Sun King so much.'"

With 20 to 30 beers on tap, Sun King's College Avenue home has a zealous following. Denizens love the family-oriented space with crayons and coloring sheets for kids; the Oca food stall, serving locally made sausages and soft pretzels; and the company's commitment to Indy's charitable causes – in 2019, Sun King worked with over 500 area nonprofits. **BIG DRAW:** \$6 growler fills of core beers on Fridays.

If you have a pet, not a child, with you, start your craft beverage exploration at **Metazoa Brewing Co.**, home to an outdoor dog park. Metazoa's mantra is "Drink beer. Help animals," and to that end it gives 5 percent of its profits to animal and wildlife charities. Nods to Fido and other

citizens of the animal kingdom abound, including engraved furniture and critter-inspired beer names. Try the classic Hop-popotamus IPA. **BIG DRAW:** The patio with skyline views.

Tradition and geniality converge at **Easley Winery**, one of Indiana's oldest winemakers. Founded in 1974, the second-generation, family-owned business exudes Hoosier Hospitality. Wine enthusiasts and novices can sample award-winning Easley wines, guided by experts, while interactive weekend tours show the winemaking process from grapes to bottles. **BIG DRAW:** The cozy atmosphere featuring wood paneling from the family's Southern Indiana barn.

Church and beer aren't usually coupled together, but at **St. Joseph Brewery & Public House**, the pair make a sublime

DRAFT PICKS
Clockwise from left: St. Joseph Brewery & Public House's Testament Tripel; the view from the choir loft at St. Joseph; a pint of Sun King's Fistful of Hops; Oca's food stall at Sun King Brewery

ST. JOSEPH BEER: OCA AT SUN KING; METAZOA PATIO, PEACE WATER BY CLIFF RITCHEY; OTHERS BY TONY VALAINIS

marriage. Completed in 1879, the former church is the only one in Indiana (so far!) that has morphed into a brewery. In 2019, St. Joseph claimed the Indiana Brewers' Cup Gold Medal for its Confessional IPA.

BIG DRAW: A chef who elevates traditional pub fare to fine dining.

Peace Water Winery is Indy's natural habitat for socially conscious dog-lovers who prefer dry to semi-dry wines. It's owned by an Indiana family, but the wine is made in Napa Valley with California grapes. Imbibe with purpose at Peace Water: 50 percent of net profits benefit your choice of eight local charities. Take a patio seat at the busy corner of St. Clair, College, and Mass Ave, and yield to one of Indy's best summer pastimes – people-watching. **BIG DRAW:** Treats for your furry friends.

OUTSIDE OF DOWNTOWN

→ Take the Red Line bus route north, where literature and history buffs should exit near South Broad Ripple's new star at 46th Street and College Avenue. The beer at **Scarlet Lane Brewing Company's** taphouse has personality – literally. Head brewer and CEO Eilise Lane dreams up brews around fictional literary characters or famous people. **BIG DRAW:** An Asian-inspired menu featuring a banh mi with pork or seitan options.

A few blocks north is **Upland Brewing Co.**, a Bloomington-based brewer known for its upbeat vibe, locally sourced food, and craft brews. **BIG DRAW:** A selection of sours.

End your journey at 54th Street, where the deceptively named **Twenty Tap** actually offers 38 craft beers on draft. **BIG DRAW:** The crispy cheese curds. —Crystal Hammon

RAISE YOUR GLASS
Clockwise from top left: outside Twenty Tap; a flight at Metazoa Brewing Co.; Peace Water Winery; a flight at Upland Brewing Co.; Metazoa's patio



ROUND TWO

EARN PERKS FOR EXPLORING INDY'S BEVERAGE WORLD.

→ If you're going to sample the goods at Indy's breweries, distilleries, and wineries, you might as well get rewarded for doing so. Enter the **Indy Craft Pass**, a mobile passport that allows you to check in at various beverage purveyors. Visit eight participating locations, and you'll get a Craft Pass T-shirt. Check all of them off the list and go home with the ultimate prize package. Several stops offer rewards and discounts, such as complimentary pint glasses and percentages off your bill. Signing up is free, with the pass delivered straight to your phone. Find out more at Explore.VisitIndy.com.