

# Joe Sixpack's Philly Beer Guide

A Reporter's Notes on the Best Beer-Drinking City in America

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## Introduction

Pull up a stool and crack open a cold one. Welcome to Philadelphia, the Best Beer-Drinking City in America.

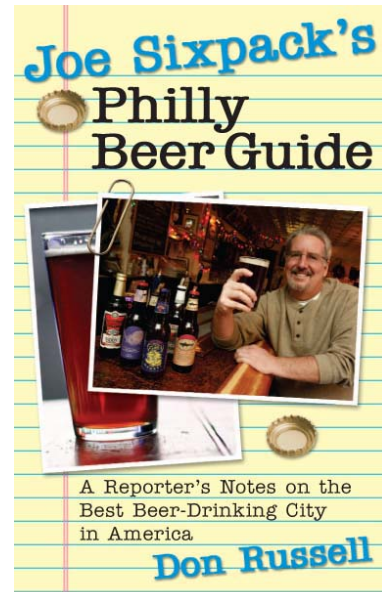
In Fishtown and Fairmount, South Philly and Center City, this town's neighborhoods are dotted with classic watering holes just waiting to pour you some of the finest beer you've ever tasted.

That's not just some frothy, hometown boasting from a lifelong Philadelphian. It's a professional judgment based on years of careful research. I'm a reporter at the *Philadelphia Daily News*, and they pay me to drink beer—objectively, of course!

For the past 30 years, I've been covering my beat and writing hundreds of stories on deadline, always with a notebook in my hand. It's not only good for remembering what I drank last night; it also makes a perfect beer coaster.

Now, for the first time, I'm sharing these notes with everyone, in *Joe Sixpack's Philly Beer Guide: A Reporter's Notes on the Best Beer-Drinking City in America*. Thumb through these pages and—more importantly—stop in for a draft. I think you'll come to same the conclusion I have: There's no better town in which to enjoy a nice, cold beer.

And, there's no better way to discover and enjoy this city.



Beer, there can be no doubt, defines Philadelphia like nothing else.

We've been crafting it for more than 300 years, since the days of William Penn. We brewed America's first lager. We practically invented porter. Hell, we were already famous for beer when Milwaukee was a cow pasture.

Our forefathers wrote the Declaration of Independence in colonial taverns. Our grandfathers toasted each other with Ortlieb's. We were drinking Yuengling for 45 cents a glass before New York made it trendy (and damn more expensive).

We ain't no pinky-extended wine-sippers; we aren't buzzed on latte. We are blue-collar, hoagie-eating, Eagles-cheering, double-parking, tattoo-wearing, Mummers-strutting beer-drinkers.

Beer is in our DNA.

Just to make that point, I asked a few Philly notables—including some of my favorite bartenders—to share their favorites with you. These guys and gals serve up gallons of suds, so they really know what's best.

And, today, you'll find that we're fortunate to be enjoying some of the finest in the world.

Philadelphia's location on the East Coast means we get the best German lagers and properly conditioned casks of English ale; we drink more Belgian ale than Brussels.

Meanwhile, every American microbrewery either sends its kegs to Philadelphia, or wishes it could—our reputation as a beer-savvy town is second to none.

Of course, we have our own beer to drink. Area brewers like Yard's, Flying Fish, Victory, Dogfish Head, and Stoudt's are producing world-class beer within minutes of our town's tap handles.

Plenty of cities can brag about their beer selection. What distinguishes Philadelphia is the joints that serve all that good beer.

Standard Tap, Monk's, McGlinchey's, Bridgid's, the 700, O'Neal's—these are authentic neighborhood taverns with an honest Philadelphia feel. They're not mass-produced, prepackaged, chain-store vanilla. They're diverse; they have character and history. They are *real*.

Sure, you can enjoy your favorite in your own home, and this guidebook offers you resources to stock your bar. But even at its best, it won't taste the same unless you get out and order a round in a Philly tavern. Beer drinking, at its best, is a social experience. It's about rubbing elbows, watching a ballgame, relaxing after work, cranking up the juke box, meeting friends, throwing darts, enjoying an affordable meal, and washing it all down with a frosty mug.

Whether you're a tourist or a reg'lar, savoring a beer in a Philadelphia tavern is the single best way to share the spirit and the flavor, the texture and the people, of the City of Brotherly Love.

So, pull up a stool and enjoy a cold one in the Best Beer-Drinking City in America.