



this
week in
**craft.
beer**

BREWER'S CORNER

Beery news from around the world.

HOP OF THE WEEK

We take an in-depth look at the Strata hop.

FESTIVAL REVIEW

The TWICB Team attend the Manchester Craft Beer Festival.

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**ISSUE TWO HUNDRED
AND FIFTY SIX**
MAY 26th 2025

MANCHESTER
CRAFT
BEER
FESTIVAL

WE ARE
BEER



Yet Another Bank Holiday

We've had four Bank Holidays in the past two months, which got me wondering when the tradition began. It turns out they originated in the 19th century with the UK's Bank Holiday Act of 1871. Introduced by Sir John Lubbock, it established four public holidays in England and Wales: Easter Monday, Whit Monday (May Day), the first Monday in August, and Boxing Day. Initially intended as a break for bank staff, these holidays gradually extended to businesses, schools, and government offices.

The original four have since grown to eight—though oddly, only one falls between June and November, with the other seven crammed between December and May.

Compared to the rest of the world, the UK isn't exactly flush with public holidays. Alongside the Netherlands, we have the fewest—Spain has 14, India 21, and Nepal tops the list with 36 (though they also work six days a week!).

With only one more bank holiday left before Christmas, let's make the most of it—with some sensible enjoyment of delicious craft beers!

Cheers.

BREWER'S CORNER

The latest news, views & articles collated from the world of beer.

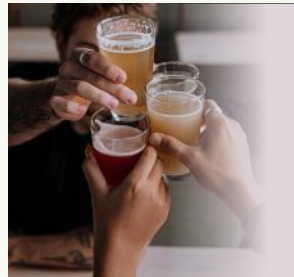
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BEER OF THE WEEK

The best beer we have enjoyed this week.

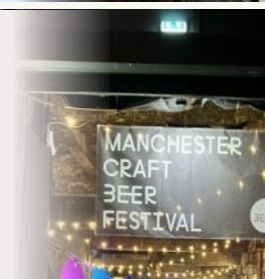
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FESTIVAL REVIEW

The TWICB Team attend the Manchester Craft Beer Festival.

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HOP FOCUS

We take an in-depth look at the hop: STRATA.

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FESTIVAL CALENDAR

Enjoy the amazing buzz and excitement of a craft beer festival.

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WEBSHOPS

Fresh craft beer delivered directly to your door.

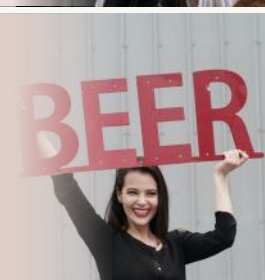
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Brewer's Corner

The latest news and views articles collated from the world of beer.



Champion Beer of Britain

Now that Beer Festival Season is in full swing, we noted with interest this week that two of CAMRA's five finalists for Champion Beer of Britain were from Breweries that are friends of TWICB. Good luck to Track Sonoma and Elusive Oregon Trail, but we are fairly sure that the vote will go to one of the other three more old-school beers!

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)

Serbia Smoking Bars

The brilliant Boak & Bailey have been on their holidays in Serbia, where they encountered unexpected widespread smoking in Craft Beer Bars. Cross that one off the list for future potential trips...

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)



Reducing Draft Beer Menus

One of the joys of Craft Beer drinking in the USA is the breadth of draft beer on offer (although Steve and I did find a taproom in Miami where they had 50 taps of mostly stale and poor quality beers). A reduction in the size of draft beer menus seems inevitable in the long run.

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)



Belfast Craft Beer Scene

We like a good Craft Beer travelog here at Brewers Corner, and Pellicle has done a great job of going deep on the Belfast scene, including a visit to TWICB favourites Bullhouse.

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)



Beer of the Week

Shades of Green

6.5% IPA

by Wylam Brewery



Shades of Green is an IPA that bursts with Citra, Krush, and Motueka hops. Painting a vibrant canvas of tropical fruit and citrus groves. Bold yet balanced at 6.5%, this lush, liquid tapestry lets us weave together another combination of the world's fantastic hops.

[BUY HERE](#)

Festival Review



STEVE P
TWICB CO FOUNDER

Manchester Craft Beer Festival

Depot Mayfield, 11 Baring St, Manchester M1 2PY

The eagerly anticipated weekend finally arrived, and the TWICB Team descended upon Manchester last Friday with high hopes and empty glasses, ready for round two of the Manchester Craft Beer Festival. But before diving into the festivities, we made a necessary pit stop at the fantastic Track Brewing Co Taproom—a vibrant and welcoming space where we warmed up with a few glasses of their ever-impressive pours.



This time around, Manchester graced us with glorious sunshine—an added bonus that made exploring the city on foot even more enjoyable as we made our way to Depot Mayfield, the venue for the festival.

Festival Review

Organised by We Are Beer, the Manchester Craft Beer Festival is one of three annual events alongside its sister festivals in Bristol and London. Like the others, this one follows an all-inclusive format: pay once (in this case, £60), get your souvenir glass, and sample to your heart's content. It's a format we love, encouraging exploration and risk-taking—after all, sometimes the beer you'd never normally choose becomes your surprise favourite.



Depot Mayfield proved to be an ideal venue: a large, open-plan warehouse with ample space and a dark, moody ambiance that somehow added to the buzz. Despite the crowds, the layout meant we never struggled to find seating or space to roam. The atmosphere was lively but never overwhelming, making it easy to relax and soak in the experience.



Festival Review

Across three well-attended sessions—Friday evening, Saturday afternoon, and Saturday evening—over 80 breweries showcased their best creations. With around 500 different beers on offer, there was truly something for everyone. While most breweries were from the UK, we did miss the presence of a few we'd been looking forward to, such as Overtone, Polly's Brew, and local favourite Track.

The event was elevated further by a superb selection of street food, offering perfect pairings for the diverse beers on tap. A rotating cast of DJs and a live band ensured the energy never dipped, creating a dynamic, festival-like feel that kept spirits high well into the evening.



In all, the Manchester Craft Beer Festival delivered on every level—great beer, great vibes, and a chance to discover new favourites in an unforgettable setting. Whether you're a seasoned beer geek or just looking for a fun weekend activity, this festival is a must-visit. We're already counting down to the next one.attendees.



Hop of the Week

Strata



Strata Hops: The Modern Darling of Craft Brewing

In the ever-evolving world of craft beer, few hop varieties have made as dynamic an entrance as **Strata**. Bursting onto the scene in the late 2010s, this versatile and flavour-packed hop has rapidly become a favorite among brewers looking to push boundaries and deliver bold, aromatic beers. Whether you're a seasoned brewer or just exploring the nuances of your favourite hazy IPA, Strata is a name worth knowing.

Origins of Strata

Strata was developed by **Indie Hops** in collaboration with Oregon State University's hop breeding program. It was first released commercially in **2018** after nearly a decade of development and trials. Originally known as X-331, Strata was bred from an open-pollinated Perle mother, which means its male parent is unknown—adding a bit of mystery to its already complex profile.

Strata was specifically bred to meet the growing demand for new-world hops that could deliver intense flavour, aroma, and flexibility across beer styles, particularly the booming hazy IPA category.

Hop of the week: STRATA

Aroma and Flavour Profile

One of Strata's standout features is its multi-dimensional aroma and flavour profile, which balances fruit-forward notes with dank, herbal undertones. Its key characteristics include:

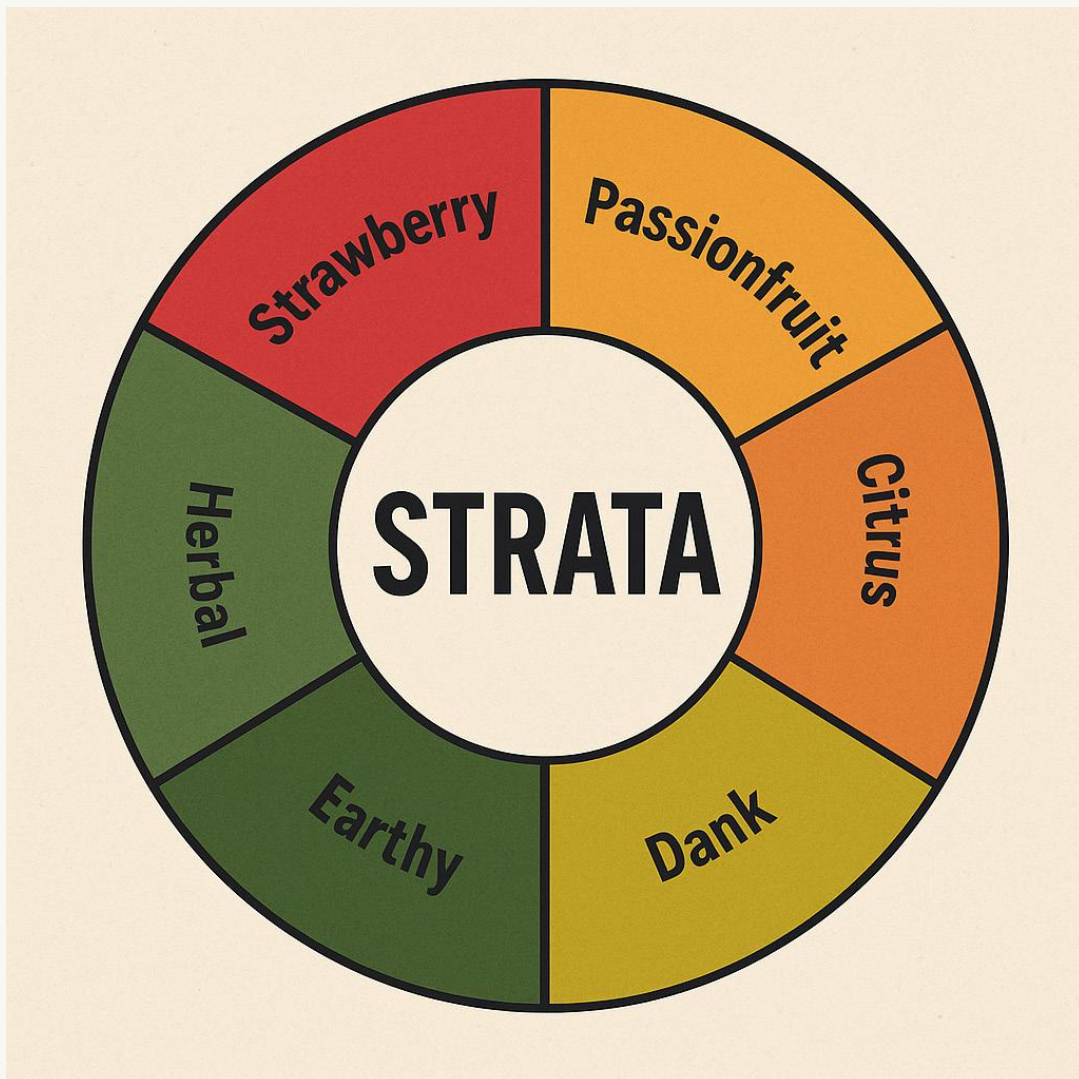
Strawberry and tropical fruit – ripe mango, passionfruit, and melon

Citrus – grapefruit zest and orange peel

Dankness – cannabis-like herbal funk (often described as "terpy" or "sticky")

Subtle earthiness – tea-like or herbal base notes

This unique combination makes Strata particularly well-suited for dry hopping and late-boil additions, where its complex aromas can really shine.



Hop of the week: STRATA

Brewing Applications

Strata is a hop for creative brewers. Its intense aromatics and layered flavour mean it works beautifully as a single-hop showcase, but it also plays well with others, especially citrusy and tropical varieties like **Citra, Mosaic, Simcoe, or Galaxy**.

Ideal Beer Styles:

Hazy IPAs / NEIPAs

Pale Ales

Double IPAs

Hoppy Lagers

Experimental or fruit-forward ales

Because of its strong personality, many brewers are using Strata to differentiate their brews in an increasingly crowded hop market.

Growing and Availability

Strata is primarily grown in the Pacific Northwest, especially in Oregon where it was bred. It's considered relatively hardy and productive, with a moderate to high alpha acid content (usually between 11–13%), which adds to its versatility. As demand grows, more acreage is being dedicated to Strata, making it increasingly accessible to homebrewers and commercial brewers alike.

Brewer and Consumer Reception

Craft beer fans often rave about Strata beers for their juicy, heady aromas and modern flavour combinations. On taproom menus, beers highlighting Strata often stand out, especially when brewers emphasize its **"passionfruit meets pot"** character—a nod to the hop's aromatic complexity.

Brewers, on the other hand, praise Strata for its consistency, impact, and uniqueness. It allows for creativity without sacrificing drinkability.

Conclusion

Strata is more than just a trendy hop; it's a powerful tool for brewers seeking to create standout beers with vibrant, layered flavour profiles. Whether leading the charge in a single-hop hazy IPA or adding depth to a hop blend, Strata brings a signature style that is unmistakably modern, delicious, and full of potential.

If you haven't brewed with—or tasted—a Strata-forward beer yet, it might just be time to see what all the hype is about.

Beer Name of the Week

Brewers are always coming up with great names for their latest brews, so we thought it's about time we noticed some of them.

SIM CIT-E

3.4% Extra Pale Ale

By Brew York

A nod to the ever popular and original computer game, Sim City, this beer is brewed with **Sim**coe and **Cit**ra Hops.



UK Craft Beer Festivals



29-31 MAY 2025

CRAFT BEER EXPO 2025

Black Lodge Brewery, 3 Kings Dock Street, Liverpool LI 8JU

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/craft-beer-expo-ltd-3248880072>

30-31 MAY 2025

FYNEFEST 2025

Fyne Ales, Achadunan, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BJ

<https://fynefest.com/tickets/>

31 MAY 2025

CRAFT BREW FESTIVAL

The Steamworks, 111 Randall Street, Sheffield

<https://craftbrewfestival.co.uk/>

7 JUNE 2025

FRIENDS FESTIVAL

Unit 8, Willow Business Centre, 17 Willow Ln, Mitcham CR4 4NX

<https://www.drop-project.co.uk/cans/friendsfest2024tickets>

6-7 JUNE 2025

MANCHESTER CRAFT BREW FESTIVAL

Victoria Warehouse, Trafford Wharf Road, Manchester M17 1AB

<https://craftbrewfestival.co.uk/manchester>

13-15 JUNE 2025

CRYSTAL PALACE BEER FESTIVAL

The Crystal Palace, London SE19 1UE

<https://craftbeerfolk.co.uk/crystal-palace-beer-festival>

13-14 JUNE 2025

BRISTOL CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Lloyds Amphitheatre, Harbourside Bristol

<https://linktr.ee/bcbf>

20-21 JUNE 2025

PENNINE CRAFT BEER FEST

Marsden Mechanics, Marsden, HD7 6BW

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/marsden-mechanics/e-vxpgoj>

20-21 JUNE 2025

NOTTINGHAM CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Sneinton Market, Nottingham NG1

<https://shorturl.at/bOKxQ>

20-22 JUNE 2025

WORTHING BEER FESTIVAL

Steyne Gardens, Worthing

<https://craftbeerfolk.co.uk/worthing/>

3-6 JULY 2025

RETFORD ALE TRAIL

Retford Craft House, 10 Beardsalls Row, Retford, DN22 6JX

<https://www.retfordcrafthouse.com/retford-ale-trail-july-2025/>

4-5 JULY 2025

LITTLE EARTH FEST 2025

Little Earth Project Mill Green, Edwardstone, Sudbury CO10 5PX

<https://littleearthproject.com/littleearthfest/>



4-4 JULY 2025

HORNCHURCH BEER FESTIVAL

Harrow Lodge Park, Hornchurch

<https://craftbeerfolk.co.uk/hornchurch/>

5 JULY 2025

DUMMER DOWN BREWERY BEER FESTIVAL

Dummer Down Farm, Dummer Hampshire RG25 2AR

<https://shorturl.at/UphkV>

11-12 JULY 2025

SALISBURY CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

The Arts Centre, Salisbury

<https://shorturl.at/FajUs>

18-19 JULY 2025

LONDON CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Magazine London, 11 Ordnance Cres, London SE10 0JH

<https://londoncraftbeerfestival.co.uk/>

26 JULY 2025

LITTLE SUMMER BEER BASH

Verdant, Unit 30 Parkengue, Kernick Industrial Estate, Penryn TR10 9EP

<https://tinyurl.com/3p3tv7kb>

9-10 AUGUST 2025

THESE HILLS 2025

Glynde Place, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 6SX

<https://tinyurl.com/28msnc5p>

15-16 AUGUST 2025

NORTHALLERTON CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

The Golden Lion Hotel, Northallerton DL7 8PP

www.buytickets.at/ncbf

22-24 AUGUST 2025

SUNDERLAND CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

The Fire Station, Sunderland SRI 3HA

<https://www.sunderlandcraftbeer.co.uk/>





23-24 AUGUST 2025

TIPSY FEST

Tipsy Cow, Lanreath near Looe, PL13 2NX

<https://shorturl.at/IMszy>

28-30 AUGUST 2025

FARM TRIP 2025

Home Farm, Horrobin Lane, Rivington PR6 9HE

<https://www.rivingtonbrewing.co.uk/farmtrip2025>

12-13 SEPTEMBER 2025

FULL CIRCLE FEST

Full Circle Taproom, Hoult's Yard, Newcastle NE6 2HL

<https://www.fullcirclebrew.co.uk/products/full-circle-fest-ticket>

24-25 OCTOBER 2025

RISING TIDE CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, Canterbury, Kent

<https://www.timeandtidebrewing.co.uk/events>

25 OCTOBER 2025

THE BIG SWALLY

O2 Academy, Edinburgh

<https://www.ticketebo.co.uk/the-ccbm/the-big-swally-edinburgh>

1 NOVEMBER 2025

DARK & WILD 2025

The Old Flax Store, Leeds, LS11 9YJ

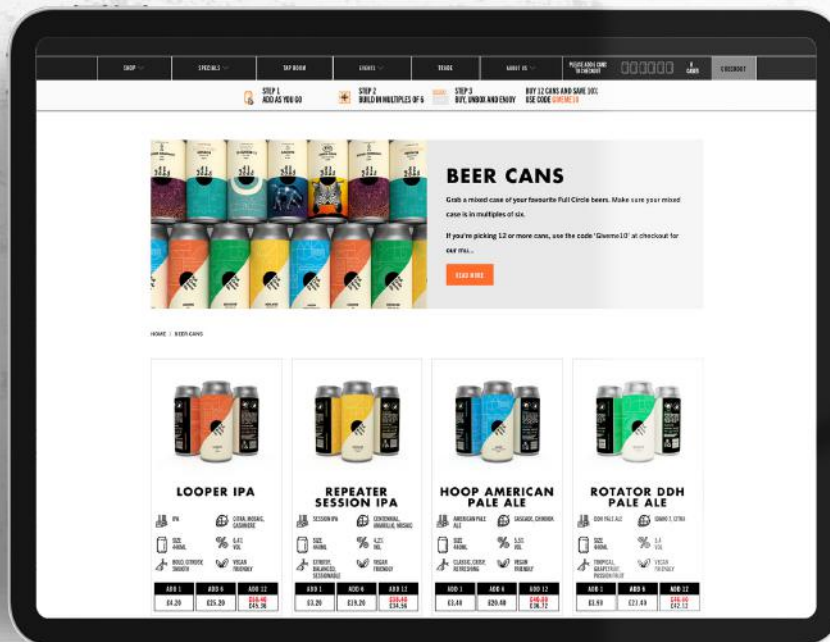
<https://www.universe.com/events/dark-wild-2025-tickets-TDSZIP>





Webshops

FEATURED WEBSHOP



Craft beer direct to your fridge



Full Circle Brew Co.

Craft Brewery & Taproom

<https://www.fullcirclebrew.co.uk/collections/all-beer>

Free national delivery over £50



Duration Brewing Beer Shop

Beers That Belong - Brewed From Nature With Purpose

<https://shop.durationbeer.com/>

Free delivery over £50



Villages Brewery

Bringing People Together

<https://villagesbrewery.com/collections/buy-beer>

Standard shipping £6.99


Webshop Directory...



Little Earth Project

Fresh & Funky From the Suffolk Countryside

<https://littleearthproject.myshopify.com/>


 Free shipping for orders over £80



Holy Goat Brewing

Specialising in the Production of Mixed Fermentation & Wood Aged Beers

<https://holygoat.beer/shop/>


 Free shipping for orders over £39



Vault City Brewing

Modern Sour Beer With a Focus on Fruit Forward Flavours

<https://vaultcity.co.uk/collections/all-beers>


 Free shipping for orders over £50



UnBarred Brewery

Made of Brighton

<https://www.unbarredbrewery.com/collections/unbarred-shop>


 Free delivery for orders over £50



52 Degrees Brewing (10% discount code: 10forTWICB)

Grasshopper & Warwickshire Beers – All flowing together

<https://52degreesbrewing.com/pages/purchase-beer>


 Standard shipping £5.99



Pomona Island Brew Co.

Award Winning Brewery Based In Salford

<https://www.pomonaislandbrew.co.uk/shop>


 Standard shipping £6.00



Attic Brew Co.

Forward Thinking Beers

<https://atticbrewco.com/collections/beer>

 Free delivery for orders over £35


Webshop Directory...



Polly's Brew Co.

Ultra Fresh, Hop-Forward, Modern Beers

<https://pollysbrew.co/shop/>


 Free shipping for orders over £60



Amity Brew Co.

Community, Friendship and Good beer!

<https://www.amitybrew.co/shop>


 Free shipping on orders over £45



Wilderness Brewery

Wild Little Beers From Mid Wales

<https://www.wildernessbrew.co.uk/shop>


 Standard shipping £8 or click and collect



Moot Brew Co.

Brewing Hop Forward Beers in the Heart of Kent

<https://mootbrew.co.uk/collections/all>


 Free shipping on orders over £60



Exale Brewery

We're Exale. Home of the Wild, Weird and Wonderful

<https://shop.exalebrew.co.uk/>


 Free shipping for orders over £30



Crossover Blendery

Modern, Flavour-Forward Beers Rooted In Tradition

<https://crossoverblendery.co.uk/collections/beers>


 Standard shipping £8.99



Mondo Brewing Co.

All Things Point South West

<https://shop.mondobeer.com/>

 Free shipping for orders over £75


Webshop Directory...



Anspach & Hobday

A London Brewery Making Traditional Beers in a Modern Way

<https://www.anspachandhobday.com/shop>


 Free shipping for orders over £60



Bullhouse Brew Co.

Independent Craft Brewery Based in Belfast

<https://bullhousebrewco.com/collections/beer>


 Free shipping for orders over £50



Neon Raptor Brewing Co.

Midlands Based Microbrewery Producing Top Quality Beers

<https://neonraptorbrewingco.com/collections/beer>


 Free shipping on orders of 12 cans or more



Track Brewing Co.

Beers Born From Adventure

<https://www.trackbrewing.co/collections/buybeer>


 Free shipping for orders over £60



71 Brewing Co.

Engineers of Beers, Brewed in Scotland

<https://71brewing.com/collections/all>


 Standard shipping £5.99



Hammerton Brewery

Proudly Brewing Great Beer in London N7

<https://hammertonbrewery.shop/>


 Free shipping for orders over £48



Vibrant Forest Brewery

Our Passion is to Brew Modern Beers Packed With Flavour

<https://www.vibrantforest.co.uk/>

 Free shipping for orders over £60


Webshop Directory...



Sureshot Brewing

High Quality, Small Batch - From the Beating Belly of Manchester

<https://sureshotbrew.com/shop/>


 Free shipping for orders over £60



Carnival Brewing Co.

Celebrating Modern Beer

<https://carnivalbrewing.me/collections/cans-bottles>


 Free shipping for orders over £50



Electric Bear Brewing Co.

Craft Beer That Delivers on that 'glad-to-be-alive' Vibe

<https://electricbearbrewing.com/collections/beer>


 Free shipping for orders over £50



Round Corner Brewing

Uncommonly Good Beer

<https://roundcornerbrewing.com/pages/ranges>


 Free shipping for orders over £50



Tartarus Beers

Brewing Small Batch Craft Beer, With a Mythical Edge

<https://www.tartarusbeers.co.uk/collections/beer>


 Free shipping for orders over £50



Beak Brewery

Life-affirming Ales

<https://beakbrewery.com/>


 Free shipping for orders over £50



Only With Love - 10% Discount code: TWICB-OWLove

Togetherness on Tap

<https://www.onlywithlove.co/>

 Free shipping for orders over £55


Webshop Directory...



Lost Pier Brewing

Independent Nomadic Brewer Based in Sussex

<https://www.lostpier.com/online-store>


 Free shipping for orders over £50



Vaux Brewery

Independent Craft Brewery in Sunderland

<https://www.vaux.beer/collections/webshop>


 Free shipping for orders over £60



Hackney Brewery

A Small, Independent Craft Brewery in London

<https://www.hackneybrewery.com/shop>


 Free shipping for orders over £50



Bayonet Brewing

Modern, Exciting and Innovative Beers

<https://bayonet-brewing.square.site/s/shop>


 Standard shipping £6.50



Padstow Brewing Co.

Multi Award Winning Craft Brewery

<https://www.padstowbrewing.co.uk/shop/>


 Free shipping for orders over £50



Zapato Brewery

Add any 12 Zapato beers to your cart for an automatic 10% discount

<https://zapatobrewing.com/>


 Free shipping on orders over £60



Time & Tide Brewing

Independent Brewery, Producing Hop Forward, Progressive Beers

<https://www.timeandtidebrewing.co.uk/shop>

 Free shipping on orders over £50

Webshop Directory...



Stannary Brewing Co.

Producers of Flavoured, Modern Beers in the Heart of West Devon

<https://stannarybrewing.shop/>



Free shipping for orders over £30



Wild Horse Brewing Co.

Fresh, Forward Thinking, Beer

<https://wildhorsebrewing.co.uk/collections/beer-cans>



Free shipping for orders over £60



Pastore Brewing & Blending

We Make Fresh Super-Fruited Sours & Barrel Aged Blended Wild Ales

<https://pastore-brewing.myshopify.com/collections/all>



Standard shipping £5.99



Liquid Light Brewing Co.

Vegan Craft Beers Inspired By a Love For Music

<https://liquidlightbrewco.shop/>



Free shipping for orders over £50



Merakai Brewing Co.

Crafted With Purpose

<https://www.merakaibrewing.com/shop>



Free shipping for orders over £60



Small Batch Brewing Co.

Making Good Beer For Great People

<https://www.smallbatchbrewing.co.uk/shop/>



Standard shipping £7.20



Hammerton Brewery

Proudly Brewing Great Beer in London N7

<https://hammertonbrewery.shop/>



Free shipping on orders over £48


Webshop Directory...



Wylam Brewery

Micro Brewery - Tap Room - Events Space

<https://beerstore.wylambrewery.co.uk/>


 Standard shipping £6.99



Runaway Brewery

Handmade, Modern British Beer

<https://www.therunawaybrewery.com/>


 Standard shipping £6.50



Pillars Brewery

Home of Lager - Brewed in East London

<https://www.pillarsbrewery.com/collections/beer-boxes>


 Free shipping for orders over £80



Pipeline Brewing

Hazy, Hop-Forward Beers

<https://pipelinebrewing.co.uk/collections/all>


 Free shipping for orders over £60



State of Kind Brew Co.

Making the World Better One Beer at a Time

<https://www.stateofkindbrew.co/shop>


 Free shipping for orders over £45



Bottle & Jug Dept.

Craft Beer, Traditional Cider, Spirits, Natural and Organic Wine

<https://bottleandjugdept.co.uk/>


 Free shipping for orders over £95



Double-Barrelled Brewery - 10% Discount code: TWICB

A modern, independent brewery based in Reading, Berkshire

<https://doublebarrelled.co.uk/>

 Free shipping for orders over £50
