



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 Cascade hop.

TAPROOM REVIEW

The TWICB Team visit Balance Brewing & Blending in Manchester.

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**ISSUE TWO HUNDRED
AND FIFTY EIGHT**

9 JUNE 2025



Windfarms

I was recently looking at an OS map of the Rochdale area and was struck by how many wind farms there are in the region. Digging deeper, I found 2022 reports stating the UK had around 11,500 wind turbines—8,827 on 2,604 onshore farms and 2,652 offshore on 43 farms.

The UK has one of the world's largest offshore capacities, though offshore turbines cost three times more than onshore ones. Unsurprisingly, China leads globally, generating 560 gigawatts compared to the UK's 30 (expected to hit 50 by 2030).

When I searched for 2025 figures, Google returned AI-generated data that simply repeated the 2022 numbers. No new turbines in three years? Unlikely—I know a new farm in Dorset went live this year. AI even warns that its info may be inaccurate. What's the point if it can't be trusted?

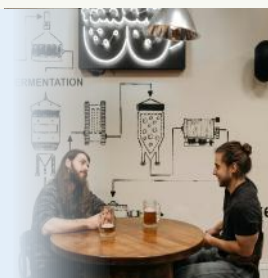
What isn't unaccurate (and isn't from AI) is the fact that the UK produce some of the most delicious craft beers in the world.

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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TAPROOM REVIEW

The TWICB Team visit Balance Brewing's taproom in Manchester.

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HOP FOCUS

We take an in-depth look at the hop: CASCADE

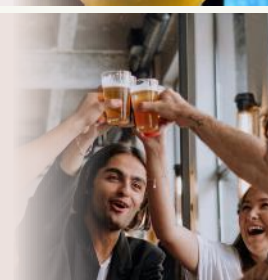
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FESTIVAL CALENDAR

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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TAPROOM FINDER

Discover a taproom or craft beer bar near you.

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Brewer's Corner

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



Hospitality to Benefit From Investment in Local Transport?

It is very rare for the Government to do something that draws praise from the Hospitality Industry, but the increased investment in regional public transport funding was widely praised this week. However it remains to be seen whether the Government will stick to their promises and if there will be any businesses left to visit in a few years time!

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)

Tied Public Houses

The Pub Curmudgeon provides a nice history of how we ended up with a tied-pub hospitality sector in the UK. He then goes on to point out how naive it is of hand-wringing organisations like CAMRA to expect the system to be torn-down.

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)



Wild Beer Festival

We very rarely promote upcoming beer festivals here in Brewers Corner, but we will make an exception for the Carnivale Brettanomyces coming up in two weeks time in Utrecht, which sounds really special. Stan Hieronymus agrees with us!

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)

Desert Island Pubs

Finally this week, we like the long-form Desert Island Pubs interview format over at Beer Insider. If we were still doing a Podcast, we might even think about stealing it...

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)



Beer of the Week

Radioactive Worms

5.2% Pale Ale

by Azvex Brewing Co.



Glowing with energy and ready to strike...

5.2% Cashmere & Motueka IPA with hits of lime, melon, and tropical haze

[BUY HERE](#)

Taproom Review



STEVE P
TWICB CO FOUNDER

Balance Brewing & Blending

10 Sheffield St, Manchester M1 2ND

A Hidden Gem in Manchester's Railway Arches

Just a short walk from Manchester's bustling city centre, Balance Brewing & Blending is tucked into one of Piccadilly's traditional railway arches. With the excellent SureShot Brewing only a few arches away, this spot makes a great stop on any beer enthusiast's crawl.



The taproom itself is a small, rustic space full of charm. Sharing the room with the brewery adds an engaging layer to the experience - you're drinking surrounded by the very equipment used to craft what's in your glass. It's warm and welcoming, a place where you're encouraged to linger and appreciate not only the beer, but the care and process behind it.

Taproom Review

Balance specialise in mixed-culture, barrel-fermented beers, a distinct shift from the more typical craft beer offerings. Their brewing philosophy centres on using quality British ingredients to create modern takes on classic styles. This makes each visit a bit of an education as well as a pleasure.



There are six rotating draught lines pouring Balance's latest creations alongside standout mixed and spontaneous fermentation beers from across the UK. Two taps are dedicated to permanent favourites - Beak's Hum pale ale and Utopian's British Lager. A well-stocked fridge holds bottles to enjoy onsite or take home, including a carefully chosen selection of wild beers from other UK breweries.

Taproom Review

On our visit - a bright, sunny Saturday afternoon - we enjoyed a bottle of Saison Hallertau by Mills Brewing, elegantly served in a traditional basket. It was a perfect pairing for the relaxed atmosphere and great conversation.

The taproom is both child and dog friendly, though under 18s must leave after 8pm due to licensing.

Opening hours:
Thursday 5–10pm
Friday 2–10pm
Saturday 12–10pm
Sunday 2–8pm

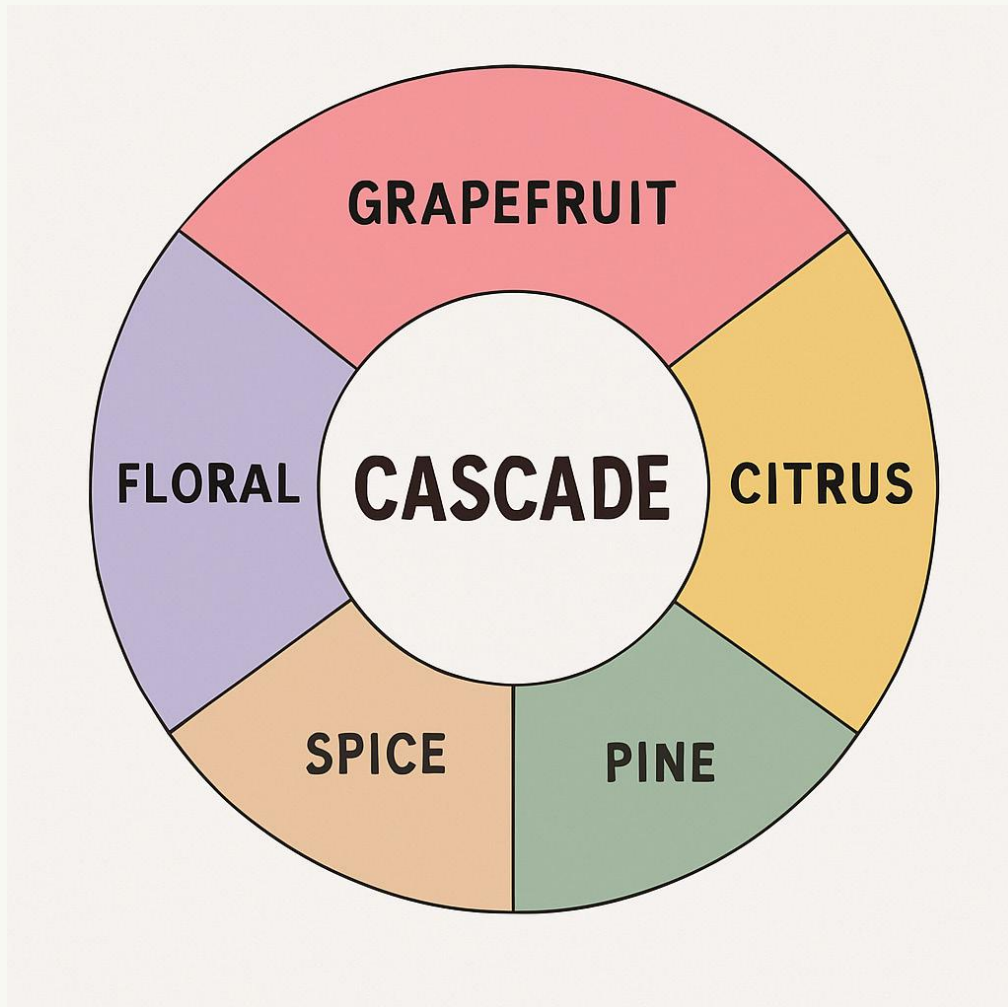


Balance Brewing & Blending offers something truly unique in Manchester's beer scene—an unpretentious, characterful space with a thoughtful approach to brewing and a real sense of craft. A must-visit for anyone with a curiosity for flavour and a love of fermentation.



Hop of the Week

Cascade



Cascade Hops: The Flower that Sparked a Craft Beer Revolution

Few hops have had as profound an impact on the craft beer industry as Cascade. Known for its distinct citrus and floral aroma, Cascade is more than just a hop—it's a symbol of American craft brewing innovation and the foundation of some of the most iconic beers in history.

Origins and Development

Cascade was developed in the 1950s by Dr. Stanley Nelson at Oregon State University and released in 1972 by the USDA breeding program in Oregon. It's a cross between the English Fuggle hop and a Russian variety known as Serebrianka, combined with open pollination. The result was a hop that offered something quite new to brewers at the time: an intense yet balanced aroma with an unmistakable citrus kick, particularly grapefruit.

Hop of the week: CASCADE

Aroma and Flavour Profile

Cascade is classified as an **aroma hop**, although it contributes bitterness as well (alpha acid content typically ranges from 4.5% to 7%). Its signature characteristics include:

Citrus (especially grapefruit)

Floral notes

Subtle hints of **spice** and **pine**

These attributes make Cascade highly versatile, but it's especially suited for American Pale Ales, IPAs, and blonde ales. The hop's bright, zesty nature pairs beautifully with lighter malt profiles, delivering a crisp and refreshing flavour.

Cascade's Role in Craft Beer History

Cascade's big moment came with the release of **Sierra Nevada Pale Ale** in 1980. This now-legendary beer showcased Cascade's character like never before and helped define the flavour profile of the modern American Pale Ale. Its success sparked a revolution—soon, craft breweries across the U.S. were embracing bold, hop-forward styles, and Cascade was at the heart of it.



Hop of the week: CASCADE

Growing Regions

Cascade was first grown in the **Pacific Northwest**, especially in **Oregon** and **Washington**, where it remains widely cultivated. However, its popularity has led to widespread global growth, including in:

Australia (where it tends to be a little less citrusy and more floral)

New Zealand

Argentina

Germany

Each region can impart subtle differences in the hop's profile, influenced by soil, climate, and growing techniques—known collectively as *terroir*.

Brewing with Cascade

Cascade works well in a range of applications:

Late kettle additions and **dry hopping** to maximise aroma

Single-hopped beers to highlight its unique character

Blends with other American varieties like Centennial or Amarillo for more complexity

Its approachable bitterness and vibrant aroma make it a favorite for both homebrewers and professionals.

Conclusion

Cascade isn't just a hop—it's a cornerstone of craft beer culture. Its bold, bright, and unmistakably American character helped launch a new era in brewing, one that celebrates flavour, innovation, and independence.

Whether you're enjoying a classic Pale Ale or experimenting with a modern twist, Cascade remains a timeless ingredient that continues to inspire brewers and beer lovers alike.

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.

DANK SINATRA

6% Hazy IPA

By Pressure Drop Brewing

A medley of hops, heaps of oats, and English yeast make Dank Sinatra a super fresh and smooth hazy IPA with a hint of West Coast bitterness—that's life, baby.



UK Craft Beer Festivals



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-vxpgoi>

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/>

4-5 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/>

25-26 JULY 2025

HARLOW BEER FESTIVAL

Harlow Town Park

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





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

15-17 AUGUST 2025

WIMBLEDON BEER FESTIVAL

Wimbledon Park

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

22-24 AUGUST 2025

SUNDERLAND CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

The Fire Station, Sunderland SRI 3HA

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

22-24 AUGUST 2025

REIGATE BEER FESTIVAL

Priory Park, Reigate

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

23-24 AUGUST 2025

TIPSY FEST

Tipsy Cow, Lanreath near Looe, PL13 2NX

<https://shorturl.at/IMszy>

24 AUGUST 2025

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Track Brewing, Unit 18 Piccadilly Trading Estate, Manchester M1 2NP

<https://shorturl.at/EvY8x>



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

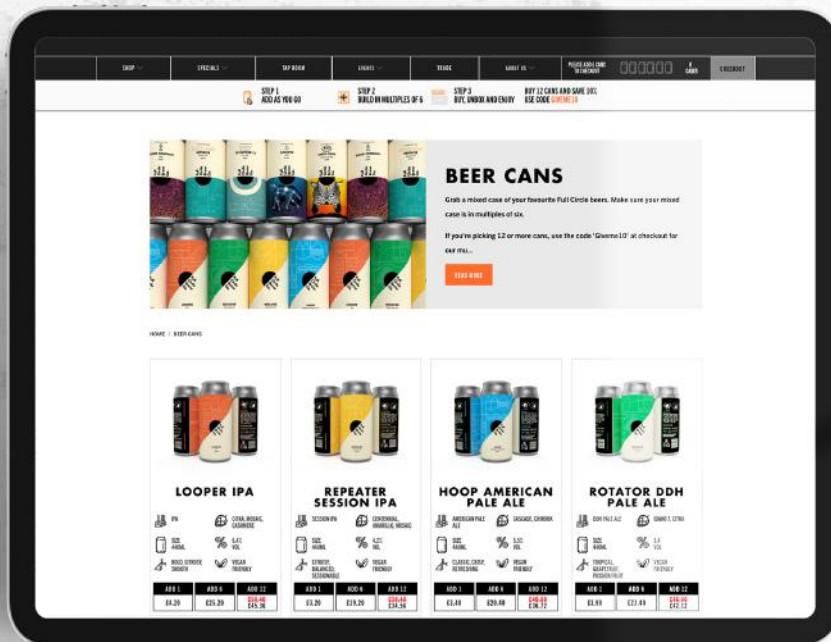
<https://www.universe.com/events/dark-wild-2025-tickets-TDSZIP>





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...

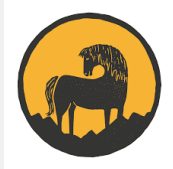


Stannary Brewing Co.

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
