

# Ohio Craft Beers: A Comprehensive Guide to the Buckeye State's Beer Scene

Ohio's craft beer scene has exploded in recent years, with over 300 breweries now operating across the state. From historic breweries in Cincinnati to up-and-coming taprooms in Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio offers a diverse range of beer experiences.



## Ohio's Craft Beers: Discovering the Variety, Enjoying the Quality, Relishing the Experience

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This comprehensive guide will take you on a tour of Ohio's craft beer scene, highlighting the best breweries, beer styles, and insider tips from local experts. Whether you're a seasoned beer enthusiast or just starting to explore the world of craft beer, this guide will help you discover the hidden gems and must-try beers of Ohio.

## Ohio's Beer Regions

Ohio's craft beer scene is centered around several key regions, each with its unique character and brewing traditions.

- **Cincinnati:** Known as the "Queen City of the West," Cincinnati has a long history of brewing that dates back to the 1800s. Today, the city is home to several historic breweries, including Christian Moerlein and Hudepohl, as well as a thriving craft beer scene with dozens of independent breweries.
- **Cleveland:** Ohio's second-largest city, Cleveland is a burgeoning craft beer destination. The city is home to several award-winning breweries, including Great Lakes Brewing Company and Platform Beer Company, as well as a vibrant beer culture with numerous beer bars, bottle shops, and festivals.
- **Columbus:** The state capital of Ohio, Columbus is a hub for craft beer innovation. The city is home to several experimental breweries, including Hoof Hearted Brewing Company and Seventh Son Brewing Company, as well as a thriving homebrew community.
- **Dayton:** Located in southwestern Ohio, Dayton is a historic city with a growing craft beer scene. The city is home to several breweries, including Fifth Street Brewpub and Toxic Brew Company, as well as a number of beer-centric events and festivals.
- **Toledo:** Ohio's northwestern city, Toledo is home to a diverse range of breweries, from historic stalwarts like Maumee Bay Brewing Company to newer craft breweries like Earnest Brew Works. The city also hosts the annual Toledo Craft Beer Festival, one of the largest beer festivals in the state.

## **Ohio's Signature Beer Styles**

Ohio's craft breweries produce a wide range of beer styles, but a few key styles have emerged as favorites among locals and visitors alike.

- **Ohio Common Beer:** A classic Ohio beer style, Ohio Common Beer is a light, hoppy beer that is similar to an American Pale Ale. It is often brewed with local ingredients, such as Ohio-grown hops and malts.
- **American IPA:** A popular style across the United States, the American IPA is a hoppy, bitter beer that is often brewed with American hops. Ohio's craft breweries produce a wide range of IPAs, from sessionable IPAs to double and triple IPAs.
- **Stout:** A dark, malty beer, stout is a favorite among Ohio craft beer enthusiasts. Ohio breweries produce a variety of stouts, from traditional Irish stouts to American stouts and imperial stouts.
- **Sour Ale:** A tart, refreshing beer, sour ale is a growing trend in Ohio's craft beer scene. Ohio breweries produce a variety of sour ales, from Berliner Weisses to Flanders Red Ales.
- **Fruit Beer:** Ohio's craft breweries are known for their innovative fruit beers. These beers are often brewed with fresh, local fruit, such as peaches, cherries, and raspberries. Fruit beers are a popular choice for summer drinking.

## **Must-Visit Ohio Breweries**

With over 300 breweries in the state, it can be overwhelming to know where to start. Here are a few of Ohio's must-visit breweries:

- **Great Lakes Brewing Company (Cleveland):** One of Ohio's most award-winning breweries, Great Lakes Brewing Company is known for its iconic Dortmunder Gold lager and a wide range of other beers.

- **Hoof Hearted Brewing Company (Columbus):** A nationally recognized brewery, Hoof Hearted Brewing Company is known for its experimental beers, including its popular IPAs and stouts.
- **Platform Beer Company (Cleveland):** A leader in the Ohio craft beer scene, Platform Beer Company produces a wide range of beers, from IPAs to sours to lagers.
- **Christian Moerlein Brewing Company (Cincinnati):** A historic brewery that has been operating in Cincinnati since 1853, Christian Moerlein Brewing Company is known for its classic lagers and ales.
- **Jackie O's Pub & Brewery (Athens):** A popular brewery in southeastern Ohio, Jackie O's Pub & Brewery is known for its IPAs, stouts, and sour ales.

## Ohio Beer Events & Festivals

Ohio's craft beer scene is celebrated throughout the year with a variety of events and festivals. Here are a few of the most popular:

- **Ohio Craft Beer Week (July):** A statewide celebration of Ohio's craft beer scene, Ohio Craft Beer Week features events and specials at breweries and bars across the state.
- **Cincinnati Craft Beer Festival (June):** One of Ohio's largest beer festivals, the Cincinnati Craft Beer Festival features over 100 breweries from across the state and beyond.
- **Cleveland Beer Week (October):** A week-long celebration of Cleveland's craft beer scene, Cleveland Beer Week features events at breweries, restaurants, and bars throughout the city.

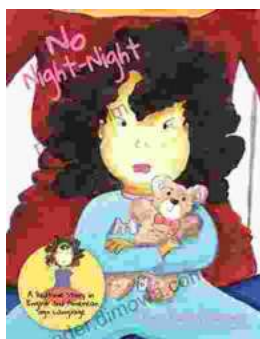
- **Toledo Craft Beer Festival (June):** A popular festival in



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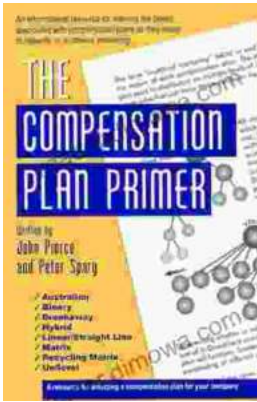
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