

(Please note that at the time of publication the ANHC has commercial agreements with 2 Brothers, Beer Deluxe, Little Creatures, Mountain Goat, Transport, Grain & Grape, Purvis Cellars, Coldstream Brewery and Hickinbotham. Phil Sexton, who is a presenter, is an owner of Innocent Bystander/Giant Steps.)

### **Places to Drink Beer**

#### *2 Brothers (4 Joyner St, Moorabbin)*

Melbourne's newest brewery is producing some of the state's most interesting beers. Open in industrial Moorabbin on Thursday and Friday nights, and included in the Microbrewery Tour because it's so far out of the way. Four 2 Brothers beers on tap – Growler (American brown), Rusty (Belgian pale), Trickster (wit) and Taxi (pilsner) – and 'German hot dogs' to wash them down.



#### *Bar Fred (797 Nicholson St, North Carlton)*

Cosy, friendly neighbourhood bar which serves cheap and cheerful pizzas and does an impressive trade in good beer. No tap beer, but the tradeoff is that bottles are a relative bargain. Definitely worth a look if you're in the area.



#### *Beer Deluxe (Federation Square, corner Swanston and Flinders Streets, Melbourne)*

European-style beer café on the Flinders St side of the Federation Square complex. A very civilised alternative to Transport. They usually have one interesting beer in their small range of taps beers and the bottled list is very well-selected, though with few surprises.

#### *Belgian Beer Café Bluestone (557 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne)*

The original Melbourne outlet for this chain which seems to be everywhere these days. The same beer list as everywhere else – which is to say, good with no rarities – but this place stands out for its amazing beer garden, one of the best in Melbourne. Jazz on Sunday afternoons. Take the 3, 5, 6, 64 or 67 from Swanston St down St Kilda Rd.

#### *Belgian Beer Café Eureka (5 Riverside Quay, Southbank)*

The same idea as at Bluestone only in far less atmospheric – though much more accessible – surrounds. Seems to be aimed at the corporate crowd.

*Bell's Hotel (cnr Moray and Coventry Sts, South Melbourne)*

Old-school brewpub in South Melbourne which used to have one of Melbourne's most famous publicans. Billy's sold up now, but the brewery continues. The Stout Billy is a real stand-out. The projector-screen TV gets a workout when there's a sporting event on, and they serve full pub meals. It's about a fifteen minute walk from the city, or take the 112 from Collins St down Clarendon St.

*Cookie (Level 1 Curtin House, 252 Swanston St, Melbourne)*

On the first floor of Curtin House which also houses two other bars which are definitely worth a look – Rooftop and The Toff in Town. The beer list is excellent, emphasising interesting bottles though it usually has a few beers of interest on tap, and the Thai is top-notch. Gets incredibly busy on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights – they sometimes enforce a dress code too. Far more relaxed on a school night.

*Court House Hotel (86 Errol St, North Melbourne)*

Justifiably renowned as a top-notch gastropub with a killer wine list, they don't let up when it comes to beer either. It usually has three local micros on tap as well as Chimay White. The bar menu is amazing both in terms of quality and value, and don't skip the bread rolls. At the end of the main drag in North Melbourne – walkable from the city, or take the 57 tram from Elizabeth St.



*James Squire Brewhouse at the Portland Hotel (115-127 Russell St, Melbourne)*

An outlet for Malt Shovel beers in the city which also happens to brew its own beers. The Craic (stout) and Highwayman (red ale) are both highly recommended and Speculator (APA) is a must-try if you happen to find it on. They sometimes do one-offs as well, which can occasionally hit the heights. They've got a decent menu of pub standards too.

*James Squire Brewhouse at Waterfront City (G16, 439 Docklands Drive, Docklands)*

Basically offers the same at the CBD venue but located in a soulless, out-of-the-way tourist zone. Docklands is kind of like a less-interesting Darling Harbour. Plus for some reason the beers never seem to taste quite as good as at the Portland. Easily the best beer place in Docklands, but probably not worth a special trip.

*Lambsgo Bar (135 Greeves St, Fitzroy)*

A beautiful old bluestone house just off Smith St which has a long list of bottled beers and a couple of taps. It does ambience much better than most beer places, but on beer selection alone it's probably in the second tier. Highly recommended regardless. No food, but quite close to the Little Creatures Dining Hall. Take the 86 tram (from Bourke St) to Smith St.

*Little Creatures Dining Hall (222 Brunswick St, Fitzroy)*

Massive, bustling converted warehouse which does an absolutely roaring trade in all the Little Creatures beers on tap and excellent 'beer food'. You know, pizzas, burgers, fish and chips and the like, but definitely a cut above standard pub fare. There's also a nice little bottle shop and a very tidy wine list. Currently one of the places to be in Melbourne. At the south end of Brunswick St it's walkable from the city, or take the 112 from Collins St.



*Mountain Goat Brewery (cnr North and River Sts, Richmond)*

The Goat boys open up the brewery on Wednesdays and Fridays from 6pm for the Goat Army to come and get their fill of brewery-fresh beer, including an ongoing series of one-offs which they started doing last year. Insanely cheap, basic but very tasty pizzas out of the toastie machine and table football – all in a working brewery. Rock up on Wednesday night if you want to get a tour. Very conveniently located right over the road from the Royston. Take trams 48 or 75 (from Flinders St) along Bridge Rd, or the 24 or 109 (from Collins St) along Victoria St. It's also about a ten minute walk from Burnley station.



*Mrs Parmas (25 Little Bourke St, Melbourne)*

Disarmingly – and unashamedly – untrendy bar in a very trendy part of town, right near Chinatown. It bills itself as an ‘all-Victorian beer bar’ with nine beers on tap and a good range of bottles, and is the only place you can get Otway beers on tap in Melbourne. Not surprisingly, food is dominated by the parmigiana – done any way you could possibly imagine.



*Normandy Ale House (cnr Gold St and Queens Pde, Clifton Hill)*

Recently taken over by the owners of the Jamieson Brewery and also rebranded as a Victorian beer bar. The tap beer list shows bursts of extreme good taste – not to mention hop love – and they have a house pale ale brewed especially at Jamieson. Standard pub fare and a fairly standard pub vibe. Combine it with a trip to the Terminus, which is just up the road. Take the 86 tram from Bourke St or take a train to Clifton Hill station.

*The Royston Hotel (12 River St, Richmond)*

The beer destination on the north side of the river. Ten taps with four constantly rotating between any number of interesting things, though with an emphasis on local micros. A good range of pub meals, all served in an unusually atmospheric old pub. Combine a trip with Mountain Goat’s opening times on Wednesday or Friday. Take trams 48 or 75 (from Flinders St) along Bridge Rd, or the 24 or 109 (from Collins St) along Victoria St. It’s also about a ten minute walk from Burnley station.



*Terminus Hotel (492 Queens Pde, Clifton Hill)*

The Royston’s little brother in Clifton Hill. An interesting beer list, but not as expansive as the Royston. Food seems to be a bit more emphasised here, and the dining room is huge. Just down the road from the Normandy. Take the 86 tram from Bourke St or take a train to Clifton Hill or Rushall stations.



*The Local Taphouse (184 Carlisle St, East St Kilda)*

The new kid on the block has gone straight to the top of the list for beer in Melbourne. Four fast-rotating taps and 16 permanents – several of which seem to change regularly as well – all of which are worth drinking. They don't bother with boring beer for the masses. Very knowledgeable staff, a website which has an up-to-date list of beers on tap, excellent food, a beautiful fitout and on top of that they run quarterly SpecTAPular beer festivals. Absolutely worth the trip. Trams 3 and 16 (from Swanston St) stop right out the front, and it's a five minute walk from Balaclava station.



*Transport (Federation Square, cnr Swanston and Flinders Streets, Melbourne)*

Massive, ultra-modern, cavernous place with the best location in town – right in the middle of Federation Square. Lots of tap beers with the odd gem, and a long list of interesting bottled beers. Interesting, relatively cheap bar meals, and a great place to watch the world go by. It gets a bit crazy on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights – best to stick to the daytime.

**Bottle Shops**

*Acland Cellars (187 Acland St, St Kilda)*

Bottle shop in the main Acland St drag which seems to specialise in obscure Eastern European beers at the expense of local micros. An excellent range of beers, a must-stop if you're down in St Kilda. Take the 96 (Bourke St) or 112 (Collins St) trams from the city.

*Cloudwine Cellars (317 Clarendon St, South Melbourne; 766 Burke Rd, Camberwell; Shop 10, Dendy Plaza, 34 Church St, Brighton)*

There are three locations for this independent wine retailer which does a serious sideline in beer. South Melbourne is easily the most convenient for conference-goers. The second-best beer range and easily the best prices of any of the beer-specialist

bottle shops. Loads of interesting wine too. A few blocks from Bell's and walkable from the city, though the 112 tram from Collins St stops twenty metres from the door.



*King & Godfree (cnr Lygon and Faraday Sts, Carlton)*

An awesome deli and wine shop in Lygon St which has a very good range of beers thrown into the mix. Not to be missed if you're going to Lygon St, but probably not worth a special trip – for the beer alone, at least.

*Grain and Grape (5/280 Whitehall St, Yarraville)*

Yep, our major sponsors also sell an excellent range of beers. Not the biggest selection, but it's all killer-no filler, as they say. Strong on local micros and interesting imports, and no rubbish. Plus they sell homebrew stuff! Walkable from Yarraville station.

*Purvis Cellars (617 Whitehorse Rd, Surrey Hills)*

Home of the best beer range in the eastern states, and possibly the country. Shame it's way out in the suburbs, though it's easily reached by public transport – it'll just take a while. Wholeheartedly recommended. The 109 tram (from Collins St) stops right out the front at Union Rd, or it's about a ten minute walk from Surrey Hills station – though from experience the walk back is a lot harder laden down with beer.



## **Day Trips**

*Yarra Valley*

As well as dozens of wineries, the Yarra Valley is home to three breweries – two of which have their own outlets. Hargreaves Hill (25 Bell St, Yarra Glen) has a high-end restaurant – though you're welcome if you just want a beer - in a beautiful old bank building in Yarra Glen and the Coldstream Brewery (694 Maroondah Hwy, Coldstream) serves beer and excellent pizzas in Coldstream. The Innocent Bystander/Giant Steps (336 Maroondah Hwy, Healesville) complex in Healesville is

also highly recommended, and they serve Little Creatures beers if none of the twenty-odd wines by the glass take your fancy. All are reachable by public transport – take the train to Lilydale station and then the bus from there.



### *Woodend*

The Holgate Brewhouse relocated to the huge Keating's Hotel (41 South Rd, Woodend) in Woodend a few years ago. The front bar is a beautiful, wood-panelled affair with the whole Holgate range on tap and two served via handpump. Food is really good country-style fare, and it's easily reached by public transport – a two-minute walk from Woodend station, which is about 45 minutes from Southern Cross.

### *Mornington Peninsula*

Another wine region with a trio of breweries. The Red Hill Brewery (88 Shoreham Rd, Red Hill) is the biggest name on the Peninsula, with excellent food and great beers including some adventurous seasonals. Meanwhile, Hickinbotham of Dromana (194 Nepean Hwy, Dromana) and the Pig & Whistle at Bayview Estate (365 Purves Rd, Main Ridge) run the beer world's equivalent of secret societies, but they'll serve you their beer if you go there and ask specifically. Hickinbotham's beers are particularly recommended. Also, check out Mock Orchards (1095 Mornington-Flinders Rd, Red Hill) ciders when you're down there. Sadly, this trip requires a car.



### *Geelong*

There are plenty of wineries down this way too, and the What's Brewing beers are available at the Scottish Chiefs Tavern (cnr Corio and O'Connell Sts, Geelong) in the middle of town. It's a beautiful old bluestone building but not quite as beautiful on the inside. You'll probably have to direct the staff to the taps with the interesting beers too – they're on your right as you enter. A fifteen minute walk from Geelong station.