



NEWS RELEASE

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Raise a glass to 10 local craft breweries and a rum distillery during your visit to The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel

LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA – What'll you have? A pint or a flight? Craft beer culture and beach communities create a laid-back, welcoming lifestyle. That said, it's no surprise so many locally owned breweries call Southwest Florida home.

Craft breweries here in [The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel](#) possess unique styles, welcoming atmospheres and passion for the craft. Want to tour a brew house? Just ask. Who knows, your tour guide might be the brew master.

When it's beer time in Lee County, these 10 locally owned breweries and one rum distillery will be worth the visit.

Big Blue Brewing

JoAnn Elardo, co-owner of Wicked Dolphin Rum Distillery with her nephew Dan Termini, was home-brewing in her spare time with her husband Bob when they bought a building in Cape Coral that used to be a bingo hall. She liked what they were brewing and began renovating in 2015. Along the way they changed the color of the building from pale pink to bright blue. Elardo co-owns Big Blue Brewing with another nephew Joe Termini, Dan's twin. Her head brewer Logan Hemphill uses organic and local ingredients. Think mangoes from Pine Island for their IPA. Their amber ale PB & Jealousy uses peanuts and wild berries and typically sells out as soon as it is tapped.

Big Blue Brewing

4721 SE 10th Place, Cape Coral

Phone: 239-471-2777

Facebook: Big Blue Brewing

Website: bigbluebrewing.com

Best beer name: Cloudy with a Chance of Grapefruit Pale Ale

Bury Me Brewing

Anyone with an affinity for suds and a morbid sense of sarcasm will feel right at home at Bury Me Brewing. Beer names rooted in the macabre – including Bone Bitter, Redrum Double Red

and Hell Bound Honey Brown – pair nicely with their tasting room’s ghastly, humorous aesthetic. Or, if you need libations for an offsite party, Bury Me Brewing will send their hearse to you. Yes, you read that right. They have a mobile hearse complete with functioning taps on the side to transport kegs to any event within a 50-mile radius.

Bury Me Brewing

4224 Cleveland Ave., Unit 7, Fort Myers

Phone: 239-332-2337

Facebook: Bury Me Brewing

Website: burymebrewing.com

Best beer name: From My Cold Dead Hands IPA

Cape Coral Brewing Company

Community engagement is a top priority at Cape Coral Brewing Company, which dedicates itself to brewing full-flavor beers. Here, patrons can participate in all sorts of clubs, including a home brew group for those who want to learn or master the art of making beer. Plus, every month a different Growlers for Good charity receives some of the brewery’s proceeds.

If you can time your travels right, Saturday is easily one of the best days to stop by. Go on a guided or self-guided tour, and then relax for a while with one of the brewery’s small-batch experimental beers in hand.

Cape Coral Brewing Company

839 Miramar St., Cape Coral

Phone: 239-257-1033

Facebook: CCBrewingCo

Website: capecoralbrewing.com

Best beer name: Bad Buoy IPA

Fort Myers Brewing Company

San Diego native Rob Whyte began brewing beer thanks to a combination of latent interest and ample free time. After his career start as a brewer on the fiercely competitive Southern California craft scene, Rob and his wife relocated to Fort Myers in 2011. Upon arriving, the couple noticed a severe lack of local breweries – a niche they intended to fill.

Five years later, Fort Myers Brewing Company’s combination tasting room and brewery serves as a popular gathering place for hopheads across Southwest Florida. On any given night here you’re likely to find live music, food trucks and an ever-present sense of community. With eight flagship beers and a rotating selection of seasonal and small batch brews, any enthusiast will find something they love.

Fort Myers Brewing Company

12811 Commerce Lakes Drive, Suite 28, Fort Myers

Phone: 239-313-6576

Facebook: FMBrew

Website: fmbrew.com

Best beer name: Tamiami Tan

Momentum Brewhouse

In 2014, home brewers Brian and Kate Hahn took a leap of faith to establish a spot that's as fun for kids as it is for adults. As proven by this Bonita Springs brewery, the ambience of a coffee shop can be just as enjoyable, if not more, when sipping beer. Old-school games like cornhole, giant Jenga, vintage arcade games and an assortment of board games certainly help Momentum live up to that notion. As the perfect complement to the brewery's staple beers and rotating offerings, visitors can bring in their own food or have something delivered to the tasting room.

Momentum Brewhouse

9786 Bonita Beach Road, SE Bonita Springs

Phone: 239-949-9945

Facebook: Momentum Brewhouse

Website: momentumbrewhouse.com

Best beer name: Dress Down Brown Ale

Palm City Brewing

Former high school basketball coach Ryan Bowen started brewing as a hobby in 2009. His passion and involvement in the local craft beer scene helped him improve his skills and realize his dream. Palm City Brewing's tasting room is located in a commercial park in San Carlos Park. There, his wife Marianne takes care of the marketing and finance, while Ryan brews Palm City's four staples with the goal of having up to 18 of his own beers on tap at a time. The tasting room is kid-friendly with a play area and an outside tabletop shuffleboard game.

Palm City Brewing

7887 Drew Circle, Suite 130, Fort Myers

Phone: 239-292-6880

Facebook: Palm City Brewing

Website: None

Best beer name: San Carlos Proper Golden Ale

Millennial Brewing Company

Located in downtown Fort Myers, Millennial Brewing Company is owned by Logan Roberts and Kyle Cebull, two Millennials with a dream to make a difference. Their motivation was to create a community of people committed to the art of beer making instead of a group of regulars that hang out at a bar. Their Imperial Stout, brewed with an entire birthday cake, is just one of their famous brews.

Millennial Brewing Company

1811 Royal Palm Ave., Fort Myers

Phone: 239-271-2255

Facebook: Millennial Brewing

Website: millennialbrewing.com

Best beer name: The Bearded Lady Oatmeal Stout

Old Soul Brewing

Co-founders Nicholas and Jacob Schmidt each brought a unique perspective to the table before

opening Old Soul Brewing in 2014. Nicholas had spent time becoming intimately familiar with Denver, Colorado's innovative and booming craft beer scene, while Jacob learned the fine art of homemade Kombucha. The two brothers combined their talents to create an inventive selection of ales, from an exquisite imperial chocolate stout to their innovative chai tea brown ale. Their 2,000-square-foot taproom boasts a rotating selection of their most recent creations and a surefire good time.

Old Soul Brewing

10970 S. Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers

Phone: 239-334-4334

Facebook: Old Soul Brewing

Website: oldsoulbrewing.com

Best beer name:

Point Ybel Brewing Company

What began as a modest family endeavor in a Sanibel Island kitchen has expanded into a small brewery. Named after the location of the Gulf Coast's first lighthouse, Point Ybel (eee-bell), the brewery's co-owners Walt and Amy Costello consider themselves the local authorities on pale ales and IPAs. The beers are made of local ingredients, when possible, and the names

Point Ybel Brewing Company

16120 San Carlos Blvd., No. 4, Fort Myers

239-603-6535

Facebook: Point Ybel Brew

Website: pointybelbrew.com

Best beer name:

Scotty's Bierwerks

Scotty's Bierwerks owner Scott Melick has been a home brewer since 1989. His weekend home-brewing passion turned into a career. Melick now oversees a 10,000-square-foot industrial-park space which is home to a 20-barrel brewing system — one of the largest between Tampa and Miami. Like many craft breweries in Florida, Scotty's is located in an industrial park and it's a stop on the food truck circuit. As the beer menu grows, the large custom-made tasting room can handle the crowd.

Scotty's Bierwerks

901 East Industrial Circle, Unit 1-3, Cape Coral

Phone: 239-888-5482

Facebook: Scotty's Bierwerks

Website: None

Best beer name: With names like American Pale Ale and Saison and Helles, Scotty's Bierwerks keeps it simple.

Wicked Dolphin Rum Distillery

This distillery has been producing true Florida rum since 2012, using pure sugarcane and other ingredients from the Sunshine State. Handcrafted in small batches, Wicked Dolphin's award-

winning rums are available throughout Florida and even parts of the southeastern U.S. Coconut rum is one popular offering, not to mention the company's signature spiced flavor, both of which you can enjoy during a tour and free tasting. The distillery recently added a craft vodka.

Wicked Dolphin Rum Distillery
131 SW 3rd Place, Cape Coral
Phone: 239-242-5244
Facebook: Wicked Dolphin Rum
Website: wickeddolphinrum.com

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