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True Brew

A Craft Beer Lifestyle Magazine



SUMMER IN SARATOGA NY –
A CRAFT BEER LOVERS DREAM



SUMMER IN SARATOGA

A Craft Beer Lovers Dream

By Erik Budrakey

If you are like most Capital Region residents, you'll likely be heading up to Saratoga Springs at least once over the next month or two. After all, it is "*The August Place to Be*", with fun spots to visit such as the Saratoga Racecourse, Saratoga Lake, SPAC and of course, the burgeoning downtown shopping and bar scene. And this year, with the track extending its season to eight weeks and SPAC unveiling a power line-up, the summer is shaping up to give us all several reasons to shoot up to Saratoga and enjoy some beers.

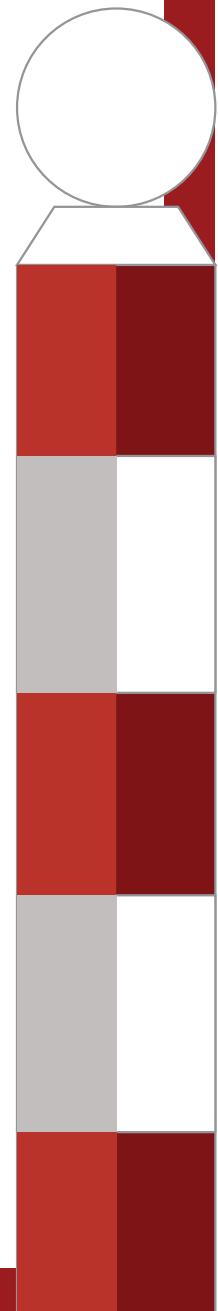


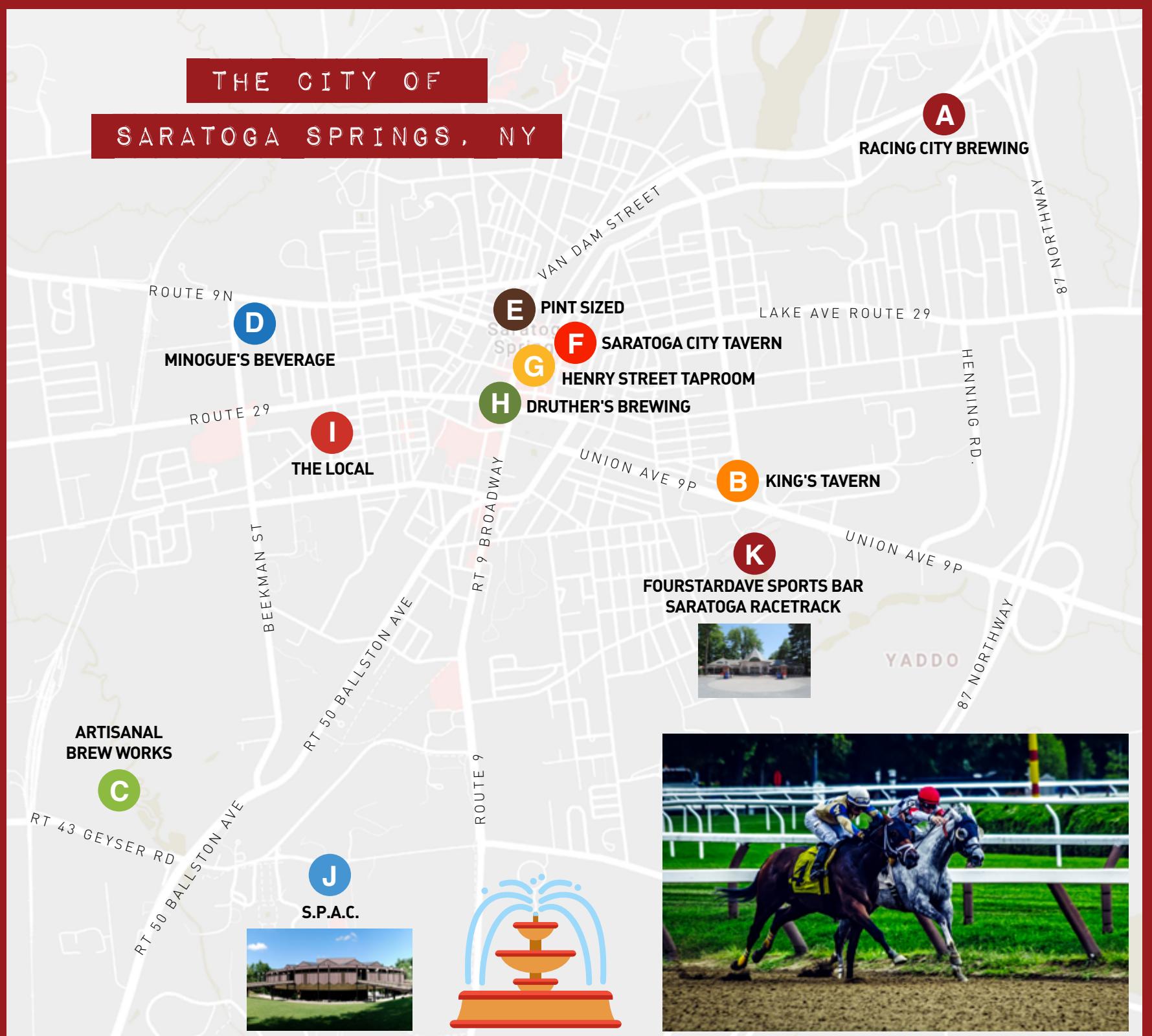
Over the past few years, Saratoga has done a nice job at promoting itself to be more than just a summertime destination. Especially if you are into craft beer! Saratoga plays host to multiple craft beer brewfests, harvestfests, and Oktoberfests during the cool autumn months. Saratoga Beer Week brings thousands of craft beer lovers to the city each winter for a week-long celebration including tap take-overs, beer dinners, and other craft beer centric promotions at bars and taverns across downtown. And there are even more brewfests in

the Spring. It's safe to say that Saratoga County has a little something going on year-round for craft beer lovers. Relative newcomers to the area such as Racing City Brewing Co and Artisanal Brew Works have each enhanced the scene with their own fresh suds and cool events while "better-beer bars" such as Henry St. Taproom, The Local, and Saratoga City Tavern have all sharpened their swords with unique draft beer programs. Saratoga, NY, now has a pretty hip craft beer scene.

So, as we head into the heart of the summer, let's take a look at the best places for you to grab a great craft beer when you head up to 'Toga to enjoy the amenities. After much research (drinking beers at various locations), and in no certain order, here are our recommendations:

We reached out to these bars, breweries, restaurants, and beverage centers to ask them about their beer philosophy (how they decide what to carry), their food, and what is that one thing that they want the Capital Region beer enthusiast to know about their establishment.





- A. **Racing City Brewing** 250 Excelsior Ave
- B. **King's Tavern** 241 Union Ave
- C. **Artisanal Brew Works** 41 Geyser Rd
- D. **Minogue's Beverage** 624 Maple Ave
- E. **Pint Sized** 489 Broadway
- F. **Saratoga City Tavern** 19-21 Caroline St

- G. **Henry Street Taproom** 86 Henry St
- H. **Druther's Brewing** 381 Broadway
- I. **The Local** 142 Grand Ave
- J. **Saratoga Performing Arts Center** Ave of the Pines
- K. **Fourstardave Sports Bar** Saratoga Race Course

Visit Spac.org for Summer concert line-up

A RACING CITY BREWING COMPANY

Address: 250 Excelsior Ave, Saratoga Springs, NY

Hours: Please visit our website or follow us on Facebook to confirm our summer hours

Phone: 518-886-1271

Founders: Tony, DeBreen, and Anthony Oliva

Established: 2018

Vibe: True to their namesake, horse racing is an upfront theme. The sporty/comfortable taproom greets you with plenty of tables in front of a long, welcoming (and cool lit) bar. The brewery presents 14 freshly brewed beers on tap. Feels like a traditional American brewhouse taproom. Crafty, upbeat, and fun with a nod to Saratoga's horse racing traditions. Tony and DeBreen personally attend to every customer, making their way around the room, encouraging guests to feel at home. The atmosphere lends to talking to strangers. There is also an outdoor, picnic table area out front.

Food: A small, fresh menu of shareables like chicken wings, small plates, and pretzels & beer cheese. Perfect complements to drinking fresh beer!

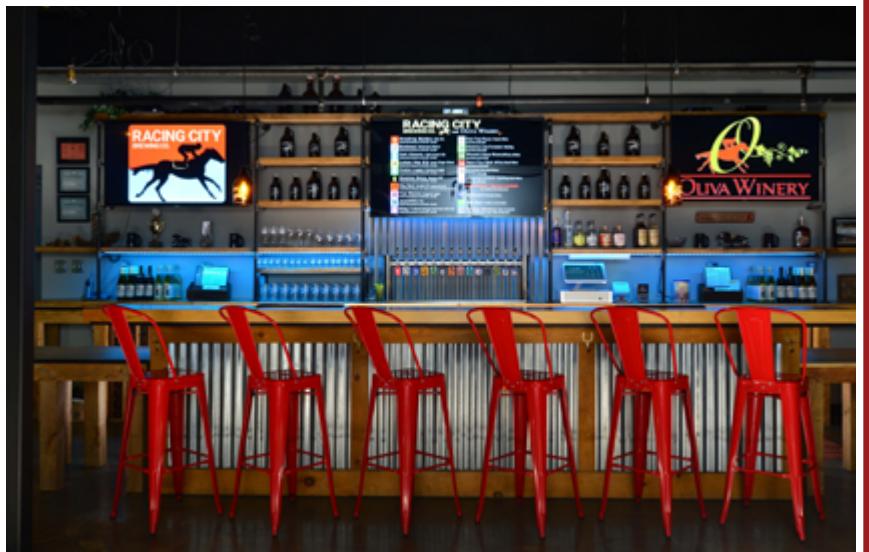
Beer Philosophy: Tony tells us, "We love traditional styles and we apply our modern take on classic recipes. Saratoga is a traditional town that has succeeded at continuing to innovate and stay modern with the times. We try to do the same with our beer."



Food: Diverse menu of pub fare. (All appetizers served in retro lunch boxes!)

Beer Philosophy: Patrick says, "We offer a good mix of craft beer combined with traditional favorites. Yes, we have beers like Corona Light and Bud Light available, because those consumers certainly come in here. But, having 15 draft lines to play with, we also take pride in having a solid craft beer rotation and something for everyone. We have a good mix of local craft breweries and we keep our eye out for regional specialties."

That One Thing: Jay says, "Just...Cheers to Saratoga!"



That One Thing: "We truly identify with Saratoga. Horse racing, the nightlife, and the history of this city are as much a part of our culture as the hops and grain are to our beer. Our taproom embodies the city, especially the horse racing that truly inspires us, and we connect with our customers with our personal touch. Consider us your before, after and during racing headquarters!"

B KING'S TAVERN

Address: 241 Union Ave

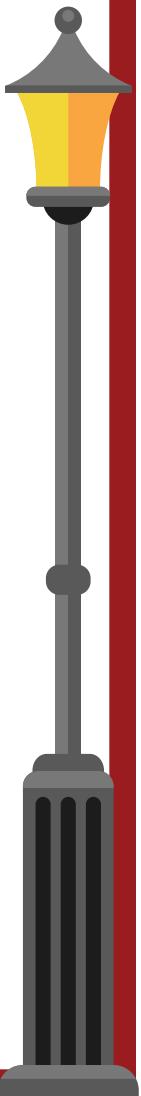
Hours: Sun-Tues:

Phone: 518- 581-7090

Founders: Fitch Bros (Jason, Patrick, Adam)

Established: 2014

Vibe: Upbeat tavern vibe with a focus on good times. Still emerging as a better-beer bar, the fact is, King's is the PERFECT place to grab a great craft beer while you are on the way to the track or to a show at SPAC. Somehow, it's become our can't miss stop on the way into Saratoga to do pretty much anything! King's is the perfect meet-up spot for you and your friends, featuring a jukebox with all of your favorites, a pool table, and an open/social atmosphere. For regulars and late-night patrons, King's is always on point.



ARTISANAL BEER WORKS

Address: 41 Geyser Road

Hours: Sunday: Noon-7PM, Mon: Closed, Tues-Thurs: 3:30PM-9PM, Fri: 3PM-9PM, Sat: Noon-9PM

Phone: 518- 886-1271

Founders: Kurt Borchardt & Colin Quinn

Established: 2017

Vibe: Quinn tells TBM, "The upstairs taproom is friendly and inviting with plenty of space for a crowd. We often spin vinyl from our collection and feature live music, trivia, and games on select days. The vibe is relaxed and fun."

Food: Fresh popcorn free to patrons. You can carry in your own snacks or have food delivered from a number of local spots.

Beer Philosophy: "We create high quality craft style beers that appeal to consumers who are looking for local, fresh, handcrafted beers. It is important to us to produce a selection of beers that appeals to different segments within the market as well as beers for the most discerning craft



beer enthusiast. Artisanal Brew Works' mission is to create craft fresh artisanal ales that appeal to a wide variety of tastes. Artisanal makes world-class beer in upstate New York with local ingredients."

That One Thing: "We share a deep passion for quality craft beer, but we don't take ourselves too seriously."



can beer. Huge refrigerated section for cold beer. 12 draft line growler filling station. Plenty of ice! Friendly and helpful staff.

Food/Other: It's a beverage center. Grab some beef jerky or bar style chips and snacks. Also featuring water, soft drinks, tobacco, and vape products.

Beer Philosophy: Says Minogue, "We offer more than 1500 different packages with about 800 of those craft beer. Our craft beer strength right now lies in the wide variety of IPAs that we carry. We have all of the national, regional, and local favorites and we go out of our way to bring in the highly sought-after IPA one-offs. We also look to seasonals to keep the rotation going and we try to get as many local one-offs as possible. For our 12 draft lines, we look to local first. We sprinkle in a few regional and occasional national brand on draft, but we are mostly focused on hot locals."

That One Thing: "If you are coming into Saratoga from out of town, we are perfectly located to fill your cooler on your way to SPAC or the track.

If you're local we hope to be your everyday, go-to store for all of your beer needs and desires."

MINOGUE'S BEVERAGE CENTER

Address: 16 West Ave & 264 Maple, Saratoga Springs

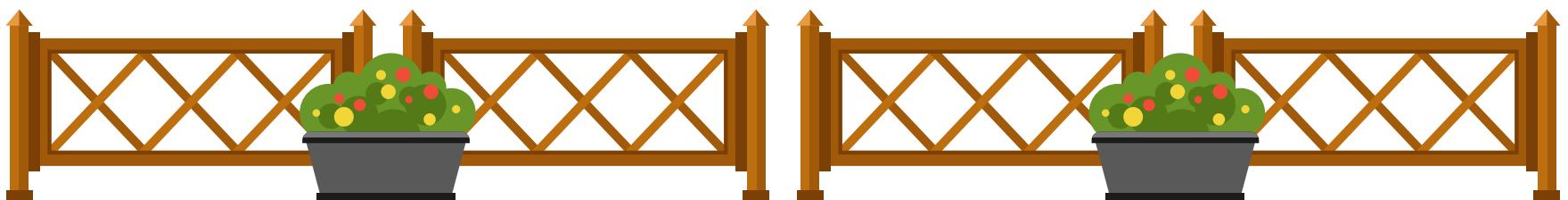
Hours: Sunday: 10AM – 6PM, Mon- Sat: 10AM – 9PM

Phone: 518-584-1160

Founder: Jack Minogue

Established: 1921, expanded to Saratoga Springs in 1977

Vibe: Well stocked retail Beverage Center. Rows and rows of bottled and



E PINT SIZED

Address: 489 Broadway

Hours: Sunday 12–9PM, Mon-Sat 4PM – Midnight

Phone: (518) 866-0676

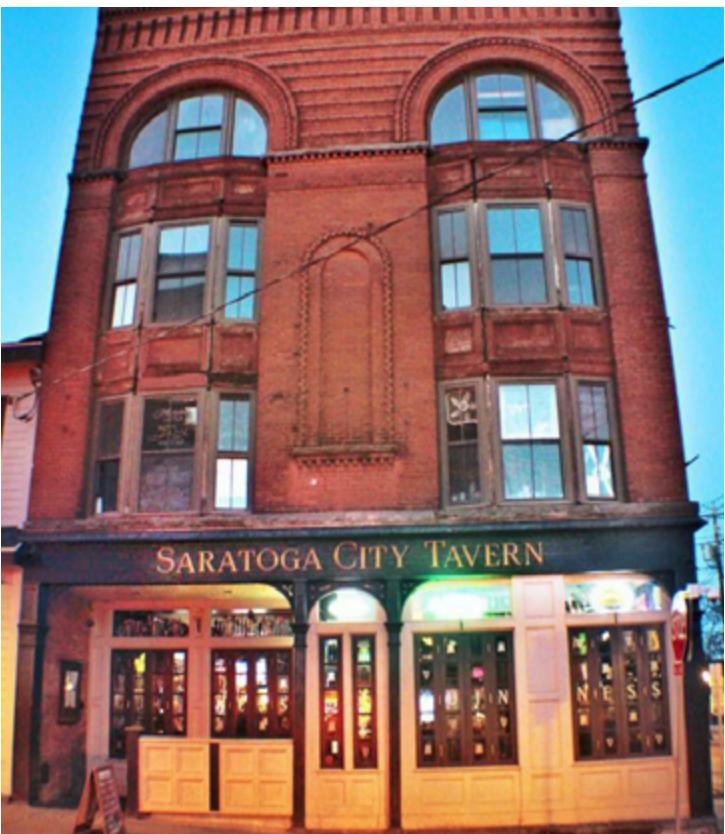
Founder: August Rosa

Established: May 2017

Vibe: Retail Bottle-Shop with a small bar and a few tables. Welcoming and fun. Knowledgeable staff. Consumers are a mix of certifiable beer geeks and casual brew fans.

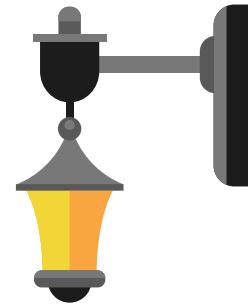
Food: Bar Snacks

Beer Philosophy: Says Rosa, "I follow the consumer trends to determine what we carry. That being said I like to make sure that we have a style of beer available for every type of beer- drinker. We tend to focus on one-offs and specialties that are rare and sought-after to differentiate us from other bars in the area. Between our 12 draft lines and more than 100 unique craft-beer can offerings, you can bet that you'll find a beer that you'll love"



That One Thing: "Pint Sized has a pretension free vibe. Beer is fun!"

F SARATOGA CITY TAVERN



Address: 19-21 Caroline

Hours: Every day: Noon – 4AM

Phone: 518- 581-3230

Founders: Fitch Bros (Jason, Patrick, Adam)

Established: 2006

Vibe: Five floors of fun and beer. The first floor opens up to a seating/entertainment area on the right, a long narrow bar area on the left. Behind that bar? 69 Draft lines! The most in the Capital Region. All properly cleaned according to The Brewers Association standards: Every two weeks! Also, on any given day during the afternoon, you will usually find an array of Local/Regional/National craft brewery reps 'catching up on their admin work' (Drinking beer).

TBM: "Describe your five distinct floors in one sentence each."

Fitch Bros: "Our first floor offers great food and the biggest draft beer variety in the region. Second Floor is a 'Dive Bar' with 17 draft lines including many local craft. The third floor we call 'The Apartment'. It's got a unique vibe and features 13 diverse draft lines, 12 of them craft beer. The third floor is definitely 'boom-boom'. It's a club scene. The fifth floor is 'The Rooftop'. It's the place to be on summer days and nights. We offer 9 beers on tap. It's gorgeous and features a scenic view of downtown Saratoga."

Food: "We have a new Chef. The food is amazing! You have to try it, it's so good!"

Beer Philosophy: Jay says, "With 69 draft lines, we have no problem offering every type a beer drinker at least 1-2 options. While offering everyday favorites, we are also able to present the rarest, most sought-after specialists. We have a solid relationship with all of the breweries and their reps, so we get access to all of their beers and a great heads-up to what is in the pipeline. Our draft beer program is a constant work in motion, and we take great pride in it."

That One Thing: "Saratoga City Tavern is the city's original craft beer bar. Between our craft draft selections and five floors of unique atmosphere, we have something for everyone. Visit and have a great time!"

G HENRY STREET TAPROOM

Address: 86 Henry Street

Hours: Sunday: 11AM - Midnight, Mon- Thurs: 4PM – Midnight, Saturday: Noon - Midnight

Phone: 518-886-8938

Founder: Ryan and Sonja McFadden

Established: 2012

Vibe: Cozy, sort-of like the inside of an Adirondack cabin. Deep, old-wood decor. Bar is made from wood that is more than 600 years old. Relaxed. Feels at home with no beer snobbery.

Food: “We have strong focus on classics done right. Scratch Kitchen -we make 5 different kinds of bread in house. We love pairing beer & cheese, so we put a lot of thought into our cheese list. Our food is legit.”

Beer Philosophy: “We offer a wide variety on our 16 draft lines and we try to touch every style. We curate the beer list for our customers and make decisions based on what we think will be great. We keep a sharp eye on the market and watch for beers that are new, hip, and highly rated. We also carry a variety of specialty and one-off can offerings. You can count on 25-30 different beers in cans, many of them local.”

That One Thing: “We pride ourselves in outstanding and knowledgeable service. All of our staff are Certified Beer Servers through the Cicerone program. All servers and bartenders are beer-educated, friendly, and fun.”



H DRUTHER'S BREWING COMPANY

Address: 381 Broadway

Hours: Sunday-Thursday: 11:30AM – 11PM, Friday-Saturday: 11:30-Midnight

Phone: 518- 306-5275

Owners: Chris, Rick and Karen Martell, George de Piro, Victor Sosnowski

Established: 2012

Vibe: Upscale taproom with a great patio. It's buzzing with all sorts of people – young and old, families and 20-somethings, enjoying great food and beer.

Food: Wood-Fired Pizza, hearty traditional pub favorites from burgers to mac & cheese, salads to pretzels and beer cheese dip.

Beer Philosophy: Brewmaster de Piro tells TBM, “We brew a diverse beer menu with great renditions of many different styles, from stupidly-hopped hazy IPAs to maltilicious lagers and fruity sours. We don’t expect every customer to like every one of our beers, but we expect that every customer can find at least one beer they like. A diverse beer menu is the key to a fun life!”

That One Thing: “Our Chief Brewing Officer has won more awards at the Great American Beer Festival and World Beer Cup than any other brewer in the region, including two under the Druthers banner (The Dare German-style sour ale and Druthers 80 Shilling Ale).”

I THE LOCAL – PUB & TEAHOUSE

Address: 142 Grand Ave

Hours: Every day 7AM - Midnight

Phone: 518-587 - 7256

Owner: Jonathan Haynes

Established: 2007

Vibe: Located in the historic Dublin Neighborhood of Saratoga Springs' west side. Comfortable taproom with a long bar with cozy dining rooms that wraps each end of the bar. Front patio outdoor dining. Affectionately known as "The Local," keeping with Irish tradition of referring to the closest neighborhood pub as "their local," you will find friendly and attentive servers who quickly remember your name after a few visits. Hidden gem: Check out the little-known patio out back! Both patios are dog-friendly.

Food: A mix of traditional pub fare featuring Irish, English, German and sometimes Scottish and Czech dishes.

Beer Philosophy: Says Haynes, "Each draft line is dedicated to a style and we rotate within that style. From IPA's to gose, from lambics to pilsners to stouts, and cask ales...you will find a beer for you. We have many regulars from the area, but we also welcome tourists and business travelers to come and enjoy our comforts and great beer. Due to our eclectic draft beer line-up, our sold-out mug club, with 220 members, has about a five-year waiting list!"



That One Thing: Head Bartender - Mark Padvaiskas says, "We rotate our beers regularly, so nothing is ever the same. What was on tap for your last visit, will be different on your next visit. We pride ourselves on our draft diversity and quality." A mug club member overhearing the conversation added - "While you're here you will experience good beer, good food, and no BS. Plus, it's chill."



19.2oz Cans: Founders All Day IPA, Fiddlehead IPA, Dogfish Head American Beauty, Sierra Nevada Hazy Little Things

That One Thing: Nothing pairs better with your favorite music-style, than your favorite beer-style. Regardless of your favorite flavor, you will find it in music and beer at SPAC this summer! Enjoy the show!

J S.P.A.C. SARATOGA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

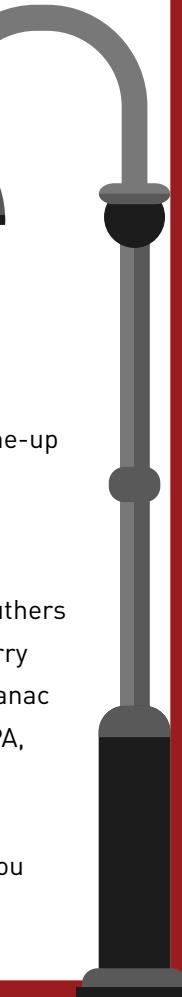
Address: 108 Avenue of the Pines

Concert Schedule: Visit Spac.org for Summer concert line-up

Established: 1966

Vibe: Live Music Concert Venue.

Food: Various food vendors throughout the venue.
Craft Beer Menu-Draft: Adirondack Bear Naked Ale, Druthers All-In IPA, Artisanal Beer Works Wit, Blue Point Blueberry Ale, Blue Point Summer Ale, Magic Hat # 9, Paradox Beaver Bite IPA, Otter Creek Free-Flow, Saranac Blueberry Blonde Ale, Frog Alley TBD, 1911 Hard Cider, Northway Brewing Avenue of the Pines IPA, Common Roots Last Light IPA, Goose Island Next Coast IPA, Paradox Pils



K FOURSTARDAVE SPORTS BAR AT SARATOGA RACE-COURSE

Address: 267 Union Ave

Hours: Wednesdays– Sundays 11am – Final Race.

Opening Day-July 11. Final Race Day-September 2

Established: 1863

Vibe: While great Craft Beer is available at a variety of bars and serving stations throughout the track, Fourstardave's features a solid local craft beer line-up.

According to their website, "Escape the elements and stay within close proximity to the trackside apron! The Fourstardave Sports Bar includes more than 80 tables available for paid reservation and a sports bar which features an extensive craft beer selection, popular food vendors, and 60 flat-screen televisions. Configurations include tables that accommodate two, four and six guests."

Food: Various food vendors throughout the track. Something for everyone.

Craft Beer on Tap: 15 draft lines featuring: Druthers No Excuses IPA, RS Taylor Golden Ale, Saranac Blueberry Ale, Adirondack Brewing's Tangerine Dream, Brown's Brewing Co's Krush, Lake Placid Brewing's UBU Ale, Keegan Ales' Mother's Milk, Brewery Ommengang's Witte, Brooklyn Brewery Summer Ale, Captain Lawrence Brewing's Effortless Grapefruit IPA, Ithaca Beer's Flower Power, Artisanal Beer Works' Daily Double, Genesee Ruby Red Kolsch, Mad Jack Brewing's Pilsner, and Bad Seed Original Dry Cider.

That One Thing: Gone are the days where the only way to get a great craft beer was to bring your own cooler of it. Now, there is a wide assortment of National, Regional, and Local craft beers available for you to enjoy. Also, there are local craft beer samplings at the track every Friday!



SARATOGA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (SPAC) SUMMER CONCERTS

01 July

blink-182, Lil Wayne, and Neck Deep

2-3 July

Phish

05 July

Jackson BrowneLucius

06 July

Eli Young Band

11 July

Luke BryanCole Swindell and Jon Langston

12-13July

Dave Matthews Band

14 July

Tedeschi Trucks Band: Wheels of Soul

21 July

Heart, Sheryl Crow, and Lucie Silvas

24 July

Rob ThomasAbby Anderson Chris Trapper

25-26 July

The Goo Goo Dolls and Train

27 July

Joe Bonamassa

28 July

Breaking Benjamin and Chevelle

04 August

Hootie & the Blowfish and Barenaked Ladies

11 August

Korn and Alice In Chains

Underoath and Ho99o9

12 August

Beck, Cage the Elephant, Spoon, and Sunflower Bean

18 August

The Australian Pink Floyd Show

21 August

SlipknotVolbeat, Gojira, and Behemoth

23 August

Santana and Doobie Brothers

24 August

Kiss

30 August

Zac Brown Band

31 August

Lynyrd Skynyrd and Hank Williams, Jr.

Wild Adriatic

As of print date, subject to change.