

## » NIGHTLIFE

### CRAFTING A QUALITY BREW

by Tiffany Parks

*In vino veritas, in cervesio felicitas (In wine there is truth, in beer, joy.)*

When it comes to liquid delights, Italy may be best known for its full-bodied wine and flavorful espresso, but in the past decade, beer has also become an important part of the *bel paese's* rich gastronomic culture. We've come up with six hotspots where you can sample and savor the best of Italian artisanal beer.



are you doing here?" **Ma che siete venuti a fa'?** (Via Benedetta, 25) may seem seedy from the outside, but inside it's a treasure trove of expertly selected German, Belgian, Danish, and Italian beer. **Brasserie 4:20** (Via Portuense, 82) is a temple of hops and malt, with 48 different beers on tap, each preserved in a rigorously controlled cooler, with temperatures varying from brew to brew. Combine excellent ale with music and art at the **Blind Pig**



Dominating Rome's artisanal beer scene is **Open Baladin** (Via delgi Specchi, 6), owned by brewers who sell their own lovingly crafted product, as well as dozens of other varieties on tap and literally hundreds of bottled versions, all Italian. As its name implies, lively and casual **Bir & Fud** (Via Benedetta, 23) serves not only exceptional Italian and imported artisanal beer, but also delectable goodies like naturally rising pizza, gourmet *suppli*, and hand-cut potato chips with spicy dipping sauces. The name of our next pick says it all: **Oasi della Birra** (Piazza Testaccio, 41), the beer oasis. Beer connoisseurs will think they've died and gone to heaven with a 500+ selection that also includes hard-to-find Italian microbrews like award-winning Menabrea. With a name that is roughly translated to "What the hell

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**Bonus: 4–10 March is Artisanal Beer Week** all across Italy, with events, promotions, competitions and tastings, all in the name of that delicious brew.

Visit [www.settimanadellabirra.it](http://www.settimanadellabirra.it) for information and events.

#### Test your smarts

Twice a month, **Scholar's Lounge** hosts a raucous pub quiz (in English) where Italians, expats and tourists alike go head-to-head in categories such as current events, pop music, arts, history, and sports. Teams are limited to five players each, so bring your best and brightest because the competition is fierce and first prize is five bottles of whiskey.

**4 and 25 March. 8pm. Via del Plebiscito, 101b. €5 per person.**

### St. Paddy's Time

You don't have to hop a plane to Dublin to take part in the biggest Irish party of the year. The large expat community in Rome has brought a slice of Ireland to the Eternal City, so on 17 March, throw on some green threads and head to one of these proudly Irish pubs.

- **Abbey Theatre** is an old-fashioned, friendly pub that hosts live performances of Irish music. [Via del Governo Vecchio, 51/53.](#)

- **The Shamrock** is a beer-haven as well as a temple dedicated to the marvelous sport of rugby. [Via del Colosseo, 1.](#)

- **Rosy O'Grady** is a fun pub serving traditional Irish, Italian, and international dishes. Don't miss the homemade *panna cotta* with Bailey's Irish Cream. [Via della Cava Aurelia, 155.](#)

- **Scholar's Lounge** boasts 11 beers on tap, but even more tempting for sports-lovers are their 8 giant screens, broadcasting live international sporting events. [Via del Plebiscito, 101b.](#)

- **The Donegal** is more than just a pub: their full kitchen prepares high-quality Irish dishes like Angus steak or baked potato with melted sheep's cheese and bacon. [Via Marco Polo, 47.](#)

- **Trinity College** serves a lively and international crowd in a cozy atmosphere. Eat at the bar and meet someone new. [Via del Collegio Romano, 6.](#)

- **Fiddler's Elbow** is the oldest Irish pub in Rome, and serves classic brews in a traditional setting. Budding comics should stop by for Open Mic, every Thursday night. [Via dell'Olmata, 43.](#)

