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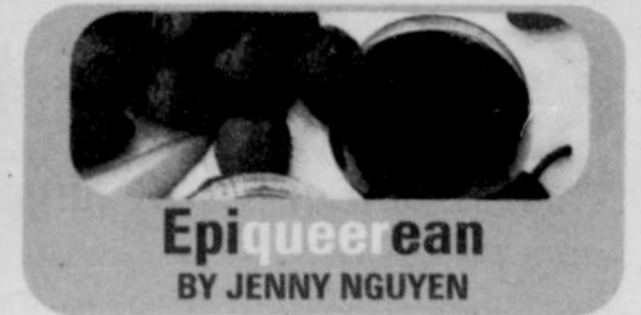
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**Lustful Libations**

**A**h, beer, my one weakness. My Achilles heel, if you will," says the now immortalized Homer Simpson. In the midst of summertime, he could not be more right. This year I've decided to broaden my horizons and become more open-minded about my booze. So, below you will find our beloved ethanol in three mystically intoxicating forms. Enjoy!

**By the Bottle •**  
**104 W. Evergreen Blvd.,**  
**Vancouver, Wash.**

How many bottles of beer on the wall? Count 'em and weep, Portland. More than 675 varieties of beer fill the fridges of this 3,000-square-foot oasis in downtown Vantucky. This husband-and-wife venture has got it all and more, from a terrific Belgian blend with yerba mate to some old-school Rogue Porter. With many of the bottles hand-labeled with quick descriptions and a helpful and knowledgeable owner nearby, even a Coors Light drinker can feel at ease. By the Bottle sound familiar? You might have seen it at the International Beer Festival this summer. Check out [www.bottledbrews.com](http://www.bottledbrews.com) for specials and upcoming beer-related events (like pairings and tastings).

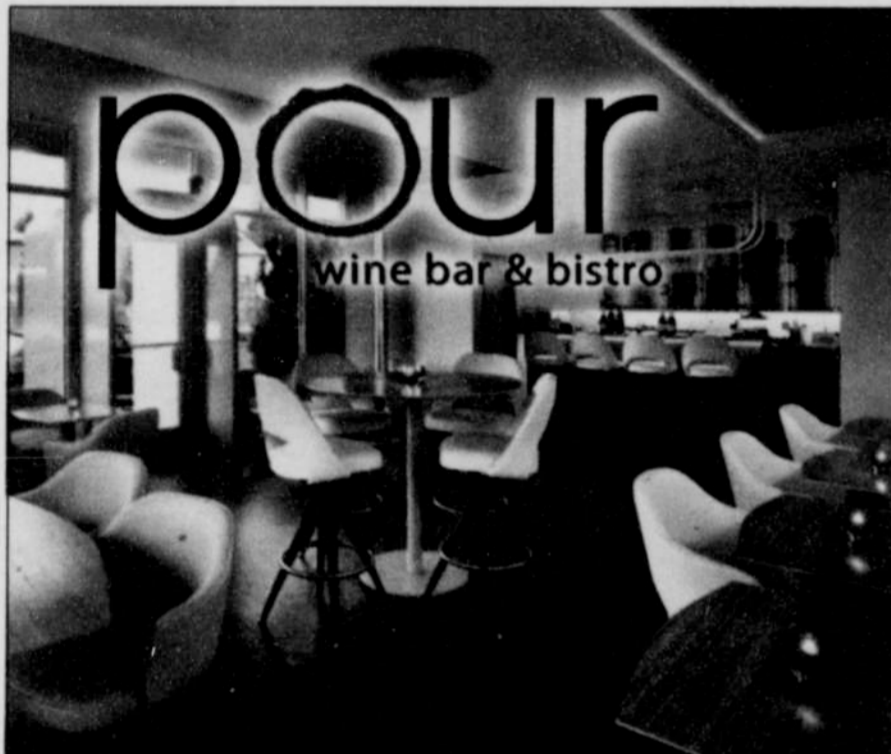
**Zilla Saké House •**  
**1808 N.E. Alberta St.**

Zilla is the only bar in Portland dedicated to bringing the most extensive selection of fine saké to the forefront. Stored in near-perfect conditions (between 40 and 44 degrees with low light), you will not only attain a drink experience but a drink education. From saké-pouring to terminology like *polishing ratio* and SMV (Saké Meter Value), your increased knowledge on the fermented rice wine from Japan is sure to wow yer friends. And it doesn't stop there: Zilla is also stocked with a full bar. (Translation: Saké-tinis!) If you need to have your carbs curbed, order some tasty "Japanese *tapas*" like grilled unagi and pan-seared tuna. A terrific addition to the Portland bar scene, Zilla is a definite drinker's must-see.

**Lupa • 3955 N. Mississippi Ave.**

If tiny, unpretentious, little-known (but well-described!) wines are your bag, then this is your place. From floor to ceiling inside this long, narrow shop/bar are all kinds of beautiful wines from every corner of the globe. Small handwritten tags ("robust currants," "simply sensual") lend a distinctive personality to every bottle. Such is the venue, a spot that has turned its tiny enclave into a full-bodied space with enough visual bouquet to entice even the most shy of public wine drinkers. Add to that a menu of fine cheeses, cured meats and other small plates (the *boquerones* and *fior di Sardo* with truffle oil are not to be missed) and you have, hands down, one of the best places in town to grab a quiet, classy pour. **JO**

JENNY NGUYEN is eating everywhere you want to be. Let her know if she's grossly misled you or missed your favorite eatery by writing to [epiqueerean@comcast.net](mailto:epiqueerean@comcast.net).



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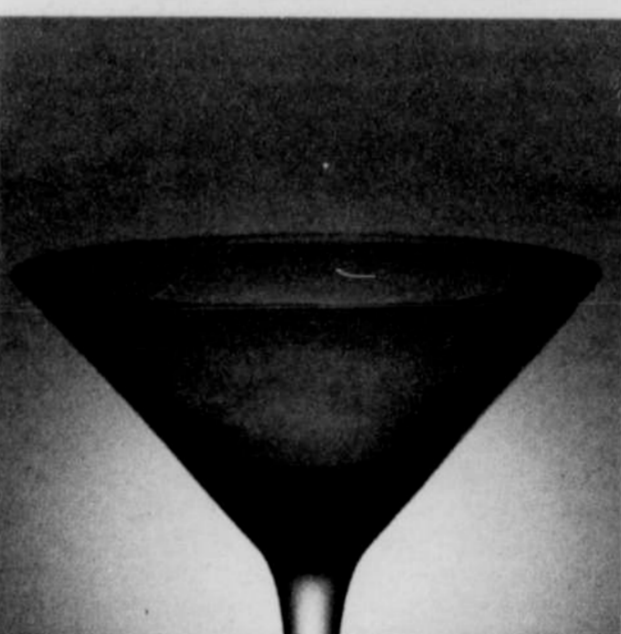
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