

best coffee

1. **Wandering Goat Organic Coffee Roasters** 268 Madison St. 344-5401. www.wanderinggoat.com
2. **Full City Coffee Roasters** 295 E. 13th Ave., 465-9270; 842 Pearl St., 344-0475. full-city.com
3. **Dutch Bros.** www.dutchbros.com

When it comes to coffee, the roasters and baristas at the Whiteaker neighborhood's Wandering Goat follow that time-worn adage: "If you want something done right, do it yourself." In this instance, that means not only a cup of qualitatively superior java, which upon first sip is obviously the case. It also means hand selecting green beans grown in a sustainable manner, roasting small batches with exclusively wind-powered equipment and painstakingly combining individual beans to find delicious combinations like Chupacabra, the Goat's signature espresso blend. All of the above — along with a classic bohemian atmosphere of Northwesty-cum-European café and a lonely hearts club clientele that runs the gamut from old-timers and artsy types to students and bookworms, with a little scruffy elitist attitude thrown in — make Wandering Goat Coffee Company Eugene's premiere stop for a bracing yet relaxing pick-me-up, be that stop quick or not-so-quick or frankly malingering.

best locally brewed beer (brewery AND style)

1. **Ninkasi Total Domination IPA** www.ninkasibrewing.com
2. **Oakshire Overcast Espresso Stout** oakbrew.com



PHOTO BY TODD COOPER

best live music venue

1. **WOW Hall** www.wowhall.org
2. **Cuthbert Amphitheatre** www.thecuthbert.com
3. **Sam Bond's Garage** www.sambonds.com

With its functionalist architecture, *realpolitik* aura and an angular main room that brings to mind airplane hangars and high-school proms, Eugene's WOW Hall is not everyone's Platonic ideal of a live venue. Look past the surface, however, and the surface starts to make sense. This community centered, volunteer driven, all-ages Center for the Performing Arts — which this year hosted everything from the Meat Puppets to Ghostface Killah (pictured center), along with scads of local artists and bands — is about as hard-working and functionally cool as you can get. And when the lights dim on a packed house, the energy in that main room starts to crackle and pop like nowhere else in town. WOW puts the "live" in live music.

3. tie: **Ninkasi Believer / Ninkasi Radiant** www.ninkasibrewing.com

Ninkasi's aptly named Total Domination IPA is a bit like one of Raymond Chandler's dangerous femmes: It comes on strong, all tasty seduction and gorgeous complexity, only to sneak up and kick your ass in the third act. "It's the beer we wanted to drink, so it's the beer we decided to make," says

co-founder Nikos Ridge of the first ale he and brewmaster Jamie Floyd unleashed on an unsuspecting public in 2006. Folks around here drink that stuff like water. So now it seems wildly prescient that this Eugene brewing company — which in just three years has pretty much taken charge of the local if not the Northwest's beer scene — opted to inaugurate their

staff picks

best twitter accounts to follow if you need more kittens and pups

Trying to go no-kill means getting the word out about cats and dogs in need of foster care and adoption, and there's no better animal Twitterer than the volunteer who runs the Lane County Animal Shelter account (twitter.com/lanecoanimals). Photos of the OMG LUV! CUTE! animals pop up at every hour of the night and day, and we enjoy retweeting those pix. But we don't want to neglect Greenhill (twitter.com/greenhillhumane), whose Twitterers have helped some of us get several feral cats caught and spayed.

best pepperoncini vendor

Not exactly new, but with new-ish stuff, is Kiva. After the Broadway turned into a rarely open wine shop, *Eugene Weekly* staff began wandering downtown like herds of little lost bunnies in search of edible raw vegetables. Sure, we could have bought burritos-without-wraps and picked the tomatoes and lettuce out of the beans and cheese, but unless we had time to get all the way to the stunning salad selection of Park Street Café, we were pretty much stuck. When the Kiva started offering salads (a process still in flux) on weekdays, we rejoiced. And when busy deli staff very occasionally forget our dressing (or, one memorable day, our tuna salad), they always remember and make it right the next time. Happy bunnies. 125 W. 11th Ave.; 342-8666. www.kivagrocery.com

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