

BEST WINE

1. **King Estate Winery** 80854 Territorial Highway. 942-9874. www.kingestate.com
2. **Sweet Cheeks Winery** 27007 Briggs Hill Rd. 349-9463. www.sweetcheekswinery.com
3. **LaVelle Vineyards** 296 E. 5th Ave. #25. 338-9875. www.lavellevineyards.com

BEST MIXED DRINKS

1. **Izakaya Meiji** 345 Van Buren St. 505-8804. izakayameiji.com
2. **The Vintage** 837 Lincoln St. 349-9181. www.thevintageeugene.com
3. **The Davis Restaurant & Bar** 94 W. Broadway. 485-1124. www.davisrestaurant.com

Full disclosure: Last time we went over to Meiji to write about the drinks there, we wound up drinking, and drinking some more. Try to describe Izakaya Meiji and you usually start with “Japanese whiskey bar.” You can’t go wrong, even if you are whiskey newbie — the whiskey and ginger is just right and the hot toddies on a cold day warm you from the inside or at least make you feel warm and fuzzy. But Meiji is more than whiskey. Hit the bartenders up for whatever concoction they are mixing up that day. The mixologists have never steered us wrong.

BEST HAPPY HOUR

1. **Starlight Lounge** 830 Olive St. 343-3204.
 2. (tie) **Izakaya Meiji** 345 Van Buren St. 505-8804. izakayameiji.com, **Izumi Sushi and Grill** 2773 Shadow View Dr. 683-1201. www.izumisushieugene.com
- The Starlight Lounge, located on Olive Street off 8th Avenue, runs on mood lighting, a vibrant crowd and happy hour specials. Happy hour lasts from 4 to 7 pm seven days a week, with many drinks sold for \$2 and a special on Oregon microbrews and other beers on tap. If you are, for instance, craving a white Russian with Crater Lake Vodka in the early evening and have nothing but \$2 (plus tip) to spend, this is your place.

BEST PLACE TO SING KARAOKE

1. **Cornucopia** 207 E. 5th Ave. 485-2676. www.eugene catering.com
2. **Oak Street Speakeasy** 915 Oak St. 284-4000. www.oakstreetspeakeasy.com
3. **Izakaya Meiji** 345 Van Buren St. 505-8804. izakayameiji.com

BEST OPEN MIC/JAM

1. **Sam Bond's Garage** 407 Blair Blvd. 343-2635. www.sambonds.com
2. **Cozmic** 199 W. 8th Ave. 338-9333. www.cozmicpresents.com

3. **Diablo's** 959 Pearl St., 343-2346, diabloeugene.com
Sam Bond's is an excellent spot to see some up-and-coming talent in Eugene and from across the country, but when the professionals aren't taking the stage, Sam Bond's various jam nights are also a must-visit. While they do have an Irish jam night that they are very proud of, their bluegrass jam was voted best in Eugene. “Our bluegrass jam is super fun and friendly; I think it showcases a lot of great local musicians who can get together and make great music on a weekly basis,” co-owner Todd Davis tells EW.

BEST BAR GRUB

1. **The Horsehead Bar** 99 W. Broadway. 683-3154. horseheadbareugene.com
2. **Falling Sky Brewing** 1334 Oak Alley. 505-7096. fallingskybrewing.com
3. **Jackalope Lounge** 453 Willamette St. 485-1519. jackalopelounge.com

Ever get so wasted you started craving a gigantic, hearty bowl of food? Us neither; we only have one or two on special occasions. But if we did have the drunchies, it's probably a safe bet that we'd hit The Horsehead Bar and mack on some red beans and rice, mac and cheese, or that scrum-diddly-umptious catfish. So thanks, Horsehead, for keeping that fire in our bellies at bay.

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