



PHOTO BY TODD COOPER

MIDNIGHT'S MADNESS

(NIGHTLIFE)

BEST BEERS ON TAP

1. **The Bier Stein** 1591 Willamette St. 485-2437. thebierstein.com.
2. **Ninkasi Brewing Tasting Room** 272 Van Buren St. 344-2739. ninkasibrewing.com.
3. **16 Tons** 265 E. 13th Ave. 345-2003. sixteentons.biz.

It's doubtful anyone was upset about The Bier Stein's move from East 11th to its new location on Willamette. Not only did the floor space increase, but the presentation of The Bier Stein's beer wall shines as a beacon to brew lovers. The addition of display screens showing 24 beers on tap (including two nitro taps) and tweets and check-ins from customers keeps the crowd informed. In addition to a mainly regional selection of brews, the Stein is stocked with international beers and specialties, such as gluten-free beers. There is something for everyone, from the pedestrian drinker to the connoisseur, and that's likely what keeps at least a few dozen people in the building.

BEST BURGER & BREW SPECIAL

1. **Cornucopia** 295 W. 17th Ave. 485-2300; 207 E. 5th Ave. 485-2676; cornucopiaeugene.com.
2. **The Vintage** 837 Lincoln St. 349-9181. thevintageeugene.com.
3. **Izakaya Meiji** 345 Van Buren St. 505-8804. izakayameiji.com.

Cornucopia, with two homey locations, continues to hold the top spot, and for good reason. Its burgers are scrumptious, made daily with fresh beef supplied by Knee Deep Cattle Company. The cows are pampered, grass fed and 100 percent free-range, and delightful to us meat-eaters. Dive into everything from the Lil Jack's Hellion

Burger with a green chili vibe and Jeros' Bacon Cheese Burger (bacon, need I say more?) to the Big Baby Bleu Burger, among other delicious options capable of satisfying your meat-craving palate. Four vegetarian burger options, handmade from local tempeh and black beans, mean that everyone has a seat at the table.

BEST COCKTAILS

1. **Izakaya Meiji** 345 Van Buren St. 505-8804. izakayameiji.com.
2. **Rye** 444 E. 3rd Ave. 653-8509. ryeon3rd.com.
3. **The Vintage** 837 Lincoln St. 349-9181. thevintageeugene.com.

Meiji's cocktails are the perfect way to ease into winter.

BEST BARTENDER

1. **Dawn Murray** Jameson's Bar. 115 W. Broadway. 485-9913. jamesonsbareugene.com.
2. **Don Mike** Granary Pizza Co. 259 E. 5th Ave. 343-8488. wkly.ws/1ls.
3. **Ty Connor** Horsehead Bar. 99 W. Broadway. 683-3154. horseheadbareugene.com.

How do you pile up this many votes in broad daylight for a nightlife category? Quality over quantity, the after-work crowd asserts. Dawn Murray is the day manager at Jameson's and her slower traffic means greater intimacy. The gregarious Murray, her regulars say, has got "some kind of '50s movie actress charm" to her. Of course it doesn't hurt that she also can't be stumped in a pop quiz on top-shelf bourbon. Her old-fashioned more or less drinks itself. This is Murray's first Best Bartender win over her eight-year tenure, and she says of usurping the title only that "Ty Connor is my hero." Scratch your itch about the Murray mystique any day from 4 to 9 pm.

The bartenders mix pre-Prohibition drinks, manager Chad Kushuba says, and the blend of flavors in each drink has been perfectly planned. The bottles create an impressive display behind the bar, and the menu boasts more than 100 whiskeys in this low-lit, intimate cabin-esque restaurant. It's hipster meets country, East meets West and simple, smart ingredients meet complex, full flavors.

BEST HAPPY HOUR/DRINK SPECIALS

1. **Starlight Lounge** 830 Olive St. 343-3204.
2. **Jameson's Bar** 115 W. Broadway. 485-9913. jamesonsbareugene.com.
3. **Izumi Sushi and Grill** 2773 Shadow View Dr. 683-1201. izumisushieugene.com.



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