

BEST BAR

Astoria Coffeehouse & Bistro

Astoria, Oregon

Runner-up: Albatross, Astoria

Honorable Mention:
Buoy Beer Co., Astoria



Photo by Dwight Caswell

The Jalapeño Smuggler, a popular drink at Astoria Coffeehouse & Bistro, was invented by bartender Cory Teubner and pairs well with huevos rancheros.

A European-style bistro and coffeehouse by day — serving up regional cuisine under the direction of 2014 Iron Chef Goes Coastal winner Chef Sean Whittaker — the Astoria Coffeehouse & Bistro proves that it doesn't let things slide once the lights dim.

The venue on 11th Street also becomes a bustling bar by night — one that voters picked as Best Bar of 2014.

Creating a menu of martinis and other cocktails, the bartenders, including this year's Best Bartender Cory Teubner, use good ingredients, fresh fruit, and local liquors and spices to mix up delicious drinks for every taste preference.

The bar also has specials each week, with sushi and martini Monday night specials as well as tacos and margaritas Thursdays, both served from 5 to 8 p.m.

Astoria Coffeehouse & Bistro is located at 243 11th St. For more information, call 503-325-1781 or visit astoriacoffeehouse.com. Also check out the coffeehouse on Facebook for daily specials.

BEST BARTENDER

Cory Teubner

Astoria Coffeehouse & Bistro

Runner-up: Eric Bechard, Albatross, Astoria

Honorable Mention: Teona Dawson,
T. Paul's Supper Club, Astoria

By RYAN HUME

Creativity and fresh ingredients are the staples behind Cory Teubner's popular cocktail menu at Astoria Coffeehouse & Bistro at 243 11th Ave. in downtown Astoria.

"Classics are great, but following a recipe only gets you so far," Teubner said. "You have to find your own niche."

Originally from Deep River, Washington, this Best Bartender spent his summers in Astoria working as a bar-back and server to put himself through school. After graduating from Willamette University, he moved to town permanently and tended bar at Clemente's before joining owner Jim Defeo over at the coffeehouse in 2013.

"Jimbo allowed me to use the skills I had been picking up to make a creative cocktail menu

with both classics and wild ones like the Jalapeño Smuggler," Teubner said.

The Smuggler is a twist on a classic margarita, rimmed with a smoky and spicy pepper and sea salt combination, and it's one of his most popular concoctions, Teubner estimates.

"I should thank Pat and Tom from Pat's Pantry spice shop here in Astoria," Teubner noted. "They have turned me on to many spices and vinegars that I would never have stumbled upon on my own."

Besides getting creative and having the freshest and finest ingredients possible, of course, you have to taste the drinks you serve.

Teubner has recently been experimenting with an array of different drinking vinegars used to enhance cocktails. A Ransom gin and tonic with a dash of fig vinegar is his current favorite.



Photo by Dwight Caswell

Cory Teubner prepares a Chocolate Strawberry Mud Puddle at Astoria Coffeehouse & Bistro.

BEST LOCAL SPORTS TEAM

Shanghaied Roller Dolls / Knappa High School Loggers Football (tie)

Runner-up: Astoria High School Fishermen Football

Honorable Mention: Ilwaco High School Fishermen Football



Photo by Alex Pajunas

Justin Dragoo, No. 11, sprints down the sideline as teammate Tyson Burnard, middle, walls off Culver's Colton Tanner for an 80-yard touchdown run in the Knappa Loggers' 54-16 playoff win against the Culver Bulldogs this past November. The Knappa Loggers football team tied this year with Astoria's Shanghaied Roller Dolls roller derby team for Best Local Sports Team.

This fall, the Knappa Loggers dominated their regular season, reached the state quarterfinals for the fifth time in the last seven years, and made a serious run for their first state title in football since 2008. It's not hard to see why Knappa football earned a (shared) title of Best Local Sports Team.

The Loggers battled their way to a 12-7 win over the Oakland Oaks in a quarterfinal game of the Class 2A State Football Playoffs. But the Heppner Mustangs came out on top of the No. 2-ranked Loggers in a semifinal game Nov. 22.

Sharing this year's Best Local Sports Team title are the Shanghaied Roller Dolls, Clatsop County's women's roller derby team.

Founded in 2011, the Dolls are part of the a North Coast flat-track Roller Derby League for women ages 18-plus. Flat-track roller derby is a fast-paced contact team sport that requires speed, strategy and athleticism.

After practicing the last couple years at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds, the team now has a permanent home at the reopened Astoria Armory.

BEST BREWPUB

Fort George Brewery

Astoria, Oregon

Runner-up: Buoy Beer Co., Astoria

Honorable Mention: North Jetty Brewing, Long Beach

Ranked earlier this year as the 13th largest brewery based in Oregon by volume, the Fort George Brewery is growing every year, so it's no surprise

to find it a local favorite.

Located on the site of Astoria's first settlement — Fort Astoria, later renamed Fort George under brief British

rule — the brewery opened in 2007 in a vacated Chevy dealership. Soon it expanded into the Lovell building next door and, in 2013, into the spacious second floor of its main public house, creating a veritable campus for beer lovers.

The brewery hosts lectures Thursday nights in its Lovell Showroom, brings live music Sunday nights, and puts on a Festival of Dark Arts and Carnival of Stout beer in February.

Then there's the beer itself.

Brewed and crafted with care, Fort George's beers can be found in cans or kegs all over the local region. There are the good ol' regulars, like the Vortex IPA and Quit Wit Belgian-style ale. Then there are the seasonals, like the Java the Hop coffee IPA and Suicide Squeeze.



Submitted photo

The race for Best Brewpub was close. Fort George Brewery and Buoy Beer Co. competed neck-and-neck until the last week of voting, when the Fort pulled in 40 votes that sealed its win.

Fort George Brewery is located at 1483 Duane St. Check out <http://www.fort-georgebrewery.com> for more info.