

## Pull Me a Cold One > The Birth of the Modern Beer Bar

Forget about the copper tanks and bearded dudes lecturing you about hops. A new breed of beer bar has emerged, with well-edited lists of brews and the kind of interiors that make you actually want to hang out and order another round

by Kevin Sintumuang

Poor beer. No matter how many people say how special you are—Obama, Homer Simpson, the homebrew guy with the beard at your local pub—mention “beer bar” today and you can’t help but think of those cheesy ‘90s brewpubs that popped up with the frequency of strip malls. They had the right spirit, just the wrong execution. Those big copper tanks in the window? Turns out they were false beacons of hope. What you got were mostly overhopped IPAs or bland lagers that, after you gave one a shot, made you crave the stuff you picked up at your local 7-Eleven. Plus, they all felt like cavernous, soul-sucking sports bars. But in the past few years, things have begun to

change. As rarer and more interesting imports have arrived, and as America’s real beer movement has grown in size and quality (there are now more than 1,500 craft brewers, the most in a century), a new generation of beer bars has emerged. Places where taps rotate weekly and their interiors don’t feel like frat houses for grown-ups. No, these are modernized Bohemian beer halls, bars that favor serious craft beers over those with puns for names. Even if you’re not a beer geek when you walk into one of these new temples of brew, you will be when you step out.

Of course, you don’t need to go full beer nerd to start casually enjoying the good stuff right away.

And nowhere is that more evident than at **Biergarten** at New York’s Standard hotel. It’s here, in the warmer months, that New Yorkers and tourists gather after taking a walk on the High Line (the city’s new elevated, green promenade), sipping their choice of German drafts, gazing up at the towering Standard, which straddles both the bar and the park, watching the crowd grow bigger and boozier as the sun sets over the Hudson River. It’s a spot where you can’t help but enjoy yourself—regardless of your knowledge of Bavarian hops.

**Biergarten**  
*The Standard hotel*  
48 Washington St.  
New York City  
212-645-4646



**Biergarten**

The open-air bar located below New York’s High Line. Come for the beer—or the giant pretzels.

