

# YOU'VE GOT ALE

How to find big-buzz brews on each coast this month

**T**HIS FEBRUARY, CRAFT-BEER ENTHUSIASTS convene for annual beer-week celebrations in San Francisco and New York City. Each independent festival features a buzz-worthy menu of tastings, tours, pairing dinners, meet-the-brewer nights and seminars. Grab a pint and start planning. —R.B.



	SAN FRANCISCO BEER WEEK	NEW YORK CITY BEER WEEK
2015 DATES	Feb. 6-15	Feb. 20-March 1
		
TOTAL EVENTS	600+	400
DON'T MISS	<b>The Bistro's Double IPA Festival</b> , where breweries pour 80 highly hopped beers	<b>Opening First Tap</b> , a release of 100 rare brews at 100 beer destinations citywide
WHY DRINK HERE NOW?	"The Bay Area makes phenomenal beer, plus there's the local food culture and natural landscape," says San Francisco Brewers Guild Director Brian Stechsulte. "It's the whole package."	"The volume of beer bars, high- and low-end restaurants with eclectic beer menus, the neighborhoods, everything accessible by subway... it's all right here," says Kelly Taylor of Brooklyn KelSo Beer Co.
MORE INFORMATION	<a href="http://www.sfbeerweek.org">www.sfbeerweek.org</a>	<a href="http://www.nycbeerweek.com">www.nycbeerweek.com</a>

## + THE BEST BEER TOWN YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF

Which of the following five candidates is the best beer city in the nation?

- ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
- SAN DIEGO
- PORTLAND, OREGON
- DENVER
- GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

If you said the latter — that is the central Michigan town better known as the headquarters of Amway — you went with the underdog, and you're correct.

Home to more than 30 breweries including favorites **Hopcat** and **Founders Brewing Co.**, Grand Rapids recently won "Best Beer Town" per *USA Today*. This month, February 27-28, its 10th annual Winter Beer Festival takes place, newly expanded to two days of tapping nearly 800 craft selections from 88 Michigan breweries. Outdoors. [www.mibeer.com/winter-festival](http://www.mibeer.com/winter-festival) —ELAINE GLUSAC

