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Bar Reviews: The Brick Store Pub in Decatur, GA



Tuesday, April 04, 2006 - 04:19 AM

Posted by [Bones](#) weathered Regular

The Brick Store Pub
125 E. Court Square
Decatur, GA 30030
www.brickstorepub.com



Decatur, GA is a small little city that rests aside downtown Atlanta. With two universities right next to it, it has a very college-town vibe, along with a subtle but thriving art community. The people that live here are interesting and creative folks, but they don't go around advertising it. They're more of the laid-back, liberal arts types. And I really dig that. The other thing I dig is that this town has always felt to me like a "Good Beer" town. No one pounds Budweisers in Decatur. They sip Belgian ales. Well, me, I do both, I guess. On the same night. Every bar serves a variety of craft brews. Even the central coffee shop, Java Monkey, currently has Brooklyn Black Chocolate Stout on tap (I'm drinking it right now, and It's dee-frickin-licious). We have an annual Beer tasting festival in the Square. The downtown kitchen wares store sells Chimay and Duvel. The town's one sports bar, Taco Mac, has 92 beers on draught.



I consider Decatur to be Georgia's one Ale Town. And, I may be completely wrong, but I personally credit this wonderfully unique characteristic to The Brick Store.

The Brick Store is, in my not-so-humble opinion, the quintessential Beer Bar.

If I've got my facts right, The Brick Store was started by a couple dudes from Athens, GA - home of the University of Georgia - who wanted to create a pub like their favorite Athens spot, The Globe. I didn't spend any time at the Globe when I was a student because I wasn't drinking craft brews at that time. I was drinking to barf. Again, my facts may be wrong about the origins of The Brick Store, but if you're really curious, you can verify my tale by going here: [google](#) or maybe here: brickstorepub.com.

Upon walking up to the fine establishment, you'll be greeted by three large barrels sporting table tops. Note that if you're one of the fortunate few to be able to snag one of these tables on a hot summer Sunday, order yourself a big glass of Hefeweizen with a lemon, and plan on being happy.

The interior has an ornate, almost, um, German feel to it. Not sure what I mean by that, considering I've never been to Germany. But I've drank my share of German lagers, mind you. A large dining area sports an ample amount of tables, each one evoking thoughts of large oak trees illuminated by moonlight on a warm summer evening. The brick walls and high ceiling provide a foil to the rustic woody furniture, providing a "grotto" feel.

(Aug 13, 2006)

- [Schmaltz Brewing Co. to release beer honoring Lenny Bruce](#)
(Aug 10, 2006)

■ **we read** ■

what we're reading...

Bones:
-*Agile Software Development with SCRUM* by Ken Schwaber and Mike Beedle

The Knife:
-*The Losers Club* by Richard Perez

Aye Aye:
-*When Character Was King* by Peggy Noonan

■ **we rock** ■

what we're listening to...

Bones:
-*It's Crazy* by Drag the River
-*Rebels, Rogues and Sworn Brothers* by Lucero

The Knife:
-*Rebels, Rogues and Sworn Brothers* by Lucero

Aye Aye:
-*We Don't Need To Whisper* by Angels and Airwaves
-*Gimme Fiction* by Spoon

The back wall is dominated by a beautiful and grand semi-circled bar. Rare imported craft brew taps are scattered behind it. To the left of the bar are stairs leading up to the second floor, and quite possibly one of the coolest second floors in the world - Brick Store's Belgian Bar. Hell yeah, friends. I ain't kidding you, we lucky Decaturites have our very own local bar devoted to tasting Belgian beers. And any beer lover worth his/her salt knows what a treat a good Belgian Trappist Ale can be. Man oh man.

The Belgian Bar consists of a large bar against the back wall - the first thing you see when you step off the stairs into the wonderful area. There's another good ten tables or so up there. The dim lighting and wooden interior feels like a comfy cabin in the mountains.

To summarize, this is a wonderful bar. The servers are all knowledgeable about their beers, but not too pretentious to help a novice determine what he/she is in the mood to enjoy. Just don't order a Coors Light...

Now, before we end this way-too-lengthy intro, heed my advice: Treat yourself to a nice Saturday afternoon of unproductivity and grab a stool at Brick Store's beautiful bar and sample from one of the most impressive beer lists you'll see. But if you decide to try it on a Saturday evening instead, expect a bit of a wait. Decaturites are smart folks when it comes to beer and they know a good thing when they see it, and they fill this restaurant up every weekend night.

And now for the details...

Beers:

Am I being overly dramatic if I say that their beer selection is damn near perfect? A large number of draughts will allow you to sample a high quality U.S. craft brew, a rare Trappist ale, or a delicious and refreshing Hefe. And their selection of bottles is of almost mythic proportions. They offer a helluva lot to choose from, yet their M.O. seems to be quality over quantity. You'll find imports on the list that you won't find in any other bar in the South.

Food:

As I've stated on numerous occasions, I don't like food. Or weather. Although that's not terribly relevant to the subject at hand. But anyway, they've got some delicious stuff. This place is not a bar that serves food. It's a restaurant that serves beer. Their menu consists of quality eats that complement the beers perfectly. I've tried their chicken fingers, fish and chips, and burgers, and they're fantastic. And I highly recommend you get an order of their big soft pretzels for an appetizer. Besides tasting good, they provide an important layer of padding in your stomach to soak up some of that high alcohol content ale you'll be filling it up with. Oh, and as for their hummus, well hell, I still don't know what hummus is, but girls sure seem to dig it.

Music:

No live music or jukebox in this joint. Just good tunes presumably picked out by the staff, played at a respectfully soft volume. I've heard Tom Waits, Radiohead, and yesterday it was Paul Simon's *Rhythm of the Saints*. And as you walk by the kitchen to get to the pissers, you'll often hear the cooks blasting punk rock, often with an Irish kick like Flogging Molly or Dropkick Murphys. So, you can be assured that your food is being made by someone with good taste.

Clientele:

The downstairs is usually populated with your normal dining crowd aged anywhere from low twenties to old folks, and families. But fortunatley not a lot of stupid little kids. The downstairs bar is usually crowded with older beer lovers and Scotch drinkers. The upstairs tends to have more of a younger, drinking crowd. But again, its a laid-back drinking crowd.

Location:

Located right in the middle of downtown Decatur square, the Brick Store feels to me like the City Hall of this beer town. Nestled in between a hip

Mexican restaurant and a popular breakfast diner, and a few steps away from a sushi bar, Tai restaurant, and burrito joint, the Brick Store can be your sole stop for the night or your last stop for after-dinner beers. Or damn good Bloody Marys in the morning. The latter of which I enjoyed last Saturday. And I ended up leaving at 3pm, drunk and carrying a new Brick Store hoody...

Final Analysis:

The Brick Store is the kind of place you take your out-of-town guests to show them how cool your town is. An amazing selection of beers and Scotch, a laid-back vibe, and a guaranteed happy time puts the Brick Store on my all time top list of bars.

5 out of 5 skulls, quoth Bones.

Comments

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Re: Bar Review: The Brickstore Pub in Decatur, GA

by chiggers

on 03.04.06, 23:45

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Hell yea Bones, I couldn't agree more. The beer selection is phenomonal. Not many places have St. Bernardus 12 on tap... It is also the only bar/restaurant which serves my favorite beer: Sinebrychoff Porter. Oh and the Bull Shit Pasta is scrumptous! Well, that's what I call it atleast, it says "B.S. Pasta" on the menu. It took me about a year to realize that stood for "Brick Store," but that's besides the point. The hummus is also delicious, and yes, the chicks dig the hummus ;)

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Re: Bar Review: The Brickstore Pub in Decatur, GA

by Aye_Aye

on 04.04.06, 09:20

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Hell of a review, Bones. I'm also a big fan of the Brickstore. But, I'm the total opposite of you. I'd rather sit around and eat great food and drink cheap beer. I think I always drink Bass when I'm there. Not that Bass is a bad beer, but it's one of the less adventurous *good* beers...

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Re: Bar Review: The Brickstore Pub in Decatur, GA

by theKnife

on 04.04.06, 12:08

[[Local information](#)] [[Send a message](#)]

Kick arse review Bones! Between the Brickstore review and the Trackside review, you've successfully made me nostalgic for Decatur! Man, I loved this place! We've gotta have a Decatur Dragon reunion soon.

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Re: Bar Review: The Brickstore Pub in Decatur, GA

by Aye_Aye

on 04.04.06, 12:42

[[Local information](#)] [[Send a message](#)]

If you do, be on the lookout for the Marietta Marauders! We'll totally kick your asses.

I ain't missin' you at all...Missin' you.....

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Re: Bar Review: The Brickstore Pub in Decatur, GA

by unclejesse

on 04.04.06, 13:00

[[Local information](#)] [[Send a message](#)]

Ah, yes, I have stumbled in and out of The Brickstore many a time. I may be on the left coast now but this is a definite favorite watering hole when I head home. Great place! Beware of the Peachtree City Boys as well!

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Re: Bar Review: The Brickstore Pub in Decatur, GA

by chiggers

on 04.04.06, 14:23

[[Local information](#)] [[Send a message](#)]

Those Peachtree City guys will plow you down in their golf carts if the cops don't strip search you first.

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Re: Bar Review: The Brickstore Pub in Decatur, GA

by Z

on 04.04.06, 16:09

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Excellent review of an excellent locale. Great food & great brews sums it up pretty well. If you sit at the bar long enough & order quite a few brews (hefes) you also might be pleasantly suprised (dumbfounded) as to how inexpensive it can be.

I also agree -- one of my favorite highlights is cruisin' to the bathroom to hear what the cooks are rockin' too. I've heard Fugazi Repeater quite a few times. That'd get me stoked to cook up some fish n' chips or the jaws sandwich too.

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