

Top beer gifts for dad's day

With Father's Day on Sunday it seemed obvious to focus on unique beer gifts perfect for dad. Let's go shopping!

Beer Book/Magazine

There are several excellent beer-related reads available at book stores. *Beers of British Columbia* by Leo Buijs is newly released. Also check out *Taps Magazine* for a subscription. Website: <http://tapsmedia.ca>

The Flip Flop Shop

The store is located at 1820 West 4th Avenue and they carry a wide variety of flip flops. For beer enthusiasts' the pick is Reef sandals with a built in bottle opener. Serious style for the ultra-cool dad! Website: <http://flipflopshops.com>

Customized Glassware

Support a great cause - The Burnaby Association For Community Inclusion - and print some personalized beer mugs for dad. This gift is a lot less expensive than you think. Website: <http://thegrapebox.com>

Beer Festival Tickets

Ok, this is a shameless plug but what dad would not appreciate fun in the sun sampling over 200 different beers at Vancouver's largest beer festival? Website: <http://canadacupofbeer.com>

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SEXY EATS

Checking out the sports crowd

SARAH ROWLAND - We all know that one of the best places for women to meet new guys is at a sports pub.

It's a no brainer, really.

They flock there in droves and as long as you don't try chatting them up during the game, it's all good (plenty of time for mingling in between periods). But not all sporty type pubs are created equally.

Some are loud, testosterone-driven sausage parties that only offer greasy, assembly-line pub food. Not so inviting for the ladies.

But at Pivo Public House (526 Abbott St.), the menu, atmosphere and clientele make for a totally different kind of jock-ular dining experience.

Instead of feeling like you just walked on to the set of a bad beer commercial, you feel like you're in a hip, chic almost intimate sporty pub

and restaurant - and that's because you are!

For starters, the modest sized establishment has the best sight lines in the city (and I'm not just talking about unobstructed views of the TVs here).

The way the back of the room curves around in a semi-circle, you can keep one eye on the game whilst casually scoping out the rest of the tables.

As for food, they serve up some of the best pub food in Vancouver. I haven't tried every dish on the menu, but I can definitely vouch for the Pulled Pork Poutine (\$9), mini Flatbread pizzas (\$11-12) and the Ploughman's Plate (\$12) - all insanely tasty and worth every single carb-icidal calorie.

And with a new patio in the works, Pivo is a great little place to check out this summer - game or no game.



There's no better place to scout guys and eat sports pub food than at Pivo Public House.

STEPHANIE MATTIS

MEATBALL MONDAY

Nothing average about these meatballs

RAJ TANEJA - We're sitting at Uva Wine Bar unwinding after a hard day at work and we catch wind that the neighbouring Cibo Trattoria has their ritual Meatball Monday on - it seems we can't escape it!

Everything we've been eating lately has been in ball form, even the desserts!

Melody: And he means everything - from the main course down to the luscious hazelnut semi-freddo with house-made honeycomb

that I still have dreams about.

Raj: Let's not get ahead of ourselves 'lil lady, this one's about meatballs and on Monday, Cibo is the place to be for a nourishing plate with all the fixings and a glass of wine that won't break the bank.

M: Their meatballs were extremely tender and melded beautifully with the creamy white bean base. The best part was scooping up the saucy mess with the garlicky, thick-cut br-



Cibo Trattoria is the post-work place to be for elegant yet hearty meatballs on Monday.

uschetta.

R: Definitely not your average meatballs - or at least not the type that you'd stick a toothpick into.

Leave that to the Swedes. This is a more refined, elegant yet hearty meatball that your Italian mama would be proud to serve you.

M: After slaving away at the office on the toughest day of the week, head to Cibo Trattoria for their meatballs - it'll help you fuggedaboutit.

RAJ TANEJA RUNS URBANMIXER.COM FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @TINHEAD. MELODY FURY IS THE FOUNDER OF VANCOUVER FOOD TOUR. FOLLOW THIS YVR LIFESTYLE AMBASSADOR ON TWITTER @GOURMETFURY.

top 5

Places to get cool treats

There's nothing better than a sweet, cool treat on a sunny summer afternoon. Here are the top five spots around town for some icy indulgence:

NONS DRINKS

Granville Island Public Market

Featuring a selection of refreshing and fruity non-alcoholic cocktails, this drink stand is the perfect place to seek reprieve from a scorching day. The pomegranate sling is especially delightful.

DAIRY QUEEN

Various Locations

Summer just isn't complete without a Blizzard. The popular ice cream concoction is currently celebrating its 25th birthday, and this quintessential summer treat will undoubtedly be around for years to come.

MARBLE SLAB CREAMERY

Various Locations

Fruit and candy are vigorously mashed into ice cream, with delicious results. There are even low-fat yogurt options for those watching their waists.

SCOOP

2050 W. Fourth Ave.

Perfect for the do-it-yourselfer. Over 30 toppings, from gummy bears to hot fudge, are available to pick from for your frozen yogurt.

LA CASA GELATO

1033 Venables St.

With over 200 flavours to choose from, there's no lack of variety at this local institution.

- KRISTEN MCKENZIE



EASTER SEALS
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www.24HourRelay.com

REASON No

386

To register your team