

The Great American Bar Search

MAXIM IS ON THE HUNT FOR THE COUNTRY'S BEST WATERING HOLES. THIS MONTH: OHIO'S LAKEFRONT LUSHFEST, CLEVELAND! YES, CLEVELAND.



YOUR EFF-LEBRON TOUR STARTS HERE



11 A.M.

DEAGAN'S KITCHEN & BAR

Kick off your crawl with belly-lining comfort food, like chicken and waffles paired with a beer cocktail. Our pick? The "Broadway," Flying Dog in Heat beer plus Pepsi. Yum?

1 P.M.

BUCKEYE BEER ENGINE

Beer snobs will wet themselves amid the nearly 30 local brews on tap. (Warning: Requests for Bud Light will be shot down.)

2 P.M.

MELT BAR & GRILLED

This grilled-cheese perv's dream serves varieties like the Porky Cheese filled with honey ham, crisp bacon, and Swiss.

3 P.M.

THE HARP

Pop a Tums and rub your spare tire while you lounge on the patio overlooking Lake Erie. It's the Riviera of the Midwest!

5 P.M.

HAPPY DOG

This 1940s-era cocktail joint offers gourmet hot dogs (duh) and live music, including a polka happy hour on Fridays.

8 P.M.

PROSPERITY SOCIAL CLUB

Hit this barroom's outside seats for beer, wine, and—according to locals—the best pierogies outside Warsaw.

10 P.M.

ABC THE TAVERN

Happiness is a jukebox, a 50¢ pool table, bar bowling, cheap but delicious grub (try the hush puppies), and 70 beer options.

12 A.M.

MCNULTY'S BIER MARKET

Sample 80-plus brews at Ohio's only Belgian beer bar, or drop (literally, down the stairs) into Speakeasy for old-timey drinks. Huzzah!



READY, AIM, FIREWATER!



Founded just last year, Water Shed Distillery in Columbus—another fine drinking town just two hours south of Cleveland—aims to revive the art of local spirit-making. Based on their smooth yet tangy gin (they add citrus peels in addition to juniper), they're off to a banging start. Hail, Ohio!



CLEVELAND WISDOM

"I GOT NEWS FOR YOU, MR. BROWN. YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAST OF ME. YOU MAY THINK I'M SHIT NOW, BUT SOMEDAY YOU'RE GONNA BE SORRY YOU CUT ME."—INDIANS' "WILD THING" RICKY VAUGHN



LOCH NICE



Officially Cleveland's first microbrewery, Great Lakes Brewing Co. opened its doors in 1988 and hasn't looked back. Get your hands on their super-hoppy IPA, the Lake Erie Monster, while you can—it's only available this month.

BAR TRICK FILE NO. 7

THE HOT POTATO

You'll need:

- 1 shot glass
- Bourbon (100 proof or more)
- Matches

1. Bet your friend you can lift the shot glass with nothing but the sweaty palm of your hand.

2. Fill the glass halfway with bourbon and light it on fire. The bourbon, not the shot glass, ya moron.



3. Wait a few seconds, then press your palm over the glass. (You won't get burned. Ish.) The flame will go out, creating a vacuum effect that will make the glass stick to your hand. But your pal's the real sucker!

