



# BEST OF BUFFALO DRINK

: NOMINEES ARE LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER :



CECELIA'S RISTORANTE & MARTINI BAR

PHOTO BY ROSE MATTREY

**D**uring the Blizzard of '77, then-mayor Jimmy Griffin advised Buffalonians to stay inside and drink a six-pack of Genny. While few agreed with his choice of beers, everyone agreed that drinking was a good idea.

Truth be told, we don't need a blizzard to drink. Buffalo's packed with watering holes of every stripe, and a lot of them are even open 'til 4am. Without looking at our list of nominees, you might think that "Best Bar Food" means greasy burgers, thick reuben sandwiches and chicken wings. But **Allen Street Hardware** and **Mother's**, with their cosmopolitan menus, remind us that it simply means good food, served at a bar. **Beer Selection** is key, and if another huge blizzard hit us today, Byron Brown would probably say, "Get out a shovel and dig your way to **Prespa**." Though no one quite understands why they have a neon sign advertising dirt-cheap PBR, Prespa won this category in last year's Best of Buffalo, offering customers more than 60 beers from around the world. **Pearl Street Grill & Brewery** also made the cut this year, based on its own delicious brews, including the popular Trainwreck Lager, Lake Effect IPA, Canal Street Oatmeal Stout and their rotating seasonal list.

Three of our **Best Dive Bar** nominees are conspicuously located in a two-block section of Allen Street—**Mulligan's Brick Bar**, **The Old Pink** and **Nietzsche's**. All we can say is that we think they're raising property values in the neighborhood. When it comes down to it, every bar is simply a gathering place. But only particularly friendly, long-established saloons are deemed **Best Neighborhood Pub**. Among those nominated are

2-2-3 ALLEN (THE OLD PINK)



PHOTO BY ROSE MATTREY

**Founding Fathers**—who won this category last year—and relative newcomer **Allen Street Hardware**.

There are plenty of affable bartenders in Buffalo, but **Roxy's Green Room** seems to take the cake, scoring hits in **Best Bartender** with both Jamie and Aimee. Roxy's was also nominated for **Best Lesbian-friendly Bar**, along with its new neighbor just up Main Street, **Miss Kitty's**.

Of course, all those late nights of boozing mean that we love our coffee, too. It's not exactly Seattle, but Buffalo has its fair share of coffeehouses that can brew an excellent cup of joe. Among those nominated are the usuals, **SPoT** and **Caffé Aroma**. In fact, both were voted in for best coffee and best coffeehouse. Hundreds voted for Tim Horton's for best coffee, and Starbucks would've been nominated for both coffee categories, but they're national chains, so their votes were tossed.

Notable is **Café Allegro**, a quaint neighborhood coffee shop on Hertel Avenue, which was nominated for best coffee and who hovered just off the top five list for coffeehouse. Allegro is owned by a local family, displays artwork by local artist and has almost nightly entertainment. Not to mention they have delicious baked goods. **Café 59**, at Franklin and Allen Streets, also was nominated for best coffeehouse, and for good reason. The popularity of its coffee and deli has recently merited an expansion into a neighboring storefront that once housed an antiques shop.

**Best Bar Food**

- Papa Jake's
- Mother's Restaurant
- Gabriel's Gate
- Founding Fathers
- Cole's Restaurant
- Buddies II
- Allen Street Hardware

- Aimee Zinzola at Roxy's
- Green Room

**Best Beer Selection**

- Prespa
- Pizza Plant
- Pearl Street Grill & Brewery
- Mr. Goodbar
- Colter Bay
- Cole's Restaurant
- Buffalo Brew Pub
- Alternative Brews

**Best Bartender**

- Will Waterrose at Amherst
- Pizza & Ale House
- Sammy at Mother's Restaurant
- Jamie at Roxy's Green Room
- Elizabeth Chadwick at Frizzy's Bar & Grill

**Best Coffee**

- SPoT Coffee
- Solid Grounds
- Caz Coffee Café
- Caffé Aroma
- Café Allegro

- Merlin's
- Essex Street Pub
- 2-2-3 Allen (The Old Pink)

**Best Gay-Friendly Bar**

- Underground
- The Cathode Ray
- Q
- Fugazi
- Club Marcella
- Buddies II

**Best Coffeehouse**

- SPoT Coffee
- Higher Grounds
- Clarence Center Coffee Co.
- Caffé Aroma
- Café 59

**Best Happy Hour**

- Soho Bar
- Darcy McGee's Irish Pub
- Crocodile Bar
- Cole's Restaurant
- Buddies II

**Best Lesbian-Friendly Bar**

- Roxy's Green Room
- Q
- Miss Kitty's
- Club Marcella
- Adonia's

**Best Martini**

- Simme's Martini Bar & Restaurant
- Shadow Lounge
- Prespa
- O
- Nektar
- Fugazi
- Cecelia's Ristorante & Martini Bar

**Best Neighborhood Pub**

- Mulligan's Brick Bar
- Founding Fathers Restaurant
- Essex Street Pub
- Doc Sullivan's
- Cole's Restaurant
- Allen Street Hardware

**Best Upscale Bar**

- Prespa
- Nektar
- Mother's Restaurant
- David's Grille
- Club Diablo



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