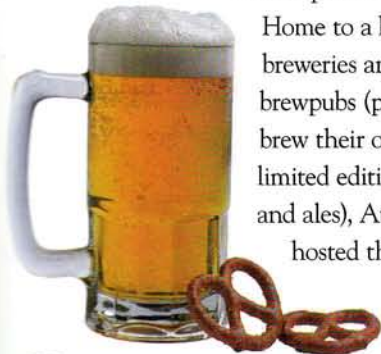


FIND THE BREW IN YOU

When it comes to beer drinkers, you're likely to find two types. There are the folks who mindlessly order up a Bud or a Coors at their local sports bar. And then there are the brew fanatics, people who can talk for hours about the undertones and aftertastes of local and imported suds in a way that's usually reserved for gourmet foodies and wine connoisseurs.

You'll find plenty of the latter category in Atlanta, which is fast becoming the beer capital of the Southeast.

Home to a handful of star breweries and plenty more brewpubs (pubs that also brew their own, extremely limited edition malts, lagers and ales), Atlanta also hosted the second annual Beer Fest '07 this



summer, further proving that the city of CNN and Coca-Cola is also the town of top-notch beers.

The aptly named **Atlanta Brewing Company** is a good place to start. The company recently moved into a brand new 20,000-sq.-ft. home to accommodate the growing demand for its seasonal brews like Summer Hefeweizen and the chocolate-flavored Winter Ale, as well as year-round favorites like Peachtree Pale Ale. The new brewery also includes a tasting room with big-screen TVs, a state-of-the-art pouring system, and enough seating for Atlanta's burgeoning beer following. Check out tours on Wednesdays and Sundays for a sampling of live, local music to complement your tasting.

Atlanta's other big name in brewing is the **Sweetwater Brewing Company**, producing popular brews like **420 Extra Pale Ale** and **Georgia Brown** that

you can find in any respectable bar in the city. But there's a good reason to make the trip to the company's brewery on Ottley Street: 20-minute tours, which include plenty of time for tasting and arguing the merits of Sweetwater Hummer over Sweetwater Blue.

No time for a tour? No problem—just stop into one of the city's brewpubs for a drink. Pubs like **Twain's** and **5 Seasons** have earned plenty of local acclaim for their unique and unmatched brews, pours and atmosphere, and **Max Lager's American Grill & Brewery** is located in the heart of downtown, within walking distance from the Georgia Aquarium, CNN Center and Olympic Park. Don't be shy—ask questions, take advice, and you'll be drinking like a pro in no time. In a town like this, you're just one beer away from becoming a beer fanatic yourself.

—Ciara LaVelle