

BEER



ISSUE 71 / SPRING 2026

The Squeezed Inn

Micropub

Cask Ales



INCORPORATING
**WHAT'S
BREWING**



THE RISE OF THE MICRO PUB

Breathing new life into neglected spaces, these community-focused pubs primarily focus on cask ale



**Strengthen your connection with real ale
by part-owning the companies that
brew and sell it**

**Join like minded drinkers who are in the
CAMRA Members' Investment Club**

**We started investing in 1989 and now own shares
in dozens of breweries and pub companies, from household
names to micro breweries**

You can download our information pack via our website
www.cmic.uk.com or contact us for more information
using the details shown below:



info@cmic.uk.com



0161 359 3976



www.cmic.uk.com



CMIC_UK

123 Wellington Road South, Stockport, SK1 3TH

The value of units can go up and down and you might get back less than you invested

USALE

Out with the old, in with the older – **Ruvani de Silva** explores why cask is the new cool in the US beer scene

Stroll the steep old-school

brownstones and industrial-chic converted warehouses of Brooklyn's uber-hip Gowanus neighbourhood on the right Saturday and you may encounter the NY Cask Crew brewery-hopping between handpulls and gravity casks newly tapped at some of the most popular breweries in New York City. Hit up Portland's beer scene and look out for groups of eager young drinkers sipping 20oz pints of mild while ticking off stops on their city-wide Cask Ale Passport. On a visit to the historic Texas Hill County town of Dripping Springs, you can find fresh cask and country music at Acopon Brewing's laid-back taproom.

These are not isolated examples. Cask service is quietly appearing at breweries and bars around America, from Denver to DC, Iowa to Albuquerque, North Carolina to Seattle. Local cask festivals can be found in spots like Georgia's Atlanta Cask Ale Tasting and Arizona's Real Wild and Woody Festival in Flagstaff. But don't expect just ageing expats. American cask brewers and drinkers are increasingly young and knowledgeable.

While there's no getting around the fact that cask beer remains niche in America, it is growing in both numbers and cache. Cask is cool – in the place you might least expect it to

'A perfect storm of interest in lower-ABV beer and the search for something different'

be. There are many reasons why some American drinkers are becoming cask-curious. A perfect storm of interest in lower-ABV beer, traditional styles and the eternal search for something different among both drinkers and brewers, plus a post-pandemic desire for a communal pub-drinking experience, has placed cask in the proverbial right place at the right time.

At Jones Wood Foundry (JWF),

a British-style pub in New York's Upper East Side, you'll often find expat and beer aficionado Nigel Walsh sipping a fresh pint of Strong Rope or Old Glenham – local breweries specialising in cask. Nigel has been drinking cask in the United States for more than 30 years and blogs as the Cask Whisperer on the JWF website, attending a wide range of cask festivals across the tri-state area. "More recently, it has been young 30- to 45-year-old folks who have 'graduated' from other craft beer styles, namely IPAs, who are looking for a little more nuance and authenticity and drinkability," he observed of contemporary cask drinkers.

Ryan Leonard is head cellarman and US/UK cask beer coordinator at New England Real Ale eXhibition (NERAX), the largest cask festival in the United States, now in its 25th year. He said that in the last five to 10 years, "there's been a definite increase in the amount of women and younger people (under 40) who've been attending". 🍷

