

Local Watering Holes for the Nor'easter Set

Microbrews, Mead & Cider

Seadog Brewing Company has made a name for itself in Maine by infusing brews with regional ingredients, like wild blueberries, and experimenting with other flavors, including hazelnut and mixed hops. **Buzzard's Bay Brewery** in Westport, MA, produces only 800 barrels of fantastic artisanal lager and pilsner each year. **Green River Ambrosia Meadery** makes dry mead with wild flower honey in Greenfield, MA. **The White Mountain Cider Co.** in Bartlett, NH, is a cider mill, mixology bar, and locavore restaurant. Check out their “Cider-tini,” made with an apple cider reduction or the “Applejack Rabbit,” which is sweetened with local maple syrup.

New England Wineries

Northeastern vintners must seek out hardy grape varietals and other local fruits suitable for winemaking in such a cool climate. In spite of the challenges, there are a surprising number of wineries that have laid down roots in the region. **Westport Rivers Vineyard** is one of the largest, and it's known for producing crisp sparkling wines with French and Alsatian varietals. **Sakonnet Vineyards**, a 35-year-old winery in Little Compton, RI, makes wines from French varietals and Gewurztraminer – many have received awards. Connecticut vintners at **White Silo Winery** and **DiGrazia Vineyards** and **Putney Mountain Winery** in VT, specialize in dessert wines made from local berries, apples, rhubarb, currants, pumpkin, and pears.

Artisanal Cocktails

Every cocktail connoisseur in Boston raves about **Drink** in Fort Point. But of course – the city's mixology demigod, John Gertsen, is at the helm. No menu here, just artful improvisation. At **Craigie on Main**, the cocktail menu changes according to freshness and availability of local ingredients. Expect delicate flavors of seasonal fruit, flowers, and herbs. Cocktails at **The Eastern Standard** and **28 Degrees** are often made with homemade bitters and fresh New England ingredients – berries, basil, rhubarb, cucumber, and mint.

Massachusetts Microdistilleries

In a bona fide spirits revival, distilleries like **Berkshire Mountain Distillery** of Great Barrington and **Ryan & Wood** of Gloucester are churning out artisanal gin, vodka, rye whiskey, and molasses-based rums. **Triple Eight Distillery** on Nantucket makes a zingy cranberry vodka with local organic cranberries.

– Jen Laskey