

MEN'S JOURNAL

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Photographs by Michael Pirrocco

EXPERT ADVICE

10 Best Widely Available IPAs

Jon Richard has the lucky job of helping customers at Greenville, South Carolina's Growler Station discover great beers. The Cicerone Certified Beer Server tastes at least three dozen beers every week, but his focus is educating drinkers about the fine malted beverage.

While Jon's enjoyed many of the worlds rare and obscure IPAs, he knows the importance of finding world-class beers that are close to home. Here, he shares the 10 best India Pale Ales that you can buy practically anywhere.

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— JON RICHARDS

Sierra Nevada Torpedo Extra 1 of 10 [◀ PREV](#) [NEXT ▶](#)

IPA



Credit: Photograph by Michael Pirrocco

We all know Sierra Nevada, and for good reason, but don't let the ready availability of this beer overshadow how good it really is. Dry hopped with their unique "torpedo" dry hopping device, this beer is a polished showcase for American hop aroma and flavor. It's quite dry and aggressively bitter up front (but pleasantly so), then mingled pine and citrus flavors assert their will before Torpedo dries up in an herbal finish with a nice lingering bitterness to boot.

Dogfish Head 90 Minute IPA 2 of 10 [◀ PREV](#) [NEXT ▶](#)



Credit: Photograph by Michael Pirrocco

Consistently rated one of the best breweries in the country (and world), Dogfish Head has some arrestingly different brews in their stable. 90 Minute is not one of them, it's everything you expect from Double IPA. The continuous feed of hops for all 90 minutes of the boil creates a unique, top-to-bottom hoppiness. Bitterness and piney, resinous hops are on full display, with a big sweet, juicy, malty body to balance things out, and a drying, hoppy, slightly boozy finish. If you have a rich goat cheese like Humboldt Fog lying around, it's a match made in heaven.

Avery Maharaja 3 of 10 [◀ PREV](#) [NEXT ▶](#)



Credit: Photograph by Michael Pirrocco

If you haven't heard of this one, you're missing out. This is the hardest of the list to find, as Avery brews it once a year in January, but it's worth the search. This is a giant of a beer at around 10.2% (varying slightly batch-to-batch), but with all of the hops in this bad boy, it still manages to be balanced. Lots of oily, piney, grapefruity hops mingle delightfully with big sweet bitter- and caramel-like malts. Subtle, peppery, fruity notes from the alcohol appear in the finish.

Maharaja is not for the faint of heart, but rewards the adventurous.

Sam Adams Rebel IPA 4 of 10 [◀ PREV](#) [NEXT ▶](#)



Credit: Photograph by Michael Pirrocco

Rebel is probably the most accessible beer on the list. But don't let Sam's television commercials dissuade you from trying its beer. Sam Adams has been making great craft beer for quite a long time. It's a west coast IPA, but don't expect to be beaten over the head with hops. What you're getting is a well-balanced, smooth, drinkable IPA with both pine and grapefruit in the nose, all the bitterness up front, a clean malty body, and a light, dry finish. It's a great introduction to

IPAs.

Rogue Yellow Snow IPA 5 of 10 [◀ PREV](#) [NEXT ▶](#)



Credit: Photograph by Michael Pirrocco

Rogue's winter-seasonal IPA has developed a legion of loyal followers waiting for it to appear every year. IPA is not always a winter beer, but Yellow Snow, with its bracing clean hoppy bitterness up front fits the bill. Lots of juicy fruit, and a snappy, minty bitterness yield to a lightly, but firmly malted finish before the hops settle back in at the very end. This is the beer you want when you get down to the lodge after your last run.

Stone Arrogant Bastard Ale 6 of 10 [◀ PREV](#) [NEXT ▶](#)



Credit: Photograph by Michael Pirrocco

Technically, it's probably not an IPA, but it definitely is a beer for hop lovers. Bastard has a huge kick of bitter hops right up front that give way to a big roasted, caramel body that almost tastes like brownies when it's super fresh. The hops come back after getting knocked nearly out by the malts to remind you that they are, in fact, still in charge. This beer leaves you with a leafy and citrus rind bitterness that lingers nicely with a caramel sweetness. It's not a beer to

be trifled with, but try pairing it with a homemade bread pudding.

Bell's Two Hearted Ale

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One of the most aggressive of the typically balanced east coast-style IPAs, Bell's created a hop lover's dream with its light biscuity malts barely holding the floral and citrusy hops in check. It has a big, in-your-face floral aroma and an oily, citrusy bitterness leading up to a milder, more restrained bitterness lingering through the finish. It's a great match for the sharpest cheddar you can find.

Lagunitas IPA



Credit: Photograph by Michael Pirrocco

Oskar Blues Deviant Dale's IPA

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Credit: Photograph by Michael Pirrocco

Regular old Dale's Pale Ale is almost hoppy enough to include here, but the relatively recent Deviant Dale's is a triumph for hop heads. The pungent aroma of oranges, grapefruit, and pine resin gives a strong hint of what's to come. The bitterness leaves nothing to be desired from start to finish. And the malts are rich caramel, toffee, and shortbread; as big as they are, they never disrupt the hops. Deviant takes you from the dank forest floor to the freshest of orange groves and back again. You can't help but enjoy the journey.

New Belgium Rampant Imperial IPA

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Credit: Photograph by Michael Pirrocco

New Belgium isn't known for hoppy beers, but when its brewers put their minds to it, they do it right. This is one of the most well balanced double IPAs on the market, starting out with peach and apricot fruitiness and a little nod to grapefruit as well. A robust bitterness shines throughout, never gets sharp, and is balanced by a clean, full bready malt body. The entire hops profile lingers into the finish where, as it dries, it almost vanishes, leaving you ready for another ship. This beer is an extremely dangerous 8.5-percent ABV.