

M

Drink

Yes, We Can!*

Think canned beer is cheap and crappy? Not anymore. Regional craft brews are now available in easy-to-ship aluminum cans, meaning you can crack them no matter where you live

→ It used to be that bottled beer was the fancy stuff. Cans were what you pounded by the case on back porches. Who cared if it was watery? It didn't matter as long as it was cold. Imagine, then, being tossed one of the beers below, taking a swig, and tasting something as rich and complex as what you'd get on tap from a microbrewery. How did this happen? Until recently, nothing interesting was ever wrapped in aluminum because

only megabreweries could afford canning systems—they cost a quarter of a million dollars or more. But a few years back, machines got cheap, which means you can now get wonders like Uncommon Brewers' Kaffir-lime-infused beer, Surly Brewing's coffee-spiked concoction, and a whole host of crisp, hoppy regional pale ales. All canned! Which might even be more practical than bottled. After all, only cans eclipse the sun's damaging rays, preventing hops from getting skunky. Plus, they get your beer colder faster and travel easier, too. And that's really the best part: You'll never again have to sacrifice taste for convenience. —HOWIE KAHN

OUR ULTIMATE CANNED SIXER

● CoCoNut Porter MAUI BREWING CO.

Lahaina, Hawaii
Far more refreshing than its heavier British and mainland counterparts, this sunny, toasty porter is the perfect post-surf beer, even if your surfing only happens in front of the TV.

● Porkslap Pale Ale BUTTERNUTS BEER & ALE

Garrattsville, New York
Unpretentious inside and out. The can bears a graphic of chest-bumping pigs; the crisp, slightly gingery brew inside pairs well with salty food like pepperoni pizza. (Try also: Butternuts' Moo Thunder, an alluringly mellow stout.)

● Caldera IPA CALDERA BREWING COMPANY

Ashland, Oregon
Smells like, yes, perfumy, expensive weed. And with its intense, flavorful blend of floral hops, it'll leave you feeling pleasantly high. A visit to Caldera's new pub in Ashland will have the same effect.

● Poleeko Gold Pale Ale ANDERSON VALLEY BREWING COMPANY

Boonville, California
AVBC'S brews are always dynamic. This one's no exception: sharp, effervescent, just bitter enough. Plus, points for its antlered, hybridized mascot, Barkley the "Beer." Keep an eye out also for its seasonal canned ales—sweet, spicy numbers named for the winter and summer solstices.

● Dale's Pale Ale OSKAR BLUES

Longmont, Colorado
The one that started it all. Full-bodied, bitter, hoppy as hell. And a gateway to the brewery's other varieties: its Scottish-style Old Chub; Gordon, its blockbuster red ale; and an oil-thick imperial stout, Ten FIDY, which might be best suited for riding out a blizzard.

● Pikeland Pils SLY FOX BREWING CO.

Royersford, Pennsylvania
This is pilsner in its highest form. Light, sure, but rich nevertheless. Golden in color, dense with bubbles—in every way this canned classic from eastern Pennsylvania is the real and reigning champagne of beers.

MORE ↓

FIND THE BEST PLACES TO EAT AND DRINK IN AMERICA IN THE GQ CITY GUIDES

GQ • COM



* This overused headline paid for by Friends of the Obama Beer Summit.