





Great River Brewery

Good cheer and good beer

BY LESLIE KLIPSCH

With microbreweries popping up all over the country and locally produced beer growing in both cachet and quality, it's hard to overlook the popularity of small-batch craft beers. Whether you're a beer aficionado or you waiver between crisp white wine and a golden light beer, sampling the current craft-beer trend can be a fun endeavor that's well suited for summer.

One local hot spot to try is Great River Brewery. Since its arrival in downtown Davenport, Great River Brewery has earned a reputation for producing and packaging quality beer season after season. On pleasant summer nights, the laid-back brewery has the feel of a neighborhood block party, offering a place to not only enjoy a quality beer, but our Quad-Cities community as well.

What I love about Great River Brewery

There is something special about sliding into a picnic table at Great River Brewery when the sun is shining and the place is packed with interesting people. Though everything about the brewery is local, it's a part of town that feels especially urban — blink and you might think you're in Chicago, perhaps in Wicker Park or Logan Square.

Though I'm not the most adventurous beer drinker, I enjoy this summer's special release, the Golden Ale and its cleverly designed packaging. My husband prefers



Leslie Klipsch

Great River's 483 Pale Ale, a beer that's available year-round and is named after Mississippi River Mile Marker Number 483, which is one block south of the brew house. Mile Marker 483 also happens to be where the massive Mississippi River Lock and Dam

No. 15 — the world's largest active roller dam — is located.

Why you should try Great River Brewery

There are many reasons to try GRB this summer and the palatable beer is just one of them. There's plenty of bike parking and though the brewery doesn't serve food, you can bring your own and enjoy it al fresco on the patio. If you can't get downtown to claim a picnic table, you can find the increasingly popular Great River beer at bars, restaurants, and groceries all over the region. You can also pick up a growler (a 64-ounce glass bottle) of your favorite microbrew to take home

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anytime. Look for specials at the Davenport brew house on Sundays and Mondays. I've found that a growler of Roller Dam Red Ale or Farmer Brown Ale makes a great gift and is especially fun to offer out-of-town guests.

Great River Details

Great River Brewery is located at 332 E. 2nd St., Davenport. Room hours can be found on GRB's website (greatriverbrewery.com) and specials, events, and other information is frequently updated on Facebook and Twitter (@GreatRiverBrew). Curious beer drinkers can enjoy a guided tour of the brew house, which occur on Fridays at 6 p.m. and Saturdays at noon, 1, 2, 3, and 4 p.m. The space can also be rented out and makes a unique place to host special events.

Each month in The Gold Standard, Leslie Klipsch, a freelance writer and editor based in Davenport, shines a spotlight on the gems of the Quad-Cities area — for Gold Book readers. She enjoys reading, cooking, spending time with her husband and three young children and exploring all that the Quad-Cities has to offer.

Read more of Leslie at leslieklipsch.com.



Find your hoppy place

If you're looking to sample local brew this summer, you don't have to look far. In addition to Great River Brewery, you'll find more homegrown libations at:

- **Blue Cat Brew Pub**
bluecatbrewpub.com
113 18th St., Rock Island
- **Bent River Brewing Company**
bentriverbrewing.com
1413 5th Ave., Moline and
512 24th St., Rock Island
- **Front Street Brewery**
frontstreetbrew.com
421 W. River Drive and
208 River Drive, Davenport

na·no·brew·ery (*noun*):
a place that specializes in producing very small batches of craft beers; a small brewery that typically does not brew more than three barrels at a time.

While the nanobrewery business model is increasing in popularity, the Quad-Cities is currently home to one nano, as this style of brewery is sometimes referred to, which made its debut in 2012. **Against the Grain Brewery and Alehouse** (atgqc.com) is located in Rock Island at 1340 31st St.

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