



## Syracuse, NY Grand Opening

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### History of Brewing in Syracuse

- At one time, Syracuse was home to at least 40 breweries.
- Johann Mang is considered to have opened the city's first commercial brewery in 1804. He is believed to have brewed beer in his cellar and sold it upstairs at his tavern on North Salina and Wolf Street.
- Another early Syracuse brewery was Kellog and Morey, which operated from 1824 to 1827. This downtown brewery, like many others, was located next to the old Erie Canal.
- By 1845, there were 102 operating breweries in New York State, with seven in Syracuse.
- Hable Brewery was established in 1855, becoming the second largest and most-recognizable brewery in Syracuse.
- In 1858, English immigrants John and George Greenway established the Greenway Brewery in Syracuse. It brewed English-style ales and quickly became Syracuse's largest brewery.
- By 1870, brewing was a major Syracuse industry, second only to salt mining.
- By 1890, one third of Syracuse's 90,000 residents were of German ancestry. It was then that people's beer preferences changed from ales (associated with England and Ireland) to lagers (associated with Germany).
- By 1890, Greenway Brewery, which occupied an entire city block along the Erie Canal, was the largest brewery outside of New York City. It exported beer as far away as Europe, Australia and Asia.
- In the late 1800s, Syracuse breweries were producing over 250,000 barrels of beer and employed around 400 workers.
- Although a few breweries were able to stay open by producing soft drinks, prohibition ultimately ended all legal brewing in Syracuse in 1920.
- By 1950, most of Syracuse's breweries had closed.

- Haberle Brewery was the last survivor from the golden days of brewing in Syracuse, closing its doors in 1962.
- In 1975, Miller Brewing Company opened in nearby Volney, Oswego County. It was purchased by South African Breweries in 2002 and became one of the largest breweries in the world.
- In 1977, Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co., at that time the second largest brewery in America, opened a facility in nearby Baldwinsville. This brewery closed in 1980.
- In the 1990s, Syracuse experienced a revival in local breweries with the arrival of Syracuse Suds Factory, Empire Brewing Co. and Middle Ages Brewing Co.
- Today, the Syracuse area is home to numerous beer festivals and competitions, including the Salt City Brew Club's annual homebrew competition at the New York State Fair, which attracts several hundred entries.

With the grand opening of [Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant](#) at Destiny on December 10, 2012, Syracuse beer lovers can once again enjoy handcrafted, German-style lagers like those created during the city's "golden days of brewing." The restaurant will be located on the first floor of the Canyon area at [Destiny USA](#).

Gordon Biersch adheres to the *Reinheitsgebot*, the German Purity Law dating back to 1516 which mandates beer can only be made with three ingredients: barley, hops and water. The restaurant melds this tradition with the latest brewing innovations to create handcrafted beers in small batches using authentic Weyermann malt and Hersbrucker hops imported from Germany.

For more information, visit [www.gordonbierschrestaurants.com](http://www.gordonbierschrestaurants.com)

Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant is a brand of CraftWorks Restaurants & Breweries, Inc., a leading operator of brewery restaurants with 14 brands, including Old Chicago and Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery. CraftWorks' nearly 200 restaurants range from traditional casual dining concepts to upscale, fine-dining establishments. All serve craft beers and made-from-scratch cuisine. For more information, visit [craftworksrestaurants.com](http://craftworksrestaurants.com).

#### Sources:

[Home Brew Digest: Brewing In Syracuse. 2006](#)

[Syracuse Convention & Visitors Bureau: Sip On Syracuse. Breweries In The Heart of New York.](#)

[Your Hometown: What's Brewing In Syracuse. Your News Now, YNN-TV. 2003](#)