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Summer Corporate

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

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# bars & clubs

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## What's hot:

- Step inside Wrigleyville's new Moxie
- Gulp samples at these brewery tours
- These pubs have added perks
- PBR is leading retro beer's charge
- California Clipper's got a supper-club vibe
- Go inside Whiskey Dick's Radio Lounge
- Bawdy bachelorette bash alternatives

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## Destination: fermentation

Grab your friends, get a tour and gulp some samples at these breweries.

By Claire Zulkey

You say you're interested how malt and hops team to become frothy, foamy fun. We say you're interested in the free samples. These brewery tours -- some in the 'hood some a short road-trip away - - will satisfy on both counts.

### Goose Island

There's always something new to sample during the tours at Goose Island's Clybourn Avenue brewpub, from the Demolition 1800, a strong Belgian beer, to the American-style Willow Street Wheat. Goose Island brewers conduct the hour-long tours at 3 p.m. every Sunday, so you'll hear from the experts how the beer is made from start to finish. Bring your teetotaling friends: They can try the root beer and orange cream soda. And everyone gets a commemorative mug. **Samples:** One or two nips from sample-size glasses. **Cost:** \$3.

### Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery

Do you know what a mashtun, a liquor back and a brew kettle are? Find out on the Rock Bottom Brewery tour. While the whole staff is knowledgeable enough to give impromptu tours (just request one), if you want one from Pete Crowley, Rock Bottom brewmaster and Illinois Craft Brewers president, be sure to call ahead. **Samples:** One, 2-ounce sample. **Cost:** Free.

### Flossmoor Station Brewery

Tupelo honey? Mexican brown sugar? Those are just a few of the exotic ingredients that have made this brewpub's beers some of the Midwest's finest. Located in a former train station, Flossmoor's gleaming kettles, brick floors and large windows offer a beautiful setting for sipping beers like the Belgian Le Chien Blanc. (Named after Flossmoor Station's white Westie

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mascot.) Tours are given upon request, but be sure to call ahead. **Samples:** Get five, 4-ounce samples for \$4.95; or 10, 4-ounce samples for \$7.95. **Cost:** The tour is free.

### Three Floyds

You'll find a party atmosphere at Three Floyds. The secret? Generous samples. You're guaranteed an insightful guide at this Munster, Ind., microbrewery; it's owned and operated by three guys. (Co-founder Nick Floyd named the brewery after himself, his father and his brother, though he runs it with two other fellows.) Tours are a half-hour long and you're welcome to bring food to munch on as you sample. Be sure to call ahead to before you make the 40-minute drive. **Samples:** Three near pint-sized samples. **Cost:** \$5. (9750 Indiana Pkwy., Munster, Ind., 888-266-0294 ext. 305.)

### Two Brothers

This west suburban brewery prides itself on creating little-known styles of beer, such as French country ale and Russian imperial stout. Follow along, from the fermenters to the bottling line to everybody's favorite, the "kegerator," featuring four beers on tap. After a 20-minute tour of the cozy facilities, guests can sample several of the more exotic brews, including the summertime favorite Dog Days dortmunder lager. Tours are offered at 2 p.m. the first Saturday of every month. **Samples:** Four, 2-ounce samples. **Cost:** Free. (30W114 Butterfield Rd., Warrenville. 630-393-4800.)

### Miller Brewing Co. and Sprecher Brewing Co.

Plan a road trip to Milwaukee and hit both of these--very different--breweries. Miller (which also now cranks out Pabst Blue Ribbon, Blatz and Schlitz) takes a corporate approach to the experience (the one-hour tour includes a documentary video). Viewing the actual brew house is optional: To see the large copper kettles, you'll have to climb lots of stairs and endure steamy temperatures. Tours are from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. **Samples:** Three, 8-ounce glasses. **Cost:** Free. 4251 W. State St. 414-931-2337. At smaller, informal Sprecher, you'll see the brew house and probably meet Randy Sprecher, who quit his job at Pabst to start this microbrewery in 1985. The 30-minute tours depart at 4 p.m. Fridays, and at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. Saturdays. **Samples:** Four, 8-ounce tastes. **Cost:** \$3. (701 Glendale Ave., Milwaukee. 414-964-2739.)

*Claire Zulkey is a Chicago freelance writer.*

*Originally published May 13, 2003.*



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