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Tapping Global Tastes.

The new technology of Beiro Bar is bringing the world's boutique beers straight to your glass

WORDS CHRIS CANTY

Opening a speciality beer bar in Melbourne's legal precinct sounds difficult enough, but for university students, Edwin Koh (right) and Iqbal Ameer, inventing a world-first beer-dispensing technology at **Beiro Bar** was actually the real challenge.

"Traditionally, boutique beer-tasting has been incredibly expensive as you generally have to buy in the bottle, but the Beervaults allow us to effectively have *any* beer on tap in a matter of minutes," Koh says.

The Beervaults technology, created in conjunction with respected Melbourne-based industrial designers JonesChijoff, works by using carbon dioxide to push the beer from the bottle to the vault without the beer ever coming in contact with oxygen, which would affect its taste and lifespan.



Since Beiro Bar opened in May, Koh says that customers are initially confused by the large cylinders behind the bar, but when they realise that they can try a beer that would normally be AU\$35 a bottle for a fraction of the cost, they're happy.

"The interest and curiosity shown by customers about the Beervaults has definitely been a highlight," Koh says. "Our Beer Racks that consist of five beers from the vaults and five specifically matched canapé-sized foods have also been incredibly popular."

The beer list changes every fortnight, and includes a selection from acclaimed craft breweries from the USA and Europe — such as Stone, St Peter's and BrewDog — which makes Tactical Nuclear Penguin — one of the world's strongest beers at 32% of alcohol.

"We suggest you drink it slowly," Koh says.



MAIN: At Biero Bar, beer lovers can drink up more beers at a fraction of the usual cost
INSET: The enormous Beervaults behind the bar

Brew Time

CHEERS



Barleycorn Brewers

Brew Your Own

Across Australia, speciality micro-breweries offer the public a chance to come in and brew their own beer using commercial standard equipment. You'll get to choose the style of beer, brew it with guidance from experienced brewers, then put it into bottles with your own custom-designed labels. Cans are also available at U-Brew It and Barleycorn — if that's the only way you like to drink your beer.

U-Brew It – Locations in VIC, NSW, QLD, ACT, SA and WA, tel: 1300 827 3948

Barleycorn Brewers – 388 Huntingdale Rd, Oakleigh South, Melbourne, Vic, tel: +61 (3) 9548 8288

The Beer Factory – 2/2 Tollis Plc (cnr Station Rd), Seven Hills, Sydney, NSW, tel: +61 (2) 9624 5207

Billabong Brewing – 72a McCoy St, Myaree, Perth, WA, tel: +61 (8) 9317 294



Bright Brewery

Brew with the Brewers

If you have always wanted to work in a brewery, "Brewer for a Day" packages are available at these country breweries. For just one day, you'll become a valued member of staff and yes, beer tastings are included at the end of the day — you might even get invited back to taste the batch you worked on.

Bright Brewery – 121 Great Alpine Rd, Bright, Vic, tel: +61 (3) 5755 1301

Hunter Beer Company – Potters Hotel & Brewery, Wine Country Drv, Nulkaba, Hunter Valley, NSW, tel: +61 (2) 4991 7922



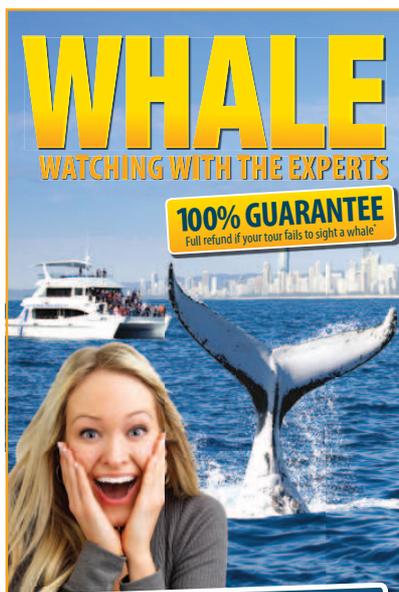
"Biero is as much about an educational beer experience as it is a place where you can catch up with friends after work or on the weekends," Ameer says.

For people living outside Melbourne, Koh says that the internationally patented technology of the Beervaults should enable more bars to open in the future.

"We definitely hope to expand to other parts of Australia, and we're currently investigating interest we've had from different parts of Asia, particularly Singapore where there's a growing interest in imported and speciality beers." ★

Biero Bar

525 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne, tel: +61 (3) 9600 0940



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