

WANT TO WIN SPECIALS?
EARN WAUKEE BUCKS?

By Doug Russell

A BAR OWNER'S
SELF-DEFENSE

By Matt Hroley

OCTOBER 2013 / \$4.99

Milwaukee

MAGAZINE

JAMES JONES OF THE
GREEN BAY PACKERS


**BEST
OF**

2013

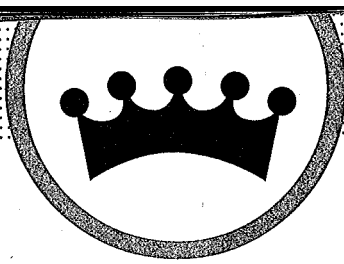
MILWAUKEEMAG.COM



7 25274 66198 5

Take
Invaders
PAGE 21

Continue
Revel
PAGE 30



CONSIDER THESE PAGES A VISUAL VACATION. IN FACT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO COZY UP TO A COCKTAIL, OR TWO, BEFORE DIVING IN.

Our latest "Best Of" Milwaukee endeavor marks more than 30 years of passing out kudos to the folks who keep the Milwaukee wheels a-spinning. And as in years past, this compendium includes nods to the best of the arts community, the food scene and the elected officials who give us no shortage of things to write about. But unlike previous "Best Of" articles, this year's roundup includes a lot of beer, clothing and trampolines. Why? Because interest in beer never seems to dwindle here in Brew City, locally made clothes have developed a new cachet and, as for the trampolines, well, you'll just have to read on to find out.

FUN & NIGHTLIFE



Monarch Lounge

BEST HISTORIC REVAMP

How often do you really seek out a hotel bar? The Hilton Milwaukee City Center's **MONARCH LOUNGE** (509 W. Wisconsin Ave.) just might change that. A classic cocktail menu is a plus, but the real draw is the 1920s-era, art deco surroundings. The lounge holds the building's original crystal chandeliers, floor-to-ceiling mahogany wood panels and 30-foot, previously covered windows that look out on to Fifth Street. At a time when it's trendy to be retro, it's refreshing to see the real thing. (CD)

BEST BIKE FITTING

Some area bicycle shops will simply adjust your seat height and call it a bike fitting. Then there's **EMERYS CYCLING, TRIATHLON AND FITNESS** (multiple locations, *emerys.com*), which boasts the trained eye of an Olympic silver medalist. Co-proprietor Brent Emery got his hardware in the 1984 men's team pursuit cycling race, and competitive cyclists far and wide seek his fitting wisdom to shave time off their races. But can casual Sunday riders benefit from Emery's proper adjustments for height, forward-back positioning and tilt? You bet your knees. (HM)

BEST BEER TAKEOUT SPOT

RIVERWEST FILLING STATION (701 E. Keefe Ave.) bases its operation on growlers, those large glass jugs that patrons can fill with beer and take home. Thirty quality tap choices ensure that the process of topping off your prized growler takes some serious thought. That's why it's a good idea to get two. (DM)

BEST STAYCATION

Timber beams, taxidermied animals and fish, and chandeliers made of antlers give **CAMP BAR** (4044 N. Oakland Ave.) the feeling of an authentic Northwoods bar in the less-than-woody heart of Shorewood. After a tasty Old Fashioned or two, this might start to feel like a getaway. (DM)

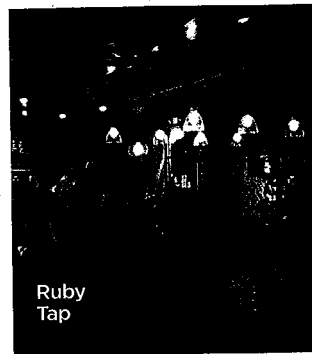
BEST COASTERS

In a perfect world, you'd receive presents for someone else's anniversary. And the folks behind **CITY TINS** have us feeling hopeful. The coupon coaster-makers are toasting their fifth anniversary by adding bar and lounge tins to their repertoire, including the Nomad and Hotel Foster. Bottoms up. (*citytins.com*) (MP)



BEST JIVE

WHEREHOUSE (818 S. Water St.) picked up a new style of dancing last fall: swing. The Jumpin' Jive Club moved from Milwaukee Ale House to the Walker's Point joint for Tuesday-night swing, and the Milwaukee Rebels (specializing in West Coast swing) hold lessons there twice a month. You don't need skill or even a partner to participate, just the desire to jump, jive and, most likely, wail. (ALC)



Ruby Tap

BEST BAR FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T COMMIT

A little more than a year ago, Tosa's **THE RUBY TAP** (1341 Wauwatosa Ave.) introduced locals to the self-serve wine system, an inexpensive way to sample wines on the (somewhat) cheap. But there's more to be ingested at this 38-seater: craft beers, charcuterie and cheese plates, and desserts. (AC)