

Summer drinking Best Copenhagen bars

The Danish city is known for its sleek Scandi restaurants, but the bar scene is equally vibrant, writes *Will Hawkes*



The minimalist Scandi-style of BRUS (left) and Koelschip's scruffier Belgian feel

Banksia

Named after an Australian wildflower, Banksia in downtown Copenhagen has a spacious, elegant dining room and a cosy bar beneath, offering plenty of good beer. There are 12 taps and regular events featuring breweries from Denmark, Australia and elsewhere. The house ale, a balanced, food-friendly Extra Special Bitter called The Convict, is made by Danish brewery Beer Here. Although the menu veers towards cork hats and clobber territory (there's both crocodile and kangaroo meat), it has a genuine commitment to quality, exemplified by a superb Wagyu sashimi starter served with lemon, chilli and soy sauce. *Gothersgade 8D, 1123 København K; banksia.dk*

BRUS

Comprising a brewery, restaurant, shop and bar, this converted iron foundry is the handiwork of To Øl, one of the city's most impressive new brewing companies. Beer-lovers will be drawn to the 28-tap bar – a glass of To Øl's tart, soft-textured Berry White, at K45 (£4.60) for 40cl is highly recommended. The food in the minimalist, Scandi-style drinking space includes a snack board at K195, with pork ribs and cheeks served with flatbread. The restaurant, Spontan, is creatively led by Austrian head chef Christian Gadiant (once of Michelin-starred Marchal). Opened last month, BRUS has already been colonised by a young, fashionable crowd. *Guldbergsgade 29F, 2200 København N; tapperietbrus.dk*

Himmeriget

Himmeriget ("Kingdom of Heaven") is a beer destination masquerading as a humble local. With its low-hanging lights, simple wooden furniture and pot plants in the window, this white-tiled former butcher's shop is intimate and down to earth. The beer, however, is far from everyday. There are 10 taps, on which you'll find beers from the US, Belgium, the Czech Republic and further afield – with prices starting at K35 for

40cl (very reasonable for Copenhagen). The more adventurous, though, will reach for the bottle list, which features the likes of Belgium's Cantillon (try Blåbær, a wild blueberry ale) and America's Crooked Stave. Himmeriget strikes the perfect balance between beer-geek shrine and a good place for a drink. *Aboulevard 27, 1960 Frederiksberg; himmeriget.dk*

Koelschip

With ceramic jugs on the bar and antique advertising and hops on the walls, this new venture from Danish craft brewers Mikkeller has the slightly down-at-heel air of a classic Belgian "brown café", the Lowlands answer to Britain's street-corner pubs. The furniture is heavy and wooden and there's plenty of Belgian and Belgian-style beer, from the four bar taps and a fridge full of bottles. Even the food is Belgian, taking in Pottekeis, a cheese spread made with gueuze ale, and lots of charcuterie. The only reminder that you're in Copenhagen comes with the prices: a 25cl glass of Swedish brewery Brekeriet's excellent Blondette comes in at K45. *Stefansgade 35, 2200 København N; mikkeller.dk/location/koelschip*

WarPigs

The result of a partnership between Mikkeller, which appears to be buying up Copenhagen bar by bar, and US brewers 3Floyds, WarPigs is the city's hottest beer bar, with a big, bold American feel. There's Texas BBQ (produced using two smokers capable of turning out two tonnes of meat a day) and 20 taps, including plenty of beer made on-site by American head brewer Kyle Wolak. Seating is fairly rudimentary – long picnic tables and benches, essentially – but the beer is good, service is friendly and the meat-heavy menu (appropriate as this used to be a slaughterhouse) has already earned a big reputation. Don't forget your 10-gallon hat. *Flæsketorvet 25, 1711 København V; warpigs.dk*

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