

OFFBEAT NEWCASTLE NIGHTLIFE

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Page 41 | Section: General

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In partnership with Visit Newcastle

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It may be Australia's second-oldest city but **NEWCASTLE** sure doesn't act like it, with an *ECLECTIC* dining and drinking scene that keeps the city **BUZZING** into the night.

The multimillion-dollar makeovers of two of Newcastle's favourite watering holes, **THE CRITERION** and **THE GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL**, really raised the bar for the city's after-dark offerings. Since then, a swathe of cool bars, restaurants and brewhouses have cemented the city's reputation for epic nightlife.

Really tapping into the speakeasy trend, you'll need a code to enter **COAL AND CEDAR**. With no signage and no doorbell, it's just like the good ol' prohibition days. Staying subterranean, **THE UNDERGROUND** is located under **THE GRAND HOTEL**, another pub that's been given a loving transformation; be transported to the 1920s on Tuesdays when live jazz completes the scene. Sticking to the same era, **BAR MELLOW** is a wine and cocktail bar housed in a heritage 1920s building known as Bank Corner, offering a snack menu featuring olives, cheese platters and cured meats.

From small bar to small-batch brewing, **METHOD BREWING**, the city's newest craft brewery, has settled in to the West End and is the passion project of three local blokes. Drop in for a schooner and a bite from the food trucks. Over in Merewether, **MODUS BREWING** has 36 beers on tap, alongside a casual menu of pub fare with a Mexican

twist. The sleek brewery offers tours for grown-ups and a playground for the kids.

Refined dining is also on the menu in Newcastle, and there's a strong focus on local and seasonal produce. Tucked away in Wickham, with an aesthetic inspired by Venice Beach, **FLOTILLA** was awarded a 2022 *Australian Good Food Guide* Chef's Hat. Meanwhile, longtime favourite **SUBO** dons two Chef Hats for its six-course menu in an understated setting. For a more homely approach, **LOCK'S PADDOCK** pays tribute to an old stonemason's yard, featuring a country-style interior and share menu.

Dine, drink and stay in your choice of two of the city's newest luxe hotels. A 1970s Brutalist-style former council building is now the **CRYSTALBROOK KINGSLEY**; its top-level restaurant, **ROUNDHOUSE**, comes with arguably the best views in the city, accompanied by a modern Australian menu. And **QT NEWCASTLE**, in the 113-year-old heritage-listed former David Jones building, boasts an uber-chic rooftop bar, perfect for sunset drinks with its large selection of whiskies, sake and gin. It's a list almost as extensive as Newcastle's nightlife itself.

Find more of offbeat Newcastle at visitnewcastle.com.au

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Visit Flotilla for Californian vibes; And an award-winning menu; Or tasty cocktails: The Great Northern Hotel; Find Insta-worthy fare at Lock's Paddock; Dessert is served at Roundhouse; Harbour views at QT Newcastle's rooftop bar.

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