

benefits to the local canine unite, the fire department and the local baseball teams.

It's a tossup between the Touk and the IPA "Eh" as to which one is Big Tupper's signature brew. The Touk can be described as either a Porter or a dark ale that finishes with coffee notes, while the IPA is a balanced California style IPA that finishes with a slight citrus finish, courtesy of the Cascade Hops. At 65 IBU, it's light drinking and refreshing after a day on Tupper Lake.

Big Tupper also serves a full menu which is described as comfort food with a twist. Its line of beers can be found in stores and pubs throughout the Adirondacks, Capital district, St. Lawrence and Champlain Valleys, and Thousand Island region.

RAQUETTE RIVER BREWERY

Tupper Lake
11 Balsam St., Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Owners: Mark Jessie & Joe Hockey

Born from a love of craft beer, the Raquette River Brewery has remained true to its roots of being organic and small town. Mark and Joe were both "home brewers," who decided in 2014 that the Tupper Lake community was ready for a micro-brewery.

The two settled on building a two-barrel tasting room in a former residential garage, adjacent to two mobile homes and a dilapidated house. They worked to clean up the neighborhood and today the brewery has expanded to a 10-barrel system, with each barrel producing as much as 31-gallons of beer. You'll also find as many as 12 to 14 different beers on tap.

Although Mark and Joe pride themselves as being "IPA guys," to their surprise the Mango Wheat beer has become their signature brew. Golden in color, the mango aroma and flavor is subtle in this smooth drinking beer. It's also very light on the IBU scale, at just 14. You can find this beer on tap throughout the region, it's also available on tap at the brewery and in 24-oz. bottles.

This summer, the brewery will feature a new 40-foot bar, a stage for live music and comedy and three food trucks for guests to enjoy.

BLUE LINE BREWERY

Saranac Lake
555 Lake Flower Ave.,
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
Owner: Mark Gillis

Mark and his family moved to Saranac Lake nine years ago believing that the village was the home to Saranac Beer. He quickly discovered that it wasn't and that Saranac Lake would be an ideal location to start up a micro-brewery.

In February 2011, Mark re-furbished the former CarcuZZi car wash and built a tasting room where he did the brewing himself.

Less than three years later, he added a kitchen and expanded his brewing. It's pretty easy to see just how successful the brew-pub has been. Mark keeps a running tab above his 10 taps, comparing how many pints of beer that have been sold to the number of CarcuZZi car washes when it was open from 1989 to 2011.

Mark doesn't hide the fact that he's a New England sports fan. In an area where most people follow the New York based teams, Blue Line is adorned with everything New England to include posters and memorabilia from the New England Patriots, Boston Red Sox, Bruins and Celtics.

While you're enjoying one of his signature pizzas or his "car wash" chicken wings, which feature lime and cilantro, be sure to order a pint of the McKenzie Mountain Red Ale. Don't let the huge hop aroma and flavor fool you, this beer is rich and malty and is well balanced between piney and sweet.