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# The Abbey



536 Driggs Ave  
 at: Between N. 7th and N. 8th Streets.  
 Brooklyn  
 11211  
 tel: (718) 599-4400

**While some bars are sweat pits in summer and others numb your toes in win always comfortable.**

## The Space

Strange though it may sound, one of the appeals of the Abbey is that it always gets just right. Which is nice and impressive, especially considering the size of the place feel like you've entered a tunnel, with the wood bar on the left running some 30 feet wall partition and into the spacious back room. As with a casino, it's difficult to keep time it is, with the only outside light coming from a small window up front and there ways to while your time away—a TV showing Japanese anime, two pinball machines jukebox and a video game.

## The Perks

The Abbey has a solid selection of liquor and seven beers on tap, which are a buck an hour (Monday through Friday, 4pm to 8pm). The clientele ranges from edgy hipsters and blue-collar townies, the latter of whom pile in Monday nights for the pool tournament visit the bathrooms, as they're wallpapered with the visages of Leif Garrett and other stars from the 1970s. —Kevin R. Kosar

**DIRECTIONS**  
 L at Bedford Ave.

[Map it](#)

**HOURS**  
 Daily 3:00pm- 4:00am

**PRICES**  
 \$3-\$3.50 bottled beer; \$3-\$4 draft; \$4 well drinks

**PAYMENT METHODS**  
 Cash only.

**HAPPY HOUR**  
 Mon-Fri 4-8pm: \$1 off.

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## Alfama

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### editorial profile

551 Hudson St  
at: Perry Street  
New York  
10014  
tel: (212) 645-2500

DIRECTIONS:  
A, C, E, L at 14th St.-Eighth  
Ave.

HOURS:  
Daily 5:30pm-12:00am

WEBSITE:  
[Click here.](#)



**An unusual selection of cocktails and superb Portuguese cuisine in the West Village.**

#### The Scene

Tucked in a century old and newly refurbished corner space on Hudson Street, Alfama is a cozy, elegant Portuguese bar and restaurant whose bright blue and white exterior and decor lure passersby. Inside

friends and strangers are drawn together in conversation by the convivial waiters and barman.

#### The Drinks

The knock-out cocktail menu consists solely of \$10 signature creations, such as the Bitchy Peach, an icy smooth mix of Maker's Mark bourbon, peach nectar and club soda. Particularly worth trying is the Alfama Martini, whose Ketel One vodka is softened with a nutty white port—one of 25 ports available at the bar. Alfama also offers a few dozen Portuguese wines and beers.

#### The Menu

Among the fine appetizers are crispy cod cakes (\$5.95), oily, tender sardines marinated in red pepper and onion vinaigrette (\$6.95), and lobster medallions in a papaya shell with whisky sauce (\$12.95). Move on to their baked codfish with onions, vegetables and mashed potatoes (\$17.95), or order the thick filet mignon and cook it yourself on a big 600 degree hot stone (\$22.95). Complete the night with one of their puddings and a luscious Cascais, a mix of Irish whisky, Godiva liqueur, Chambord and cream. —Kevin R. Kosar

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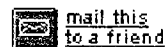
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## Whiskey Ward



Whiskey Ward

121 Essex St  
 at: Between Delancey  
 and Rivington Streets.  
 New York  
 10002  
 tel: (212) 477-2998

DIRECTIONS:  
 F at Delancey St.

HOURS:  
 Daily 5:00pm- 4:00am

**A handsome place to knock back bourbon and gab.**

### The Scene

Slick and spacious—wide open strolling room and 12 foot high tin ceilings, exposed brick walls, furnishings—it's hard to believe that this place was a hardware store until this bar opened up in the decreasingly rough and tumble Sixth Ward (known a century ago as the Whiskey Ward), crowd ranging from edgier sorts to cell phone toting NYU students.

### Must-Have Drinks

Whiskey Ward has eight single malts, 11 fine bourbons, 20 bottled beers and six taps (pints rur shot of Woodford Reserve with a Guinness, or treat your palate with a glass of the slightly swee Winkle 12-year-old bourbon and a chaser of Young's Ram Rod bitter beer.

### The Amenities

Happy hour daily from 5pm to 8pm means half-priced well drinks and tap beers, and anyone bi shot can get an 8 ounce glass of tap beer for a buck. (There are also free peanuts at the bar.)  
 everything from Curtis Mayfield to Cheap Trick to Siouxi and the Banshees, and the barkeeps  
 —Kevin R. Kosar

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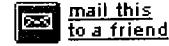
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# Under the Volcano

editorial profile

12 E 36th St  
at: Fifth Avenue  
New York  
10016  
tel: (212) 213-0093

DIRECTIONS:  
F, D, B, Q, N, R at 34th St.; 6 at 33rd St

HOURS:  
Mon-Wed 4:00pm- 2:00am  
Thu-Sat 4:00pm- 4:00am



Pay tribute to Malcolm Lowry's classic novel with a vast array of tequilas.

### The Scene

You'd expect a pseudo Wall Street bar environment at a bar located smack in the middle of a big business district that's dominated by suits and power skirts during the day. Surprise—the vast majority of the 25-45-year-old crowd at Under the

Volcano is tie-free and looking clean but casual; and with no TVs to zombify the customers, talk is boisterous.

### The Decor

Styled after author Malcolm Lowry's novel of the same name, Under the Volcano is a blend of the rough floored Mexican cantinas and posh hotel bars in which the author used to drink. Accordingly, you'll find a hardwood floor and Mexican folk art in the front room, with a polished tile floor and big cushy chairs in back.

### Eats and Drinks

Apropos to the writer's preferred poisons, the bar stocks over 40 tequilas (\$8-\$49 a pop) and 9 gins, including the hard to find Anchor Junipero. In addition to 20 beers, a good whiskey selection and a small but well chosen wine list, guests may order Mexican bar food like hearty tamales and guacamole. —Kevin R. Kosar

### Tip Sheet

#### Hot Shots

Among the tequilas, try the peaty and scotch-like XQ Plata (\$9) and Herradura Anejo (\$10), which is smooth like caramel.

#### Fair Warning

The bar's big framed Lowry photo displays the author dead drunk with his belt tied 'round his waist.

#### If You Like This...

Best-pub nominee the [Ginger Man](#) shares the same owners.

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