



LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

## Cheers to History

This city has hip cocktail dens to rival that of any metropolis. But Philly also has historic taverns that serve up pints and bites with intriguing tales from bygone years.



### MCGILLIN'S OLDE ALE HOUSE

Opened in 1860, McGillin's has been slinging drinks with a splash of authentic Philly hospitality ever since. Originally named the Bell in Hand Tavern, the bar informally adopted the name McGillin's, the surname of the Irish immigrant family who owned it. In 1910, in honor of the pub's 50th anniversary, the bar officially changed its name to McGillin's Olde Ale House. Patrons can see nods to the house's history throughout the space. On the walls, every liquor license that the establishment has obtained since 1871 is proudly displayed, along with authentic signs of defunct Philadelphia businesses like Wannamaker, Woolworth, Gimbel Brothers and Le Bec Fin, tangible reminders that McGillin's has outlasted them all. 1310 Drury St., 215.735.5562, [mcgillins.com](http://mcgillins.com)

### CITY TAVERN

American bars don't get more historic than this tavern. Not only does it predate the incorporation of the U.S., it played a key role in the country's founding. Open since 1773, the venue was one of

the grandest gathering spots of its time and served as a meeting place for founding fathers to exchange information and strategize about the Revolutionary War. Through the years, the tavern housed prisoners of war, served as HQ for the Continental Army and was the site of the country's first Independence Day celebration in 1777. After a fire in 1834, the building was rebuilt in 1975 to its original glory and reopened just in time for America's bicentennial. 138 S. 2nd St., 215.413.1443, [citytavern.com](http://citytavern.com)

### CHERRY STREET TAVERN

This Logan Square watering hole has been catering to locals and visitors alike since 1905. During Prohibition, the bar took a hiatus from the alcohol business and transformed into a barber shop before reclaiming its identity as the tavern we know and love today. Located near the Franklin Institute and the Barnes Foundation, Cherry Street caters to hungry and thirsty diners with sandwiches, snacks and more than 40 varieties of beer. 129 N. 22nd St., 215.561.5683, [cherrystavern.com](http://cherrystavern.com)

## Raising a Glass to the Past

As America's first World Heritage City, Philadelphia enjoys global renown for its significance in the founding of the United States. And since history is rarely made without a little bit of liquid courage, it's no wonder the city also boasts some of the oldest and most celebrated bars in the country. Drinkers and teetotalers alike need only walk a few blocks anywhere in town to find a spot with colorful backstories. But here are just a few of our favorite time-tested neighborhood taverns.—Amy Gordon



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