

Pub Crawl

by Keith Flanders

With faithful reporting by DK Holland, Phoebe Ferguson, James Southern, Meredith Southern and Bruce Zenel.

On a rainy night mid-week in our neighborhood you might find yourself at loose ends, undecided between that reality TV show and that book you've been putting off starting, listening for the drip drip of that leaky skylight. Why not round up a few friends and sample the nightlife of Fort Greene/Clinton Hill? Now you're probably aware of the growing number of diverse and excellent restaurants in the area, many of which have been written about in this publication, but did you know that we are equally blessed with a range of bars, lounges and nightspots that truly offer something for every taste? Whether you're looking for an intimate evening with a fellow oenophile, or checking out a band with a bunch of your Pratt classmates, or hosting a karaoke party, or just seeking out a giant screen for the big game, you don't have to hit Manhattan (or even Smith Street!).

On one such rainy night this spring, a group of us set out on a kind of Fort Greene/Clinton Hill "pub crawl," hoping to experience the full spectrum of our neighborhood's nightlife, or at least a good cross section thereof. While we by no means left our mark everywhere, here's hoping that our story prompts others to check out one or more of the local watering holes.

Our first stop was Stonehome Wine Bar, a lovely establishment with soft lighting, an appealing curved bar offering an impressive selection of wines (by the glass as well as bottle), and a seasonal garden with tables in back. Stonehome also features wine flights – tasting selections of several wines – as well as some interesting ports, dessert wines, and beers you may not have encountered before, such as Whale's Tail Pale Ale from Nantucket. After a glass of pinot noir, a chardonnay, and a Belgian ale, our party reluctantly headed out into the rain in search of the next stop.

Keith Flanders has lived in Wallabout since 2001.

FACTUAL NOTE: The 10 establishments mentioned in this article were actually visited over the course of two separate evenings, but the author has taken the liberty of combining them into one "pub crawl" for narrative purposes.