BOHEM BREWERY

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Bohem Brewery to open Rag Fair Inn on Royal Mint Street, E1

Bohem Brewery, the Czech-run lager brewery in London, will open its fifth venue, Rag Fair Inn, at 61 Royal Mint Street, E1 8LG, in mid-November 2026.

A Czech twist on a New England craft beer bar, Rag Fair Inn takes its name from the famous old clothes market that began on the street. Bohem's high-quality lager line remains its foundation, served as always through Lukr side-pull taps and cooled via the traditional 'chladicí vana' water bath.

Bohem's Tap Room in Bowes Park was a one-off; its next three sites restored old, neglected London pubs and kept their magic with a modern Czech lager twist on the British boozer.

Rag Fair Inn does something a little different, bringing a Czech flourish to an American craft bar.

From Boston to Tower Hill: *meet Bill Hall*



To drive the American side of Rag Fair Inn is General Manager Bill Hall, a well-known name on the New England beer scene. His beer career runs deep: from working craft festivals and specialty tasting events, to running his own award-winning tour company, *Beer & Chocolate Tours Boston* (one of the city's best-selling independent tours), to heading up the craft beer programme at one of Massachusetts' oldest and largest independent liquor retailers, picking up multiple *Best of Boston* awards along the way.

He's worked in craft distribution, launched his own sales, distribution and marketing company in Greater Boston, and built relationships with

breweries across New England and the Eastern Seaboard, with interest from as far as California.

Hall and his partner Allison Bloch are also known in the Boston beer scene as the pair behind @BeersOverBoston, an Instagram project reviewing and championing local breweries that's amassed a strong following, and one which Hop Culture named among the best craft beer Instagram accounts around.

Now, Hall is bringing that experience across the Atlantic: *"I'm looking to take all that crazy experience and boil it down to a high-energy, occasionally educational, and engaging bar experience where every customer who walks through the door walks out with a story and a fun little factoid to share with friends,"* Hall said.

It's a marked departure from Bohem's Czech-and-British-pub roots. Hall's own influences lean toward the boundary-pushing side of the beer world. His favourite breweries include Widowmaker (MA), Lamplighter (MA), Jester King (TX), Foam (VT), Notch (MA) and Mast Landing (ME). Bill also has a habit of travelling for beer, from brew days with Cantillon and Boon in Belgium to sessions at Amsterdam favourites like Café Gollem, Brouwerij 't IJ, Beer Temple and Proeflokaal Arendsnest,. He enjoys American classics such as Novare Res (Portland, ME), Bukowski Tavern (Boston, MA), New Republik (Cambridge, MA) and Three Needs (Burlington, VT).

What to expect

Rag Fair Inn will keep Bohem's high-quality Czech lager line as its foundation, served as always through Lukr side-pull taps and cooled via the traditional *'chladicí vana'* water bath. But beyond that, the venue is set to look and feel unlike its sister sites.

Expect a much bigger rotating craft beer selection, alongside shot-and-beer specials, tap takeover events, and an expanded spirits and cocktail programme — including rotating and seasonally themed cocktails and shots. The bar's Instagram will be the place to watch, with weekly beer-and-shot pairings and drink specials changing regularly, rather than sitting still.

The events calendar is packed too: trivia nights, themed music, karaoke, and even meet-and-greets with touring bands passing through town.

Food will stay limited but considered, mixing higher-end bar snacks with Bohem's traditional Czech offerings — with potential collaborations with local businesses also on the table.

Bill Hall, General Manager of Rag Fair Inn, said the goal is to make the new site a place people don't want to miss out on.

"We want to do something really new with this one. I almost want to foster a sense of *FOMO* — like if you're not checking in on that Instagram, or coming out to the bar, you don't know what you're missing."



Where Rag Fair got its name

Long before it was Royal Mint Street, this road was Rosemary Lane, and earlier still, on 16th-century maps, Hog Street. It was the birthplace of Rag Fair,

London's great second-hand clothes market and one of the city's earliest melting pots.

The name "Inn" is earned. Historian Ole Münch's book *Rag Fair* shows that pubs were the market's office, bank and meeting hall. Traders sealed their bargains over a pennyworth of rum or half a pint of beer, and local landlords lent collectors their weekly stock money. When residents tried to drive the market away, more than 2,000 street traders paid for their legal fight through a weekly collection in a neighbourhood pub. The neighbours could be fierce defenders too: in 1837 and 1838, residents of every faith sided with the traders against a dock company trying to shut the market.

In *London Labour and the London Poor* (1851), Henry Mayhew noted with amusement that Rosemary Lane "has in vain been re-christened Royal Mint-street". He found goods spread on old carpets, Irish voices on every side, traders who "smoke, and shout, and doze, and bargain, and wrangle", stalls of "American cheese", and a gin palace nearby.

Rag Fair's drinking reputation goes back even further. In Tobias Smollett's 1748 novel *Roderick Random*, a sailor mocks a shipmate by claiming his wife "kept a gin-shop in Ragfair", and the hero is seized by a press-gang on Tower Hill, just around the corner. An 18th-century ballad, *The Humours of Rag-Fair*, tells of a country visitor who comes to see the Crown Jewels and the lions at the Tower, wanders into the market by mistake, and is promised a pot of hot gin by one of the traders.

The exact opening date and further details will be confirmed soon — follow Bohem Brewery (***@bohembrewery***) and the bar Rag Fair Inn (***@ragfairinn***) on Instagram for updates as launch gets closer.

Notes to editors

- **Venue:** Rag Fair Inn, 61 Royal Mint Street, London E1 8LG (formerly Simmons), close to Tower Hill and Tower Gateway stations.
- **General Manager:** Bill Hall
- **About Bohem Brewery:**
  Bohem brews Czech-style lagers in London.
  Its venues include the Packington Arms, the Queens Arms, the Nicholas Nickleby and the Bohem Tap Room. www.bohembrewery.com
- **Images and interviews:** available on request.
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