

Tabula RASA Test Panel

The Annual Crub Pawl 2012

By Matthijs Geuze
 Tabula RASA

This intRAweek's pub crawl was bound to be a success. During the night of August 21st, the picturesque streets of Middelburg were filled with young superheroes roaming around the town. Little did those superheroes know that their true powers would be unleashed, having drunk the mighty elixir of joy. Some may argue that the superpower called 'remembrance' would worsen because of the elixir, but as our experience has taught us, the elixir made the young superheroes do things no single person will ever forget. Especially not when these freshmen take off their shirts and dance.

Although it was not possible to enjoy the pubs as much as people would have liked to, due to the insanely short amounts of spendable time at each pub, and the 'beverage discounts' offered instead of free drinks, our superheroes made the best out of this evening. Or in the case of the families 'Batman' and 'Aquaman', other people in Middelburg were entertained as well. Isn't it just epic when freshmen start dancing on top of bar stools - half naked - while belting a superhero-themed alteration of Bohemian Rhapsody?

For those students out there who were not - for whatever reason - capable of fully experiencing the bars, the Tabula RASA Test Panel would proudly like to help fill in the gaps. (Caution: Reviews may be slightly biased, due to the Panel's wholehearted dedication to the task at hand: providing truthful and honest reviews of the food and the one, or two, or three... or ten drinks being chugged, and 'tested')

For further information, check out the table. The Tabula RASA Test Panel decided to include the three most common consumptions at Dutch bars: beer, wine, and 'bitterballen'. A note to all the international students; if you have not tasted a 'bitterbal' yet, make sure you get to it!

1. Desafinado

The drink the students got offered was one of Desafinado's (twenty-eight) specialties: 'Lange Jan Beer'. This somewhat light, yet tasty, and herby beer is a must have at night when the idyllic view on the Lange Jan is at its best. This beer will also do very well during a warm summer day or when enjoyed with live jazz or blues in the background. Desafinado is a nice bar to chill out with friends, but might not be equipped adequately if you like to party hard.

Pro: Live music, nice beer, awesomely decorated bar
 Con: No dancing
 Grade: 7.5

4. Seventy-Seven

This is the place to be; the bar most of the students go to. It is fairly small, yet very cozy. You can attend the annual Primus Festivus over here, which is a party organized by fraternity Erodios and sorority Illicio at the beginning of every fall semester. We can assure you it is worth a visit: this fairly small bar makes a good place to dance a little, but have normal conversations as well. And as some of us superheroes proved in intRAweek: the bar stools can be stood on, half naked.

Pro: A lot of students, nice music
 Con: Fairly small
 Grade: 8.9

Isn't it just epic when freshmen start dancing on top of bar stools - half naked..."

2. 't Fust

All there is to say about this bar is that its interior and music are very nice and cozy; and that it provides a perfect place to hang out with friends. Playing pool and gambling is possible and smoking is allowed in the designated area. 't Fust is the 'local pub around the corner': nothing special, but a fun place to hang out every once in a while.

Pro: Nice music (and for smokers: a smoking area)
 Con: Not a student bar in particular
 Grade: 7

3. Tympaan

Tympaan is quite nice, but not very noticeable. Also, all they provided was a free shot (read: orange lemonade), but only once you bought a drink. Nevertheless, its location is very decent, being on the corner of 'the' block, and it is a nice starter for a pub crawl.

Pro: Nice location
 Con: Not very noticeable
 Grade: 5

5. Bommel

This café is similar to 't Fust, and is - despite it being the closest to RA - not really the place students usually go. Nevertheless, you will be able to find some RA students drinking beer, and meeting for whatever reason, every now and then. For dancing, this is not particularly the place to go to, but it will suffice when you are looking for 'gezelligheid'. Whenever you want to play the game 'Stef Stuntpiloot' (Looping Louis) over here, just call Bart van Gent and Laurens van Gestel, or send them a request on Facebook.

Pro: Have nice conversations, music is not too loud, nice location
 Con: No dancing
 Grade: 7

6. Geere

This bar, near Koestraat, has a nice atmosphere. Nevertheless, this judgment might be biased because of the chugging competition going on over here. Although one had to buy beer oneself, superheroes got the chance to chug Jupiler within five seconds. The Tabula RASA

Test Panel managed to chug it in two - yes, two - seconds. This may not be the place to be for students, but it is not bad at all.

Pro: Nice interior, very spacious
 Con: Not a student hotspot
 Grade: 6.9

7. Underground

This hipster place is actually quite nice. Sometimes, you will find live music over here, and it is a nice place to hang out when you are with some friends in need of deep conversation. The atmosphere is cozy, and they serve - according to the ladies - nice cocktails. The beverages they gave our brave superheroes tasted like slush puppies, but contained the strengthening elixir, nonetheless.

Pro: 'Gezelligheid' with an alternative edge
 Con: Not particularly a student hotspot
 Grade: 7

8. De Heeren

Only during the weekends this place can be nice, and full. The bar's pretty big and you'll enjoy yourself dancing all night. De Heeren, being right next to the adopted student bar Bumpers, makes this place less popular among students, though.

Pro: Nice music, nice interior, quite spacious, filled in the weekends
 Con: Not particularly a student hotspot
 Grade: 7.4

9. Bumpers

Student bar Barrel's substitute is doing pretty well. Although you cannot buy beer for €1,10 anymore, this bar is extremely fun when it is filled with RA students. The flashlight party over there was a great success, and the music might even be slightly better than it was in Barrel.

Pro: Nice music, packed with students every now and then, different sections to go to
 Con: It will get EXTREMELY hot
 Grade: 8.8

To conclude, the Tabula RASA Test Panel reckons going to Seventy-Seven is the best thing to do when you want to start going out. Too bad the bars 'De Rooie Oortjes', 'De Mug', and 'Mambo's' were not included in the pub crawl, as those places are quite popular among students as well. Although you may find many 40+ people in 'De Rooie Oortjes' (especially in the section on the right), the section on the left is quite nice too, when opened. This is one of the few places open until 04:00 AM. Furthermore, 'De Mug' is a student hotspot for those who want to enjoy the godly 'Notenwijn' (€3,-) - its specialty. Even those with a 'nut allergy' may drink this tasty beverage containing around 15% alcohol, because it's made of the cores of peaches. And as a last resort Mambo's is recommended, although Barrel and De Rooie Oortjes will do perfectly fine too! Mambo's is the 'après-ski bar' and is very nice when you're completely wasted. After a few games of kingscup, beer pong, and 'Stef Stuntpiloot' this is the place to go. Who says going out in Middelburg is completely impossible? We beg to differ.

Comparison Table Pubs

Bar	Beer	Wine	Bitterbal
1	€2.00	€3.00	€0.77
2	€2.10	€3.00	€0.44
3	€2.10	€3.50	€0.50
4	€2.00	€2.70	€0.69
5	€2.10	€3.00	€0.53
6	€2.10	€3.00	€0.59
7	€2.50	€2.80	NA
8	€2.00	€3.00	NA
9	€1.50	€2.50	NA

In this table you can find the bars (the number corresponds with the bar in the article), the price per 'beer' and 'wine' you would order, and the price per 'bitterbal'. Normally, bitterballen come in a pack of eight.

Write for Tabula RASA!
 Email us at
 tabularasa@roac.nl