

# Size matters

If you have ever walked into a strange pub, ordered a beer and got a blank stare from the barman, then you've probably been talking the wrong language. Evan Harding translates the jumble of terms given to beer glasses in Australia and New Zealand.



SCHOONER 15oz



HALF PINT 10oz



MIDDIE/POT 10oz

Take a trip to the United States and you'll notice they drive on the other side of the road. Travel to Europe and you might struggle with the language. Travel interstate and you might have trouble ordering a beer.

One of the subtle differences around Australia and New Zealand is the different names and sizes of beer glasses. Order what you're used to and you're likely to get a blank expression from the barman or, even worse, a completely different size of beer to what you'd hoped.

As we dedicated beer drinkers know, this is a very serious matter. The unfortunate who doesn't know his middie from his schooner is soon exposed as a tourist.

Even learning the names doesn't make you safe because a schooner in one state may be a very different vessel to a schooner in another.

For example, in New South Wales, where the schooner is most popular, the glass measures 425ml. But order a schooner in South Australia and you'll only get 285ml. In Victoria, a pot is the standard, also at 285ml. But the same glass is called a "middie" in New South Wales. Order a pot and you'll be treated with either contempt as an outsider or condescension as a newcomer.

It gets worse. In Queensland, the same 285ml glass is called a "ten", after its

10oz volume, although "pot" is generally accepted. At least in Western Australia, the 285ml glass is called the same as in NSW – a middie – but at some of the bigger tourist pubs it may also be called a "half" or a "half-pint", as the pint generally is a 20oz glass. Richard Moody of the Grosvenor Hotel in Perth puts this down to a "strong pint culture" among backpackers and other visitors.

"We get a lot of tourists here and when people ask for pots or schooners we just say that we have half-pints and show them the glass. Most will end up getting pints because that's what they know," he says.

But we can't even rely on a standard size for a pint. See, there is a pint, and an ➤

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PINT 20oz

#### Victoria

Glass	200mL	7oz
Pot	285mL	10oz
Pint	570mL	20oz

#### New South Wales/ACT

Seven	200mL	7oz
Middie	285mL	10oz
Schooner	425mL	15oz
Pint	570mL	20oz

#### Queensland

Seven	200mL	7oz
Ten/Pot	285mL	10oz
Pint	570mL	20oz

#### Northern Territory

Half Pint	285mL	10oz
Pint	570mL	20oz

#### Western Australia

Glass	200mL	7oz
Middie	285mL	10oz
Pint	570mL	20oz

#### South Australia

Butcher	200mL	7oz
Schooner	285mL	10oz
Pint	425mL	15oz
Imperial Pint	570mL	20oz

#### Tasmania

Glass	200mL	7oz
Ten	285mL	10oz
Pint	570mL	20oz

#### New Zealand

Half Pint	285mL	10oz
Handle	425-570mL	15-20oz

‘imperial pint’. The imperial pint is the 20oz glass (570ml), but many pubs will serve pints as 15oz (425ml). Ironically, an actual pint is somewhere in between, at 475ml.

The pint confusion is one that can't even be solved across the Tasman. Pints there will range from 15 to 20oz glasses, served in ‘handles’ – as the name suggests, glasses with a handle. Meanwhile, if you ask for a handle in Australia you won't get a pint. You'll get a smaller handle – a 10oz glass.

Then there is the smaller, 200ml ‘butcher’. Or so it is called in South Australia.

In Victoria and Western Australia it is simply a ‘glass’, while in the northern states it is called a ‘seven’, as in 7oz. The 7oz glass might be on the way out, however.

‘At the moment we mainly sell the 10 and 20oz glasses. We only carry a few seven ounce glasses for the handful of older drinkers who come in,’ says Moody.

Is there a ‘right’ glass to drink from?

Bill Taylor, head brewer at Lion Nathan Breweries says some beers are better drunk from certain size glasses.

‘I, as a brewer, prefer the 15oz down to the 7oz glass rather than the pint glass which is around 20oz,’ says Taylor.

‘The pint glass is more suited to an English style beer which has lower carbonation and is generally served at a higher temperature. Lager is better in a smaller glass so that there is the option of

getting a fresh glass. A 7-10oz glass you can drink while it's still cold and fresh.

Taylor adds, however, that in the end it will come down to personal preferences. ‘A lot of people prefer the 10-15oz glass and just enjoy the beer,’ he says.

But do we know which is which? Is a schooner the same as a pot? Or is it a pint? Is a pint a handle? Or is a handle the same as a pot? It seems the answer is to just order what you like. You can't always get what you want, but it's the beer you're drinking, not the glass. It's not as hard as driving on the other side of the road. ♦