



The burger at Trostel's Greenbriar topped with grilled onions and blue cheese with a Snake Dog IPA. *Eric Rowley/Juice*

Hit burger jackpot at Greenbriar

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Special to Juice

The burger: Instead of offering a plethora of burger choices, Trostel's Greenbriar has one selection with room for some culinary creativity. The restaurant's have-it-your way burger features a half-pound of grilled beef served with lettuce, tomato, onion and a pickle on the side. It comes with the option to customize with a list of toppings that include sautéed mushrooms, applewood-smoked bacon, grilled onions, cheddar, pepperjack and blue cheese.

I hit the jackpot with a combo of blue cheese and grilled onions. The tangy, creamy cheese melted onto the flavorful beef, and the thin, caramelized rings added a slightly crunchy texture. It's a free world, but I'd highly recommend this pairing. I'm not exaggerating when I say this could be my new favorite burger in Des Moines.

The bun: The lightly-toasted kaiser roll is large and hearty, and it gives you a good grip for the thick patty and toppings sandwiched between. It stays fluffy yet sturdy despite resistance from the gooey cheese.

The fixin's: Choose between crinkle-cut fries or the house salad. I opted for a salad with the house buttermilk ranch dressing, which was creamy and tart. The greens were served as an appetizer, which I liked, since we dined in the white-tablecloth restaurant area. Just be sure to ask for the patio and bar menu if you want the burger.

The beer: I counted 18 domestic and 12 import choices on Greenbriar's beer menu. Our waitress suggested the Snake Dog IPA (\$5) from Flying Dog Brewery in Maryland. The light coppery brew refreshed with citrus tones. It was a nice contrast to the sweet, grilled onions on the burger.

Greenbriar Burger

Find it: Trostel's Greenbriar, 5810 Merle Hay Road, Johnston

Price: \$10, plus \$1 for extra toppings (\$1.50 for blue cheese)

Hours: 5-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 5-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday through Friday.

Info: 253-0124