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VOLUME 6 | ISSUE 1 | June 2018 | FREE!



Jerrod Larsen of Tustin Brewing, Brad Kominek of Noble Ale Works and Jeremy Grinkey of Bruery Terreux brought home the Gold!

Photo Credit: Daniel Drennon

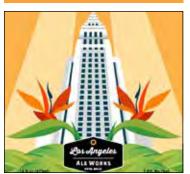
By Daniel Drennon

Thursday, May 3, 2018 in Music City, USA (#Nashville). Orange County brewers shock the world by winning twelve highly-coveted World Beer Cup medals. The WBC awards ceremony is attended by thousands of breweries from all over the world as the grand finale of the Craft Brewers Conference.

Like a Cinderella team in the NCAA basketball tournament, Tustin Brewing Company and Brewmaster Jerrod Larsen pulled the upset in the very first category of the night winning a Bronze for Clutch's American Wheat. TBC and Larsen later claimed the Gold medal for Portola Breakfast Stout, just nudging out Beachwood Huntington Beach and Brewmaster Julian Shrago, who claimed the Silver for Mocha Machine (along with three other medals). (FULL STORY ON PAGE 12)

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LA BREWERS GUILD

State of LA Beer 2018 By Frances Michelle Lopez

a decade can be the blink of an eye; the time between jobs, building families, graduating, falling in love, out of love, and figuring it all out. In LA beer years, a decade is the lifespan of our brewing community - a scene that is still evergrowing and changing. LA Beer Week celebrates its 10th anniversary this month and it has come a long way since its early days at the Descanso Gardens and Union Station. Founded in 2009 by a group of dedicated beer connoisseurs including Dennis Hartman, Jay Baum, Brandon Bradford, and Ryan Sweeney, LA Beer Week started off as a small event meant to introduce Los Angeles to worldclass beer

Los Angeles had little semblance of a beer landscape in those days; we were miles behind the communities of beer meccas a community was already developing. In for it. 2014, the founders of beer week gave a

Guild the privilege of inheriting LA Beer Week. It aligned perfectly with the Guild's mission to promote independent beer, and we knew that this was an opportunity to evolve this event to showcase our local

Our membership numbers were steadily on the rise and we had enough brewery friends from all around the country to put together an exciting list of participants; championing those who were dedicated to quality, locality, and fresh beer. Growing from its humble roots was no easy feat. As a nonprofit organization, our Guild relies on generous supporters who have doubled down on our small, local businesses with sponsorships and events. Our organization and the community we have helped foster in the last five years wouldn't be possible like Portland, San Diego, and Denver. But without that support and we are grateful

development of culture in LA, craft beer still not a household name. Local, independent beer is not ubiquitous in our local venues and it's not often available on the average restaurant or bar tap list. Our mission is far from over. I've mentioned the word "independent" in this column a couple of times now and with good reason. As I have mentioned in the past, Big Beer and its slew of mergers and acquisitions is a direct threat to our craft beer industry and this volatile climate for breweries has not calmed. Not only are we fighting for space on a tap list or store shelf, we're fighting to uphold fair trade practices and oppose legislation that could kill small businesses and give Big Beer unfair advantages.

breweries and our Guild a chance to Director of the Los Angeles County really put craft at the forefront, but it is Brewers Guild and probably drinks too consistent long-term support that will much coffee. keep us all going. As we raise our glasses

How do you quantify a decade? For some, brand-new Los Angeles County Brewers But despite the tremendous growth and to 10 years of LA Beer Week, the Guild is celebrating its five-year milestone of being its caretaker, which is why we urge you not only to support our local brewery tasting rooms, but to also patronize the hundreds of amazing bars, restaurants, venues, and shops who elect to support local beer. Don't see a local tap handle available? Ask for it. Help us convince businesses that there is demand for local brews. Find yourself somewhere where only "crafty" non-independent beer is available? Help us educate the market and ask businesses to seek out the Brewers Association's certified independent craft seal or a brewery listed on our website. Our supporters are our strongest allies and our most effective advocates and we would not be a community without them.

Events like LA Beer Week give our Frances Michelle Lopez is the Executive



Unity Brew Day at LA Ale Works Photo Credit: John Verive

Beachwood

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Beer Paper is an online and monthly print publication dedicated to providing and promoting news, commentary, education, and growth for the craft beer communities of Los Angeles and Orange County. Our contributors are all beer writers and industry professionals.

> OWNER/PUBLISHER/EDITOR: Daniel Drennon CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Josh Cortez **HEAD WRITER: Daniel Drennon**

> > **SENIOR CONTRIBUTORS:** Tomm Carroll, John M. Verive

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS: Joe Kurowski, Frances Lopez, Erin Peters

ORANGE COUNTY ACCOUNTS: Brian Navarro

SOUTH BAY ACCOUNTS: Paul Brauner

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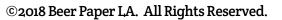
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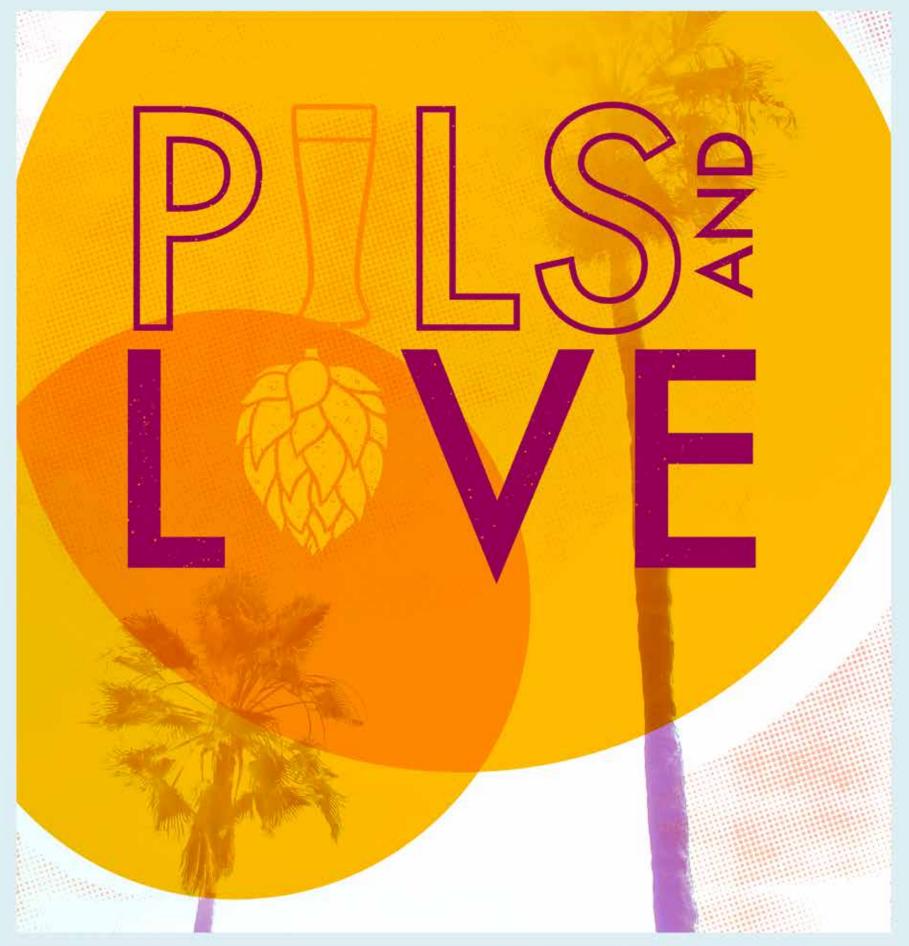
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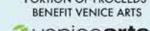
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PORTION OF PROCEEDS





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LA BEER WEEK

10 Ways to Celebrate the 10TH Annual LA Beer Week By John M. Verive

Beginning on June 16th, the collective Los Angeles independent beer community - the brewers and brewery workers, the retailers and bartenders, and most importantly the consumers and fans will come together for another LA Beer Week. But this is not just another beer week, it's the tenth installment of the week-long conglomeration of events, special releases and general industry comradery!

The local industry isn't just growing, it's changing and weathering new challenges and finding new triumphs as it matures. LA Beer Week was started back in 2008 to increase awareness of the upstart breweries and neighborhood-favorite beer bars, and it must have worked. Back then there were about a dozen breweries in LA Country. Today there are over 80.

honor of the LABW 10, here are 10 ways you can join the party, pitch in to support the movement and to help LA Beer continue to flourish.

LA Beer Week Kickoff Festival

Once again held downtown at LA Center Studios, the marquee Beer Week event is the best place to show your support for the scene and to taste the best that LA breweries have to offer. On the afternoon of Saturday, June 16th, some 65 local $breweries\,will\,offer\,up\,samples\,alongside$ a select group of guest breweries from around the country (including Cellarmaker, Green Cheek, Modern Times and a dozen others). This year also features more new LA county breweries than ever before.

That is something to celebrate, and in Check out labeerweek.org for details and to purchase tickets. Admission to the festival is \$50, or \$75 if you go for the VIP package which includes a nicer commemorative glass, an early entrance one hour before the general admission, and access to a new VIP area with some special brews and precious shade.

Drink Unity - the official beer of LA Beer

LA Beer Week is all about the local brewers coming together to get Angelenos excited about the local scene, and since 2010 they've collaborated on a special brew to commemorate beer week. Unity is a beer that changes styles, and host breweries from year-to-year, with brewers from across Los Angeles chipping in on recipe development, ingredient sourcing, and coming together for a collaborative brew

Eagle Rock Brewery handled the brewing for the first few years, turning out a California common, a saison flavored with tamarind, a Berliner-style rye with prickly pear cactus, a red mild colored with hibiscus and a citrusy pale ale that featured all California-grown ingredients. Smog City Brewery, Three Weavers and El Segundo Brewing Co also brewed Unity batches in the past few years, and Hawthorne's own Los Angeles Ale Works hosted the collaborative brew this year — with a twist.

Nearly a hundred representatives from breweries around the county were on hand at LA Ale Works to brew Unity 2018 — a West Coast IPA double dry hopped with El Dorado, Idaho 7 and Simcoe hops. But one brew just wasn't enough for LA Ale Works founder Kristofor Barnes; he championed a double-release pitting the classic IPA style against an ultra-trendy juicy IPA. "We wanted to spark discussion about the two IPA styles," Barnes says, and the double can release of Unity 2018 goes down at the Hawthorne brewery on June 6th. Limited quantities of the beers LA's independent breweries didn't grow will be available at LA bars and retailers as well

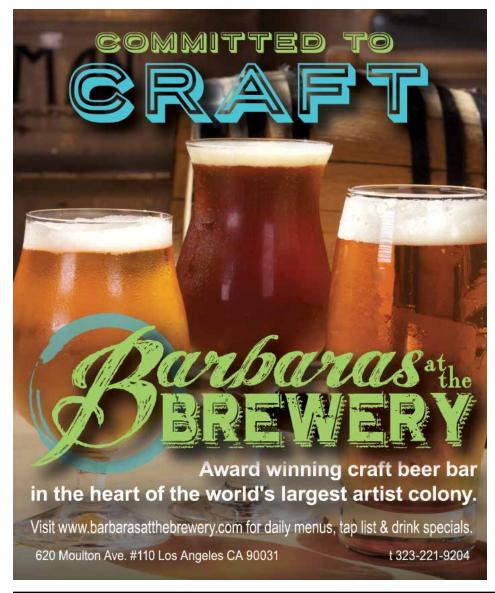


Support your local beer bars, restaurants and bottle shops

Speaking of LA bars and retailers, spending some of your precious beer week time and money at local beer bars, bottle shops and beer-forward restaurants is more important than ever. It's no secret that as the LA scene has ballooned, so has the popularity of brewery tasting rooms as a place to gather and drink, but many beer retailers are feeling squeezed. More people drinking at breweries and stocking up at can releases means less money spent at the pub. Without the foundation of great beer-forward bars, the LA scene wouldn't be nearly as vibrant and successful, and it's worth thanking the old guard (think Barbara's at the Brewery, 38 Degrees, Tony's Darts Away, Verdugo, Blue Palms, Lucky Baldwins, Stuffed Sandwich, House of Billiards, Naja's Place, etc.) by supporting their Beer Week events or just posting up for a pint or two.

Introduce someone to craft beer - Dad perhaps?

into the thriving community based on just the patronage of the longtime craft beer lover; the LA scene was built on converting drinkers from macro-brews,



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wine and cocktails to flavorful craft musical talents of a host of beer industry beers. It might seem that everyone is a craft beer fan these days, but I bet you know a few people who'd still rather stock hazy IPA. Beer Week is the perfect time people you're with. to take an intrepid friend or relative to an event and show them what independent beer is all about.

Coincidentally, the Sunday after LA Beer Week 10 kicks-off is Father's Day — why not put together a sampler pack of some of your favorite local brews to share with your pop, or take him to your favorite brewery for a pint or two?

<u>LA Brewers Guild Enthusiast Membership</u>

The Los Angeles Country Brewers Guild (LABG) organizes LA Beer Week, but the organization does much more behind the scenes. "We're all about education," says Guild President and Smoq City Brewery co-founder Laurie Porter. Besides helping spread the word of independent beer to the consumers, the Guild helps LA breweries share knowledge and resources. But the Guild's own resources are modest. Funded primarily by ticket sales to the Beer Week Kickoff Festival and dues paid by member breweries, the budget is tight, and Executive Director Frances Michelle Lopez (read her article in this issue), the lone employee of the non-profit, says that time is even more precious than the Guild's funds.

You can help support the Guild directly, and help the LA scene continue to develop, by joining the Enthusiasts Program. The \$50 annual dues unlock a long list of perks and discounts (including discounted Festival admission and cheaper beer at breweries around town). Check out www.labrewersquild. org/enthusiasts/ for all the details.

Four more headline events

If LABW had a Coachella-flyer for its events, the Kickoff Festival would be at the top in the biggest typeface, but the next couple of almost-as-big lines would comprise some of the most fun beer events of the year. It would look a little like this:

The Battle of the (Beer) Bands — Tuesday, June 19th at 6 p.m.

Held in Highland Park's Hi Hat club and featuring a lineup of guest taps and craft cans, this raucous concert showcases the

pros. It's absurd, heartfelt and beersoaked, and it's an example of the best kind of beer event: there's plenty of great a six-pack of Tecate than a four-pack of beer, but it takes a backseat to the great

> Battle of the Guilds — Thursday, June 21st at 6 p.m.

> Held right on the waterfront at Naja's Place, this battle pits the brewers from LA against the allies/rivals from the San Francisco and San Diego guilds. The golden keg trophy is on the line, so get to Redondo Beach and vote for your favorite local brewery!

BFE Fest — Friday, June 22nd at 7 p.m.

Hosted by Wolf Creek Brewing in Santa Clarita, this festival celebrates those breweries that hold down the vast borderlands of the county. In its fourth year, the event is a great reminder that the scene is also thriving outside of Torrance/DTLA/Long Beach hotspots.

<u>1st Annual Brewmo Pseudo-Sumo</u> Showdown — Saturday, June 23rd at

A new event organized by Three Weavers Brewery to close-out the week, you'll watch brewers from around LA don those inflatable "Sumo" suits and go head-tohead for "glory" in the Three Weavers parking lot.

Share your Beer Week experiences on social media

Craft beer couldn't have emerged from the shadow of the macro brewers without the power of social media, and the online communities that have emerged as a kind of virtual common room for LA's beer lovers to congregate help spread the good word about great beer. The official hashtag for the week is #LABW10, so be sure to tag those posts, Untappd check-ins, and pics (and while you're at it, please tag those Instagram shots with #beerpaperla too)!

John Verive is Southern California native and freelance writer dedicated to growing the craft beer scene in Los Angeles. He's is a Certified Cicerone®, the founder of Beer of Tomorrow (www. BeerofTomorrow.com), and he covers the beer-beat for the Los Angeles Times. Find him on Twitter and Instagram at @ octopushat and @beeroftomorrow.



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WISHFUL DRINKING

Dinking Japanese for LA Beer Week By Tomm Carroll

One sign of Los Angeles' fast-growing reputation as a craft beer destination and a still-untapped (pardon the pun) massive market for better beer, other than its ever-increasing number of independent breweries (75 at last count), is the desire of non-local, craft-oriented businesses to set up shop here. San Diego's Karl Strauss and Modern Times have both launched brewpubs in our city limits, and Danish brewer Mikkeller opened the largest of its worldwide array of beer bars also downtown, all within the last 18 months.

Add to that international interest the Harajuku Taproom, which quietly opened in Culver City last fall. Not a brewery, but an izakaya (a casual Japanese gastropub serving small-plate dishes), Harajuku Taproom is the first US location of Japan's Baird Brewing, which owns a chain of six similar taprooms throughout the Land of the Rising Sun, and is named after the Baird izakaya in the eponymous

neighborhood of Tokyo's popular Shibuya district. Like its namesake, the LA location specializes in yakitori-style grilled meat and vegetables, and also features a dozen of Baird's year-round beers, plus seasonals and a few local quest handles, all fresh and tappu suru

Participating in its first LA Beer Week, Harajuku is holding a week-long Celebration of Japanese Craft Beer (jibiiru) Monday, June 18-Sunday, June 24, with the kick-off event scheduled for Tuesday, June 19 starting at 6:00 p.m. Along with the regular offering of Baird brews, the celebration will include hardto-find Baird beers such as the hoppy Dark Sky Imperial Stout and Yabai Yabai Strong Scotch Ale, sweetened with Japanese Korizato (rock candy), plus New Belgium's Bicycle Kick Kölsch — a multibrewer international collaboration beer (with Baird representing Japan) in honor



Baird Brewing's Bryan Baird, left, and Harajuku Taproom LA's Adam Guttentag, right, with Baird's brother and father at the original Harajuku Taproom in Tokyo Photo Credit: Baird Brewing/Harajuku Taproom

of this summer's World Cup tournament Beer Paper: What are your thoughts Adam Guttentag.

craft brewers like Coedo and Hitachino will be featured, and their West Coast distributor reps (pending availability) will be on hand to pour some bottled samples of their beers to quests. Also planned for the tap list is a Japaneseinfluenced beer from LA brewery Beachwood Blendery: Umeboshi sour ale, fermented in oak with plums and sea salt. Other local beers were being considered at press time. A special flight of mixed beers from several Japanese craft breweries will be offered as well.

And on the 19th, Guttentag — a longtime friend and supporter of Bryan Baird, a fellow American who founded Baird Brewing with his wife Sayuri in Numazu, Japan in 2000 — will discuss Baird beers BP: Do you see the LA location as the and the brewery's ethos, and yours first of several US outposts for Baird truly will give a brief talk, sharing an American's perspective about visiting Japan's beer bars and breweries, as well as judging international brewing competitions there.

Bryan Baird himself is in Japan and unable to attend the LA event, but he did agree to an e-mail interview about it, Harajuku Taproom LA and the state of craft beer in Japan. Following are some edited excerpts:

according to Harajuku proprietor on Harajuku Taproom LA holding this Japanese craft beer event as part of LA Beer Week? And did you see LA as the Additionally, beers from other Japanese obvious stateside location at which to export your taproom concept?

> Bryan Baird: I am fully enthusiastic about this! Japan's craft beer scene is relatively unknown in the US, and I think events like this are great opportunities to promote Japan's craft beer, as well as the culture of its izakaya pub-restaurant scene.

> Harajuku Taproom LA is not just about the name; it's about our original Harajuku Taproom (Tokyo) concept: lovingly crafted, world-class Japanese craft beer served within the context of an authentic Japanese izakaya. Demographically, LA is an ideal market in which to launch a movement campaign such as this.

taprooms in the States?

BB: Both Adam and our Japan Baird Brewing management team share an ambition to open several outlets in the US. I have never met an American who has visited Japan who doesn't love a good Japanese izakaya experience.

BP: The inspiration for most of your beers seem to be nicely balanced US takes on the classic styles from the UK, Germany and Belgium. How do you decide to which ones you'll add a "Japanese touch?"



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tradition than it does in US brewing craft included. For us, "Less is more."

developed?

BB: Yes, we believe our "fruited" ales and beer. Is that true? lagers — incorporating locally grown and in-season whole fruit (no processed extracts) — which are subtle and balanced, are very uniquely Japanese. We also brew a beer called Wabi-Sabi Japan Pale Ale that we believe is a completely Japanese take on the Pale Ale style. It is herbal, earthy and dry, and rendered that way through deft additions of locally grown, whole-root wasabi and green tea.

BP: When I was last in Japan in 2016, it seemed there were very few Japanese sour beers, and the ones I had tried were not very good. Has that changed at all?

BB: No. The market for traditional/classic "craft beer" still hasn't taken strong root in Japan, so why would brewers jump full into sour beer brewing when they

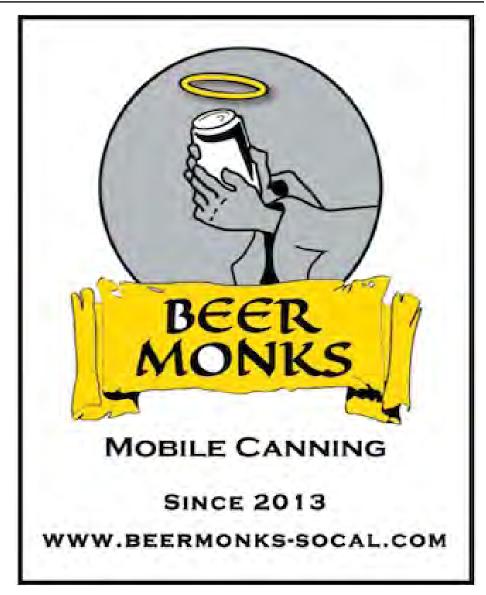
BB: All of our beers are inspired by the are struggling to sell less exotic stuff? Japanese cultural esthetic, which prizes
The brewing of excellent sour beer takes simplicity and balance within the rubric experience, time, capital and great of complexity. A similar esthetic exits passion. Remember, sour beers really more in European beer culture and didn't start to gain traction in the US until the third decade of the craft beer renaissance.

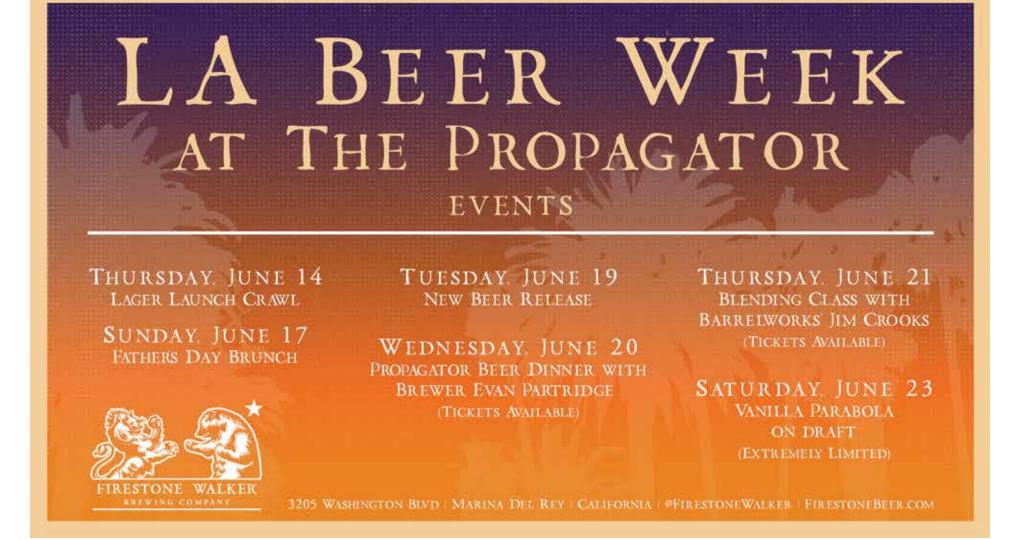
BP: While historically there are no BP: Also, during my visits to Japan in indigenous Japanese beers, are there the last several years, I found a lot of any uniquely Japanese styles that have Japanese craft beer that contained diacetyl — and was told that many Japanese like that buttery taste in their

(Continued on page 11)



Baird Brewing's Bryan Baird, with Harajuku Taproom LA's Adam Guttentag outside of Baird Brewing's production brewery in Shuzenji, Japan Photo Credit: Baird Brewing/Harajuku Taproom







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(WISHFUL DRINKING continued)

BB: That's utter bullshit. Diacetyl is about poor brewing. The real problem with Japanese craft beer, as an industry, is too much mediocrity and too little excellence. That's why the industry here has barely grown in nearly 25 years.

BP: Do Japanese independent craft breweries play nice with each other, like their US counterparts — more collaborative than competitive? Also, what are their attitudes toward Japanese Big Beer?

BB: On a brewer level, there is much camaraderie in Japan craft beer. However, the vast majority of brewers are hired employees of companies whose primary business isn't even beer brewing. On a corporate level, there is very little cooperation and camaraderie among Japan's craft brewing companies. I don't think there is a strong and united Japanese craft beer industry feeling regarding the behavior of Japanese industrial brewers.

BP: Where do you see Japan's craft brewing industry going — in the next five, or ten years? It's a niche product,

for sure, but is that niche still growing?

BB: It is niche, it remains niche, and the word "craft" is beginning to be coopted by big brewers in Japan, who are wielding it widely in application to the specialty beers they brew. There is no recognized definition of "craft beer" here. I'm not sure what this will mean for authentic Japanese craft brewers over time. I frankly don't know what the future of craft beer in Japan will look like several years out.

So drink it while you can! Celebrate the Far East on the Westside at the Harajuku Taproom (www.hjtaproom.com) at 4410 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City, 90230, on June 19 with some ji-biiru and yakitori, as well as omotenashi (Japanese hospitality). Check out the Harajuku Taproom's Facebook page (@harajukutaproomla) for the latest event information. Kanpai!

Award-winning beer writer Tomm Carroll has judged the International Beer Cup competition in Yokohama, Japan in 2015 and 2016. He also teaches a craft beer class at UCLA Extension (next course starts June 25; www.uclaextension.edu). Contact him at beerscribe@earthlink.net.





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COVER STORY

OC Brewers Rule the World By Daniel Drennon

Thursday, May 3, 2018 in Music City, USA (#Nashville). Orange County brewers shock the world by winning twelve highly-coveted World Beer Cup medals. The WBC awards ceremony is attended by thousands of breweries from all over the world as the grand finale of the Craft **Brewers Conference.**

Like a Cinderella team in the NCAA basketball tournament, Tustin Brewing Company and Brewmaster Jerrod Larsen pulled the upset in the very first category of the night winning a Bronze for Clutch's American Wheat. TBC and Larsen later claimed the Gold medal for Portola Breakfast Stout, just nudging out Beachwood Huntington Beach and Brewmaster Julian Shrago, who claimed the Silver for Mocha Machine (along with three other medals).

Noble Ale Works in Anaheim, bad ass brewers Brad Kominek and Matt Fantz, grabbed Gold for Nobility in one of the most challenging categories of the night, Evan Price of Green Cheek Imperial India Pale Ale, which had 196 entries.

Bruery Terreux and Jeremy Grinkey, aka Sour Jesus, also nabbed a Gold for Train to Beersel in the Wood and Barrel-Aged Sour Beer category to complete OC's trifecta of Gold medals.

Orange County brewers kept up the momentum throughout the night by winning five Silver medals, led by Green Cheek and super-brewer Evan Price grabbing that spot in by far the most competitive category of the night, American IPA, with an astounding 377 entries. Getting #2 in IPA ain't no joke and Green Cheek's sublime Radiant Beauty pulled it off.

mentioned above, Beachwood (Huntington Beach) nabbed the silver for Mocha Machine in Coffee Stout or Porter and also for Udder Love in the Sweet Stout or Cream Stout category. And while we are singing the praises of Orange County's artistry in brewing, let me give a well-deserved shout out to owner Jeff Duggan, as well as Head Roaster Adam Rizzo, at Portola Coffee Roasters. Portola collaborated with Tustin Brewing on the Gold medal-winning Portola Breakfast Stout but their wonderful coffee is also



in Beachwood's Silver medal-winning Bronze for Tustin Brewing. Mocha Machine and Pablo Escobeer.

Another Cinderella story for the OC was relative newcomer Docent Brewing (brewer Brian Giesen) in San Juan Capistrano winning their Silver in the hotly-contested American-Style Pale Ale category with 182 entries. Consider the fact that they got nudged out by iconic Firestone Walker Brewing company, one of the most revered and award-winning breweries in the world. Brewmaster/ Magician Matt "Merlin" Brynildson and his crew ONLY took home a measly three Golds and a Silver from Nashville this

Costa Mesa's Barley Forge won their Silver in the Field Beer category for The Patsy. BF owner Greg Nylen, when asked for a comment, replied, "Head of Brewing Operations Kevin Buckley-Volken is the genius behind The Patsy!" Well done,

And then there were the four Bronze medal winners: Artifex from San Clemente, Hoparazzi from Anaheim, Brewery Rex from Fullerton (though they are still looking for an actual brewery location in the OC), and the aforementioned start-of-the-night

Hoparazzi, owner Lisa Perez, grabbed their Bronze for Heat of the Night in the Chili Beer category. Brewery Rex and owner/brewmaster Tyler King got theirs for Raspberry Rickey in the Berliner-Style Weiss category.

Talk about a bookend story of ruling the world beer cup awards, Tustin's Bronze was the first category of the night. Artifex and Brewmaster Johnny Johur won Bronze for HoliDAVE in the Firestone Walker Barrelworks (Buellton) American-Style Imperial Stout category in literally the last award of a two-plus hour ceremony. There were 101 categories of beer styles and OC won coming and going. We tip our Beer Paper ball caps to your remarkable performance in Nashville!

Other Regional World Beer Cup Medal Winners (alphabetical):

GOLD MEDALS:

Figueroa Mountain Brewing (Buellton) for "I Dunkled in My Pants."

Firestone Walker Brewing (Paso Robles) for "STIVO," for "DBA/Double Barrel Ale," and "C-Hops." (3 Golds)

Photo Credit: Daniel Drennon

Golden Road (Los Angeles) for "Mango

SILVER MEDALS:

Beachwood BBQ & Brewing (Long Beach) for "Pablo Escobeer."

Figueroa Mountain Brewing (Arroyo Grande) for "Red Rock."

Figueroa Mountain Brewing (Westlake Village) for "Stagecoach Stout."

for "Krieky Bones."

MacLeod Ale Brewing (Van Nuys) for "Van ICE."

No Clue Craft Brewery (Rancho Cucamonga) for "Belgian Honey Blonde."

BRONZE MEDALS:

Beachwood BBQ & Brewing (Long Beach) for "Hoppa Emeritus."

Casa Agria Specialty Ales (Oxnard) for "El

Institution Ale Company (Camarillo) for "Restraint."

MadeWest Brewing (Ventura) "MadeWest Donlon."

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Noble Ale Works getting Gold

Photo Credit: Daniel Drennon



Charlie Papazian of the BA, Julian Shrago, Pl Fauna Shrago, and Ryan Fields with Beachwood Photo Credit © Brewer's Association



Artrifex with their Bronze

Photo Credit © Brewer's Association Docent Brewing snags a Silver



Jerrod Larsen of Tustin Brewing

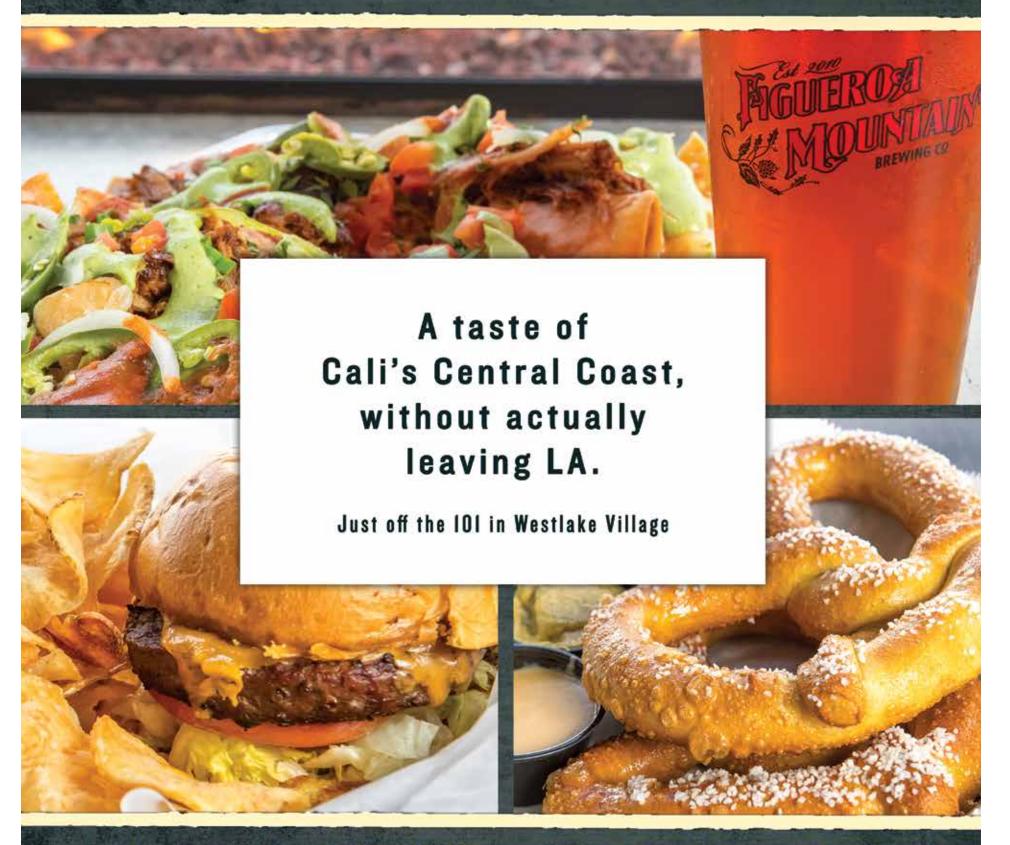
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BREWER'S CORNER

What We Talk About When We Talk About Yeast By Joe Kurowski

Remember that movie Dead Poets Society? It was about a bunch of prep school kids set emotionally and intellectually free by their exuberant English professor played by Robin Williams. Prior to Robin Williams coming in, a straight-laced, stoic, stuck-in-his-ways teacher was trying to teach poetry to these kids. He looked like he'd shake his cane at the neighborhood rabble rousers to get off his effing lawn. In this particular scene, the old professor is explaining how to rate the caliber of poems. He rattles off about meter, rhymes, structure and stanzas from a dusty, worn textbook. In short, he explains how to rate and measure poetry, but misses the most critical and unmeasurable attribute: the beauty and individuality of the art.

As a brewer at a yeast company, I can relate to that old professor. We have a catalog of 500+ yeast strains and can list the measurable traits for every single one of them: phenotype, genetics, attenuation, metabolites, ester production, alcohol tolerance, flocculation and pitch rates. By listing these traits, we can distinguish gross differences; like between an ideal strain for ales or a good Belgian yeast strain. We're essentially differentiating Shel Silverstein between Shakespeare. It doesn't take a brewing scholar. But somehow the list of traits must be incomplete because the sum of all these parts doesn't equal the whole. In the brewing industry, in the way we talk about yeast, we are missing something. We're missing the part that says what makes this strain good.



Joe Kurowski of White Labs

This is a difficult concept to discuss. Yeast is a living, single-cell organism. Life is complicated, even when you're dealing with it one cell at a time. Some qualities in yeast are obviously desirable: high viability, free of contaminants. But there are much less measurable things, too.

One of my European colleagues likes to emphasize the pronoun 'she' for yeast. 'She' because by definition, all yeast cells are mothers and daughters. As living, adapting organisms, we cannot always measure her behavior. She gets moody and doesn't like some environments, while going too fast in others. All of this behavior, whether measurable or mysterious, reminds us that we are making a living food product. We are trying to make a tasty beer. Our list of

Photo Credit: White Labs

quantifiable traits won't tell us if she will make a tasty beverage, only if she can.

It's up to the brewer to set up the yeast strain in a proper environment for her to work as desired. Perhaps that's why some brewers refer to their job as yeast wranglers. They are only there to guide these strains into the proper environment, the golden fields of liquid barley for free-range yeast. Each little gal roams with her own personality. Some of them are finicky and others are hardy. The hardy ones are who you want to choose for your house strain. The one you always want bubbling away in the brewhouse. You know you rely on her in a tough spot; pushing her through umpteenth generations a delayed pitch left in the cone on a 10% beer over Memorial Day

weekend. She's a workhorse. That's probably the best compliment given to a strain of yeast. It doesn't matter if the majority of the brewery's lineup are ales, lagers or Belgians, you always want to find that brewery workhorse.

Of course, brewing is a mix of hard science and soft touches. That's the nature of yeast; her personality imprinted on the whole process. Brewing is manipulating enzymes, cell structures and metabolic pathways through engineered stainless steel vessels, pipes and pumps in temperature controlled environments; through hard science, biological, chemical and mechanical systems. Brewers control these parameters to let the yeast take it away and make beer that we are looking for a sensory perception, taste.

That is the brewer's relationship with her. It is controlling what we can and relying on replication to control the loose relationships with perception, aroma and taste. The brewer has to be able to read those primary traits to choose the strain of yeast, then use tools to manage her environment to her liking. And even with modern equipment, cell counters, PLCs, temperature controllers, flow controllers and everything else that engineers have come up with over the years to tighten the process, it is still a process based on history and tradition. Brewers basically do things as they had written them down for the past couple hundred years, carrying on with the

(Continued on page 17)









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(BREWER'S CORNER continued)

blessing of our brewing forefathers.

The brewer's yeast strain and the environment you've created with hops, salts, grains and water, live together to become the beer. The artistry is in both the process and the ingredients. It is a soft power to now make this beer taste as the brewer expects. In the fermenter, it's a slow game and often relies on the patience and handling of the hosting yeast wrangler. And with the right talents and tools, the brewer can craft the beer envisioned. You can manipulate the environment to hit the specifications of the look, aroma and taste of the beer by changing the temperature, time and procedure. By knowing the strain of yeast in the fermenter, you get to know what moves will help, like "re-circ'ing" or head pressure, depending on how the yeast is acting. The brewer has to control the hard parameters to control the yeast.

That is the balanced relationship between brewer and yeast. The brewer has to control what they can to get that yeast to work. It is a balance of ingredients, process and strain selection throughout the brewhouse. Controlling the parameters when you can but understanding the process of living

yeast. The brewer needs to know her moods and when to use finesse, knowing when to rely on your house strain. So if you ever come across someone talking yeast, have a greater appreciation if you hear, "Yeah, she just worked through that beer. What a workhorse."

Joe Kurowski is the senior brewing manager at White Labs. He has his Bachelor's Degree in Biochemistry from the University of California, San Diego; completed the University of California, Davis' Master Brewers Program; and also holds a diploma in brewing from IBD. White Labs is an international company headquartered in San Diego, California that provides pure liquid yeast, fermentation products, services, analysis and education to professionals and enthusiasts alike.



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VENTURA PROFILE

MadeWest Brewing Takes Home a Medal at The World Beer Cup® By Erin Peters

When Founder and Head Brewer Mike helped grow MadeWest? Morrison along with Co-Founder & CEO Seth Gibson started the concept of MadeWest Brewing about six years ago, they were thinking about something pretty small.

Fast forward to Spring 2018. The awardwinning brewery serves their quality beers in 14,000 square feet of industrial space in Ventura. MadeWest opened its doors in January 2016 and was the fifth brewery to open in Ventura. They are projecting to produce 4,000 barrels this year. The 3,000 sq. ft. taproom is abundant with open space and the outdoor patio boasts distant views of the Channel Islands.

Morrison and Seth Gibson are Ventura natives and lifelong friends. Morrison homebrewed for about a decade before opening. He got valuable pointers from the Ballast Point team in San Diego.

Peters: You were a home brewer in San Diego for eight years, correct? What did you take from that experience that's

Morrison: Yep, and I brewed for a couple years in Ventura as well while we were planning out the brewery. As a home brewer, I always brewed each batch to be better than the last and I think that has helped grow MadeWest. I want to be sure we are always putting out the best possible beer we can.

Peters: How would you describe your brewery to someone who's never been

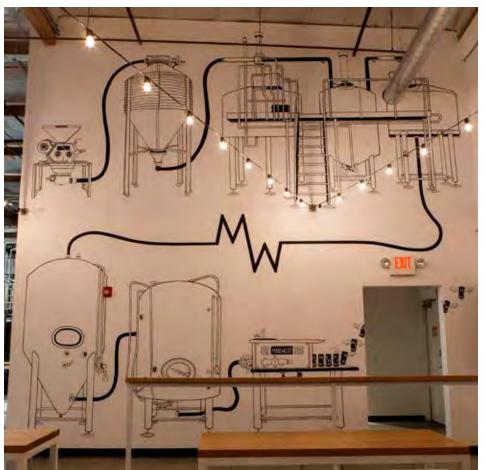
Morrison: Clean and simplistic with no frill. A bar top separates the brewhouse from the tasting room and there are a couple hand-painted black and white murals by our graphic designer. The interior space opens out to a patio with a view of the Channel Islands that makes for killer sunsets. We have rotating food trucks 7 days a week and live music Thursday to Sunday. It's a good atmosphere. Come check it out.

Peters: What's your philosophy on craft



MadeWest making great beer

Photo Courtesy of MadeWest Brewing



MadeWest Tasting room

Photo Courtesy of MadeWest Brewing





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Morrison: Craft Beer to me is all about pretty rad. It was very humbling to win the passion shared by both the makers amongst so many amazing breweries and the drinkers for this unique, innovative beverage we love to enjoy. It we had to leave the award ceremony early builds community and connects people to catch our flight. We were streaming like nothing else.

Peters: In 2016, you started distribution with Stone Brewing. How has that changed or helped your reach and brand?

Morrison: Stone distribution has been solid and they do an excellent job. It's great to be with an independent distributor and within a portfolio of awesome breweries. Joining their team Morrison: The biggest surprise is has opened a lot of doors for us and it's how much time you spend fixing and been cool to see our beer up and down the coast of Southern California. We're definitely brewing a lot to keep up with the demand, and we just brought in two more 90-barrel tanks to help with that.

Peters: You recently took home a bronze for your Donlon IIPA, in the Imperial India Pale Ale category. Tell me about your and the brewery's reactions when you first heard the news. How did you first hear about it?

Morrison: We were shocked. Everyone enters hoping they take home an award, but the fact that we actually did was

that enter that category. Unfortunately, the awards live when Seth yelled Donlon! I actually didn't believe him because I honestly forgot we had entered that beer. I was pretty giddy, once I knew it was no

Peters: You've been in business for two years now. What's been the biggest surprise, learning lesson or hurdle and proudest moment?

maintaining equipment. Every day is a new adventure. Brewing is the easy part. Troubleshooting, diagnosing, and repairing are draining, but somehow it all ends up working out. [The biggest learning lesson is to] Be wise with where you choose to cut costs. [Our proudest moment was] The World Beer Cup award was pretty epic; but the positive response we continue to receive from our community really makes me feel good.

(Continued on page 20)

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(VENTURA PROFILE continued)

Peters: Tell me more about your beer delivery options. How does one order with you and what are the additional costs?

Morrison: We just launched our online store and we're now shipping beer directly to your door. You can buy all of our core beers and specialty releases too. We ship the beer in a custom cold packed insulated box and deliver anywhere in California within 1-2 days. It's super easy to order, you get play by play tracking via email or text message, our site is very user friendly, and we have great customer service. The coolest thing is that it gives our customers outside of Ventura a chance to get their hands on our beer, especially the small batch stuff

that you can't find in stores or bars.

Peters: Where can people find the Pizza Port "Hazy Lines" collaboration? Any more collaborations coming down the pike (or breweries you'd like to collaborate with)?

Morrison: Unfortunately, it's sold out. It was available in our taproom and web-store for a short bit, but it sold out fast. There was a small batch that went with Stone, so there is a chance it's floating around on tap or at a bottle shop somewhere. We were really stoked on the way that turned out and it was pretty sweet to brew with Pizza Port! For current collaboration plans, we're in the process of locking down dates with Fieldwork and Kern River...super pumped!



Canning line

Peters: What are some of the craft beer Morrison: There wasn't really a scene trends you like that are out there and why? And how about your favorite hops or experimental hops?

Morrison: I'm always a fan of trying something new, as long as it tastes good. We wouldn't have the delicious beer we have today if we were confined to brewing classic styles. Mosaic is always fun. We brewed a light lager recently that I dry hopped with Mosaic and it turned out great. I'm looking forward to doing more of it.

Peters: What do you love about the craft beer industry?

Morrison: I've always loved the comradery of the brewing industry. So much of what I've learned is from other brewers being so open and willing to share their knowledge and I love to do the same.

Peters: What are your thoughts on the Ventura/VC beer scene now, compared to say, five years ago?

before. There was one production brewery, but now there's a solid crew of

us and there are some great beers coming

out of Ventura.

Photo Courtesy of MadeWest Brewing

Peters: What other breweries do you look up to or admire and why?

Morrison: Fieldwork, Faction, and Fall to name a few that have all helped me out along the way. Not because they all start with F.

MadeWest plans to keep core beer production growing organically and continue to increase one-off tasting room beers and small batch can releases.

Erin Peters is a beer writer that has been enticing beer drinkers for a decade. Focusing on Southern California, she's uniquely poised and knowledgeable, having lived in seven So Cal cities including San Diego and Los Angeles. She's since returned home to Ventura County. She is the founder of thebeergoddess.com and her twitter feed is @thebeergoddess.





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