



Recommending a Barleywine for the Holidays

BY MICHAEL KUDERKA

A British beer-style with a long rich history, it is thought that early barleywines were the bi-product of parti-gyle brewing. In this early brewing method, brewers would use the first part of the mash to produce the high-end barleywine (or a strong ale) and then re-mash the same ingredients to produce a small beer (or a weaker/cheaper product) for the masses.

Britain's Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) believes the term barleywine was originally coined when French wine was in short supply due to the wars between Britain and France. For British upper classes, "Barley Wine" became the hoppy segregate for France's grape version.

What to expect from the style

Like wine, it is not unusual to have a vintage or production year associated with a barleywine. The style is well suited for aging because the abundance of the individual ingredients drives up the flavor profile and ABV, and with time the culmination increases in the complexity.

The American Barleywine tends to be hoppier and more bitter than the English version (what a surprise). While English Barleywine's have a personality that tends to be malty sweet and warming, the British version can range in color from medium pale gold to deep brown, and the American from amber to light brown. Both have ABVs ranging between 8 and 12 percent.

Barleywines will often be described as being malty, biscuity, bready, fruity, caramel or toffee sweet, warming, and as having a noticeable, but not distracting hop presence in the finish. Barleywines can pair well with spicy Mexican dishes, poultry, seafood or sushi.

Examples of (US Commercially Available) Barleywines:

- Anchor Brewing Old Foghorn Barleywine Style Ale - Anchor Brewing - San Francisco, CA
- Avery Brewing Samael's Oak Aged Ale (41 IBU) - Avery Brewing - Boulder, CO
- Barley Wine - Epic Brewing Company - Salt Lake City, UT
- Brooklyn Monster Ale (70 IBU) - Brooklyn Brewery - Brooklyn, NY

- Criminally Bad Elf - Ridgeway Brewing - England
- Deschutes Mirror Mirror (30 IBU) - Deschutes Brewery - Bend, OR
- Dogfish Head Olde School Barleywine (85 IBU) - Dogfish Head Craft Brewery - Milton, DE
- Full Sail Brewing Old Boardhead Barleywine Ale (91 IBU) - Full Sail Brewing - Hood River, OR
- Great Divide Brewing Old Ruffian Barley Wine - Great Divide Brewing - Denver, CO
- Griffin's Bow (12.3 SRM, 50 IBU) - Boston Beer Company - Boston, MA
- HE'BREW Genesis 15:15 - Shmaltz Brewing - San Francisco, CA
- Lagunitas Brewing Olde GnarlyWine - Lagunitas Brewing - Petaluma, CA
- New Glarus Brewing Barley Wine (57 IBU) - New Glarus Brewing - New Glarus, WI
- Nøgne Ø Sunturnbrew (50 IBU) - Nøgne Ø - Norway
- Pike Brewing Company Old Bawdy Barley Wine (14 SRM, 90 IBU) - Pike Brewing - Seattle, WA
- Rock Art Brewery The Vermonster (100 IBU) - Rock Art Brewery - Morrisville, VT
- Schlafly Oak-Aged Barleywine (24 SRM, 75 IBU) - Schlafly Beer - St. Louis, MO
- Sierra Nevada Bigfoot Ale (38 SRM, 90 IBU) - Sierra Nevada Brewing - Chico, CA
- Stone Old Guardian Barley Wine (95 IBU) - Stone Brewing - Escondido, CA

Are You Thinking Out-of-the-Box?

How innovative is your store at selling beer? If you have promotions that go beyond refilling the cold box, we would like to hear from you and share your "out-of-the-box" thinking with our fellow Beer Trends readers.

E-mail me at mkuderka@mcbasset.com with your successful ideas for selling beer, along with your contact information. If we write about your program in our column we will send you a free copy of *The Third Edition of The Essential Reference of Domestic Brewers and Their Bottled Brands*.