

Your Online Microbrew Store and Beer Gift Shop

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"Drinking beer promotes freedom of speech!"

BEER
on the wall

Presents...

Oktoberfest in September???

In Germany, the famous Oktoberfest celebration is religiously held each year during the month of September. Of course there are always a few hard core partiers who refuse to let it go and continue their drink fest well past October, but for the most part, the big celebration ends as October starts.

So why Oktoberfest? Why not Septemberfest?

There are many conflicting stories floating about, but this is what we believe...

From the early beer brewing days in Europe, beer was brewed throughout the winter with the last batches of beer brewed in March, marking the beginning of warmer temperatures. The cooler temperatures of winter were necessary for proper fermentation of the yeast, as there were no refrigerators at that time.

Throughout the summer, while it was too hot to brew new beer, townsfolk would drink up all the beer that was brewed during the winter and stored for summer consumption.

As September rolled around and it was again time to boil some fresh brew, all the old stuff was historically thrown out in favor of fresher brew!

A group of Irish folk simply could not stand this absurd waste of good beer and would routinely raid neighboring

countries, gathering all the old beer and hiding out in the Black Forests of Germany where they would join forces with bands of true German beer lovers and drink feverishly until all the beer was gone.

They usually collected enough beer to drink through the entire month of September and right into October.

By the time these beer rebels finished sweating off their hangovers from a month of non-stop beer guzzling, the majority of them couldn't remember that the month of September ever existed.

As far as they were concerned they were partying in the month of October and the name stuck!

This is why (we believe) the celebration held in September is called Oktoberfest!

Need some Oktoberfest Party Supplies?

BeerOnTheWall.com has a great selection of beers to choose from, or you can create your very own *Personalized Beer* for your Oktoberfest Party!

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Quote of the Month

A woman drove me to drink and I didn't even have the decency to thank her. --W.C. Fields

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Vol. 6 Issue 9

Warning - The consumption of alcohol may cause you to believe you are tougher than some really big guy named Franz

Beer of the Month Club This Month's Featured Brews

Drake's Brewing Company

Founded in 1989 as one of the Bay Area's first microbreweries, Drake's Brewing Company is a small, family-owned business dedicated to the art and science of craft brewing. Their beers have won several awards over the years and they continue to create new and exciting beers that we love to enjoy each time we visit.

Located in San Leandro California, at 1933 Davis Street, #177, Drake's Brewing Company offers brewery tours — which include beer tasting — from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. every Friday. Each Friday night a local crowd of a hundred or more "tasters" gathers for the weekly tasting party. Every beer they serve is outstanding and \$8 gets you a pint glass that you can keep, and 4 refills of which ever beers you want. If you bring your glass back, it's only \$5 for the 4 beers. What a deal! If you are ever in the area on a Friday evening, this is definitely a well spent three hours.

Compared to other brewers, Drake's is tiny — producing just 3,000 barrels of fine drafts annually. They blend the finest ingredients from the United States, Canada, England, Germany and the Czech Republic with their innovative brewing technique, fusing the traditional with the cutting edge.

In addition to their flagship beer, Drake's IPA, their original brews include Drake's Amber Ale, Drake's Blonde Ale and Drake's Hefeweizen, with seasonal and specialty beers including Sir Francis Stout, Drake's Expedition Ale, Zatec Pilsner, Autumn Fest, Chocolate Milk Stout, Harvest Ale British ESP Blood Red, Imperial IPA Black Pilsner and Jolly Roger Holiday Ale.

Drake's, whose fine ales are available in kegs for bars and restaurants as well as for retail sale at outlets throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, is one of the East Bay's few remaining microbreweries.

Drake's remains largely unknown despite capturing a number of high profile awards in brewing competitions both locally and nationwide. "We make some of the world's best beer that hardly anyone has heard of," joked Jon B. Rogers, president of Drake's. "We are honored and elated

about taking medals at what is in effect the beer "Olympics" and that we've earned top honors in the most prestigious beer tasting competitions in California and the U.S. in the last several years."

When asked which award he is most proud of, Jon Rogers replied, "probably getting the gold for our IPA at the Great American Beer Festival in 2002. We had been out all night/morning off-roading somewhere in Colorado (could have been Wyoming for all I know) before the Saturday awards ceremony. We were dropped off somewhere in Boulder at like 3:30 am where we caught a cab back to Denver (about 50 miles away). We arrived at our hotel room at around 4:30 to find people still up and partying. We joined in for a few beers then had to crash. I woke up with the feeling that I had been thrown out of the off road vehicle and run over several times. We had no time to dwell though, because the award ceremony was in an hour and we had to eat something before hand. After breakfast it was back to the GABF for the awards ceremony and more beer. When we arrived they had already announced the first 30 or so categories. Needless to say we were in the very back when category 43, the American IPA, came up. They read off the bronze and silver then came the gold... The MC said "Drakes IPA". I immediately thought that some other brewery has an IPA named Drakes. Then came "Drakes Brewing Company" followed by "San Leandro, CA". That's when it finally sunk in. It was quite a surprise."

Zatec Pilsner - Brewed from pure German pilsner malt, this is a nicely rounded beer with a remarkably full body for a traditional pilsner. It has a slight hop overtone created by the infusion of Czech Saaz hops.

Amber Ale - This beer is brewed with all English malts, hops and yeast, creating a slightly malty flavor with a hint of chocolate. A good all around drinking beer that goes great with any meal.

Drake's IPA - An absolutely fantastic IPA that has won several awards including a prestigious Gold at the GABF in 2002. This is a high alcohol beer with a nice hoppy finish true to the West Coast IPA style.—Please enjoy.

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