

BEER

on the wall

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"Drinking Beer Promotes Freedom of Speech"

Romancing the Beer: Beer and Dessert Pairing

Thinking of a romantic dinner followed by an equally amorous dessert for your anniversary? Try beer. That's right, beer. Are you shocked and giddy with joy? You should be. It can be a challenge to pair wine and dessert sometimes, but beer goes great as a compliment to many desserts.

Rich, full-flavored beers can be used to balance the sweetness of most desserts. American microbreweries are fantastic at producing such styles, so there are plenty of choices. Fruity desserts such as a trifle can be paired with strong trippels like the Trippel Belgian Style Ale by Green Flash Brewing Company. Caramelly bread pudding or a nut tart demands something with qualities similar to an old ale; the 2007 vintage of Old Stock Ale from North Coast Brewing Company fills this role beautifully. Crème brulée or carrot cake can create a memorable experience with highly hopped beers such as double IPAs like Mad River Brewing Company's Steelhead Double IPA.

Everybody loves chocolate, and chocolate loves a dark beer. Chocolate cake or truffles call for an inky imperial stout such as the Raven's Eye Imperial Stout by Eel River Brewing Company or you can try a porter; Eel River's Organic Porter is great! Dark beers with more of a coffee profile (think Pipeline Porter from Kona Brewing Co.) are a great substitute for the traditional coffee and cheesecake we all enjoy after dinner. Fruit beers also have an obvious affinity for fruit desserts. A great summer pairing is the Apricot Ale from Pyramid Brewing (a new addition to BeerOnTheWall.com) with a fresh fruit pie or pastry. Finally, for a truly decadent and romantic experience, try the Strawberry Blonde by Belmont Brewing Company with chocolate covered strawberries. Whatever your choice is, we hope you eat, drink and enjoy your time together.

Celebrate Weddings and Anniversaries with Beer

Giving a beer gift is thoughtful, unique and well appreciated by all. Whether you enroll a happily married couple in our Beer of the Month Club, or you send them a personalized 6 pack of beer, you are bound to make them smile.

Brides and Grooms could use a helpful hint from everyone here at Beer on the Wall and think of the drink for thank you gifts to groomsmen or bridesmaids. With a variety beer gifts to choose from, there is something for everyone.

Beer Club Member's Special Savings

Save
10%

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Club Members Only

Offer Expires July 31, 2009

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BEER OF THE MONTH CLUB

this month's featured beers

Full Sail Brewing Company: Hood River, Oregon

When you see the little town of Hood River, it's not hard to figure out what attracted the brewers to this setting. Then again, if you'd stood in this very same spot back in 1987, on the day they first laid eyes on their future brewery, you may not have noticed the sails or the waterfalls.



Looking at what was then an old fruit cannery, you would have been wondering how time had somehow stopped, in 1972. The cannery had pretty much laid abandoned and derelict for 15 years, and, while the workers were long gone, their dusty girlie calendars and magazine clippings still clung to the walls.

The Full Sail Crew knew it was going to take a Herculean effort to turn this place into a brewery, but they felt the potential. And with that, they put a down payment on the cannery, set about converting the apple juice press room into a brew house, and worked night and day to turn a romantic notion into a bonafide brewery.

Determined to make world-class beer, their first, and perhaps best decision was to invest in new, state-of-the-art brewing equipment. Other microbreweries had been brewing with varying degrees of success in open fermentation tanks or old, cast-aside dairy equipment. But they weren't taking any chances: the beer had to be great or there was no point in brewing it, so most of 1987 was spent installing the new system.

By September, the first crew was on board and they were ready to brew. The operation was tiny and the work was nonstop, but to be in Hood River at the forefront of not only the craft beer movement, but also the rise of windsurfing, was thrilling.

Microbreweries were springing up all over the Northwest. The windsurfing craze was in full swing. Hood River's storefronts were filling up with gear shops. They put up a whopping 287 barrels that first year. Things were really humming.

Stoked at their success in getting the brewery up and running, the next year Full Sail set their sights on yet another goal, something the beer literati said was next to impossible: Putting their microbrew in a bottle! Imagine That.

The original bottling line was nicknamed Mimi. Which proved to be temperamental and capricious. Mimi was a manual bottling line, meaning every operation had to be done by hand. But With Mimi's help they succeeded in putting the beer into bottles, and silenced the critics. Not long after, Full Sail Amber became their best-selling beer and garnered Full Sail Brewing Co. a gold medal at the 1989 Great American Beer Festival.

They don't bottle their beers using Mimi anymore, but a lot of things have remained the same. They still craft all their beers by hand, in one of the few manual brew houses of its size in the country. Their hops and barley still come from trusted local farms. Their water, from a spring on Mount Hood. And they continue to do whatever they can to be sensitive to the environment. Their most significant commitment by far, however, came in 1999 when the little brewery reached a turning point, and became an independent, employee-owned company. Of all their accomplishments, this is the one that makes them most proud.

Amber Ale: Oregon's Original Amber Ale

Anyone remember the grocery store cooler back before it turned into a kaleidoscopic fantasy world of beer options? You pretty much had two choices: Regular or Light. In 1989, when Full Sail Brewing Co. brewed it's first batch of Full Sail Amber, not only was it the first Amber ale in Beer Mecca (aka Oregon), it was the first craft beer to go into a bottle. And two things became immediately apparent. It wasn't Regular and it sure as heck wasn't Light. This Amber is a sweet, malty, medium-bodied ale with a spicy, floral hop finish. It's brewed with 2-row Pale, Crystal and Chocolate malts. They are as proud of it today as they were back in '89. And over the years it's earned 12 Gold Medals at the World Beer Championships. Not that we're keeping track or anything

Full Sail IPA

The British colonists who once visited India invented India Pale Ale. But we seriously doubt they ever enjoyed one after a day of full blown kite boarding. What a shame. Generously hopped to 60 IBU's in the classic style, Full Sail IPA is a real thirst quencher. It has a full, malty body and there's even a hint of fresh citrus to it. Perfect after your favorite water sport. Even if that sport happens to be the grueling drag-the-poolside-lounge-chair-into-the-sun event.

Full Sail LTD no. 02

LTD means Limited Edition. But at Full Sail Brewing Co. it means something even more: Live The Dream. And in celebration of their 21st birthday they are doing something every brewer dreams of: Concocting an ever-changing series of small batch beers, available for a limited time only. This golden color brew is nicely balanced with soft malt undertones. Lightly bodied with a crisp clean finish it's just what you're craving on a hot summer's day.