

OLD SCROOGE CHRISTMAS ALE, SILVER CITY BREWERY. The list of awards this beer has won since its introduction in 1998 is long, including a gold medal at the 2015 Great American Beer Festival. Like the convoluted plot of a Charles Dickens novel, the flavor is deep and elaborate—rich sweetness, toasted wholegrain bread, a bit of cherry, dried apricots, and a slight alcohol burn (9 percent ABV). Starting in early November, find it at bottleshops and better grocery stores. Hint: keep an eye out for the bourbon barrel-aged version of the same beer. (silvercitybrewery.com)

ABOMINABLE ALE, FREMONT BREWING. A big, hairy beast of a beer, but don't be afraid. I taste roasted chocolate and nuts, with a bit of a boozy burn and a hoppy bite, but that's just me. This complex beer morphs on your palate; see what flavors you can find. Get it at Fremont Brewing's Urban Beer Garden, or find it in bottles at local stores. Hint: keep an eye out for the bourbon barrel-aged version of the same beer, affectionately known as B-Bomb. (fremontbrewing.com)

CABIN FEVER, BOUNDARY BAY BREWERY. When the winter blahs finally start to gnaw on your very last nerve, this beer offers a remedy. You'll discover flavors reminiscent of toasted bread, sprinkled with brown sugar, and hints of caramel combined with spices and citrus. Slightly bitter, but goes down

smooth for a big beer (8.5 percent ABV). Expect to start seeing it on tap and in bottles by mid-November. (www.bbaybrewery.com)

JOLLY ROGER CHRISTMAS ALE, MARITIME PACIFIC BREWING. The annual release of Jolly Roger is like the arrival of the Nordstrom's Santa; it just wouldn't be Christmas in Seattle without him. This husky beer, which they've brewed since 1992, offers sweet, malt-forward flavors of toffee, some dried fruit—think raisins and figs—and a bit of Christmas spice, all followed by a faint hop bitterness. Widely available in bottles by mid-October, or find it on draft in November at the brewery's taproom in Ballard. (maritimebrewery.com)

BIG LEBREWSKI IMPERIAL WHITE RUSSIAN STOUT, NAKED CITY BREWERY. This beer is an imperial cream stout aged on Kahlua-soaked oak. Get it? As advertised, the flavor is reminiscent of a White Russian cocktail: malty, creamy sweetness mixed with coffee and oak. This brewery has a penchant for naming beers after movies and cinematic characters, and simply put, the Dude abides at 9.5 percent ABV. Find it at the Naked City Brewery and Taphouse in Greenwood. (nakedcitybrewing.com)

HOPPY HOLIDAYS, SCHOONER EXACT BREWING. It's a rich and complex beer given its relatively diminutive size: it weighs in at just 7.5 percent ABV. So go

ahead, have two. Or three. A roasted, chocolate malt flavor blends nicely with rich fruit flavors, like raisins and prunes, with the hops adding some spicy notes. Scheduled for release around the first of November, look for it at bottleshops and grocery stores, or visit the brewery's taproom in SoDo. Hint: keep an eye out for Hoppy the Woodsman, a bourbon barrel-aged version of the same beer. (schoonereexact.com)

SLEIGH'R DARK DOUBLE ALT ALE, NINKASI BREWING. Hailing from Eugene, Oregon, the beer named after the legendary rock band Slayer, one of the heaviest of all heavy metal bands, is surprisingly light on its feet, clocking in at 7.2 percent ABV. Don't be fooled, there's plenty of flavor here. Oddly dark and light at the same time, this beer is malty sweet but finishes dry on the palate. Widely available at better beer retailers. (ninkasibrewing.com)

ENTENDEZ NOEL, SOUND BREWERY. Big, nuanced and complex, the brewery defines this one as a Belgian-style quadruple ale. In other words, it's a really strong behemoth of a beer, clocking in at 10.6 percent ABV. Blanketed beneath the fruity, spicy yeast, you'll discover a mélange of flavors ranging from plum and apple to burnt sugar and herbs. Beware, it's dangerously drinkable given its substantial ABV. Drop your car keys and pick up a bottle at your local bottleshop. (soundbrewery.com)

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