

# TRUE BREW

BY  
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►  
**SILVER CITY  
BREWERY'S  
RIDGETOP RED,  
WINNER OF BEST  
AMBER/RED ALE**

**WITH SEATTLE MAGAZINE'S INAUGURAL  
BEER AWARDS, THE WINNERS SHOW IT  
PAYS TO THINK SMALL AS WASHINGTON'S  
BEER SCENE GOES BIG**

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It is remarkable to think about, almost unimaginable. Washington now boasts more than 300 breweries, more than 50 of which are packed within Seattle city limits. Our local brewers are flexing their creative muscle and challenging our palates to accept new flavors, introducing us to things like sour beers, barrel-aged beers and other imaginative concoctions. While doing so, they also continue to hone their skills when it comes to brewing the styles of beer we already love. For our inaugural Beer Awards, we go back to the basics, honoring some of the most celebrated styles of beer made in Washington state and available around the Puget Sound region, presenting you only with beers that are regularly available year around. Join us for a glass of the winning brews, and you'll find that these classic styles—pilsner, amber, saison, porter and IPA—have never tasted better.





# BEST BEER WINNERS

## BEST AMBER/RED ALE

The name is directly related to the beer's color. Whether you call it amber or red, it's more sweet than bitter and usually features a rich caramel character.

## RIDGETOP RED

### SILVER CITY BREWERY

6 PERCENT ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

Saying you like this Bremerton-brewed beer is akin to saying you enjoy vacationing in Hawaii. Who doesn't? This beer, crafted by brewmaster Don Spencer, won medals at national beer competitions, so it's no surprise we liked it. Exceptionally well balanced, this red has a subtle bready aroma that gives way to a soft and smooth, caramel-like sweetness complemented by a short-lived but sharp bitterness. Available in bottles and cans wherever good beer is sold and on tap at both Silver City Brewery locations, where you can get growlers to go.

**PAIRS WITH:** Another simple classic, like a cheeseburger and fries.

### BREWERY AND TAPROOM (21+):

Bremerton, 206 Katy Penman Ave.

### RESTAURANT AND ALE HOUSE (ALL AGES):

Silverdale, 2799 NW Myhre Road; [silvercity.beer](http://silvercity.beer)

### BEST AMBER/RED ALE FINALISTS:

Amber's Hot Friend, Skookum Brewery (Arlington)

Funky Red Patina, Hellbent Brewing Company (Seattle)

Immersion Amber, Two Beers Brewing (Seattle)

Planktonic Red, Jellyfish Brewing Company (Seattle)

Spin Cycle Red, No-Li Brewhouse (Spokane)

## BEST PILSNER

Pilsner is a traditional light-bodied and refreshing European style of beer with a crisp and clean flavor. Those familiar name-brand beers advertised during football games are all pilsners, but none of them are as tasty as the ones our local brewers produce.

## CROSSCUT PILSNER

### ICICLE BREWING COMPANY

5 PERCENT ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

This super-refreshing pilsner is like a



Best Pilsner: Icicle Brewing Company's Crosscut Pilsner

brand-new \$100 bill: crisp, clean and begging to be consumed. It pours sparkling clear and golden, with a thin white head that smells slightly hoppy and a wee bit bready. Head brewer Dean Priebe created a beer that refreshes the palate with a tactful combination of subtle flavors: just a bit of honey, corn and straw, then the tiniest hint of herbal hop spiciness provides a little pop of bitterness on the finish. Available in bottles at select bottle shops and always on tap at the brewery, where you can get growlers to go.

**PAIRS WITH:** Use this snappy, bright beer to wash down fresh oysters on the half shell.

### BREWERY AND TAPROOM (ALL AGES):

Leavenworth, 935 Front St.; [iciclebrewing.com](http://iciclebrewing.com)

### BEST PILSNER FINALISTS:

253 Pilsner, 7 Seas Brewing (Gig Harbor)

Bohemian Pilsner, Sound Brewery (Poulsbo)

Polaris Pilsner, Chainline Brewing Company (Kirkland)

Pre Flight Pilsner, Airways Brewing (Kent)

## BEST SAISON

A traditional Belgian style of beer that was originally brewed seasonally for summertime consumption, saison (the French word for season) has become a popular year-round style in America. Pale in color, cloudy in complexion, it has a flavor that is often a bit fruity and even spicy.



Best Saison: Holy Mountain Brewing's The Seer

## THE SEER

### HOLY MOUNTAIN BREWING

5.1 PERCENT ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

Colin Lenfesty, the head brewer and a cofounder of Holy Mountain Brewing, created a beautiful beer that pours a hazy yellow, with a tight white head. The aroma is a bewitching combination of barnyard funk and herbal perfume that draws the glass irresistibly to your lips. The flavor is like a Jackson Pollock painting: You aren't sure what it is, but you like it. You might taste lavender, then Chardonnay and tart lemons, along with the foudre (a large, oak, barrel-like vessel) in which the beer is aged for four months.

Find The Seer on tap at the brewery's tasting room in Interbay, where the beer is available in bottles, but not growlers. Occasionally, you might also find bottles at bottle shops around town.

**PAIRS WITH:** A garden-fresh salad dressed with a bright, citrus dressing.

**BREWERY AND TAPROOM (21 +):**

Interbay, 1421 Elliott Ave. W; [holymountainbrewing.com](http://holymountainbrewing.com)

**BEST SAISON FINALISTS:**

Litha, Propolis Brewing (Port Townsend)  
Mo's Saison, Atwood Ales (Blaine)  
Witchfinder, Holy Mountain Brewing (Seattle)

## BEST PORTER

Porter is a traditional style of English beer, beloved for centuries. Though porters come in shades from dark brown to pitch black and balance mild sweetness with hoppy bitterness, they are surprisingly refreshing and light on the palate, given their formidable appearance.

## GLOBAL MUTT BALTIC PORTER

WANDER BREWING

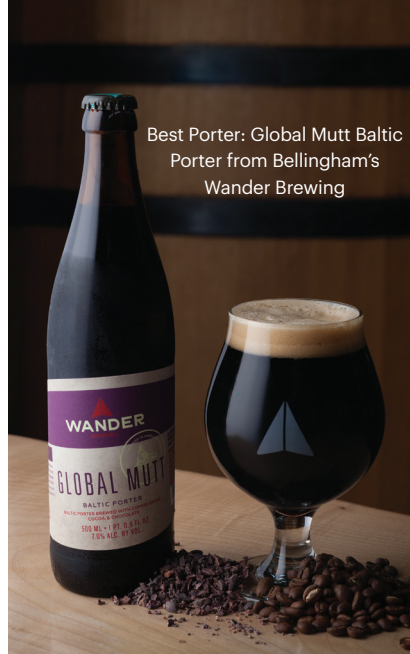
7.0 PERCENT ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

The light brown head that rests atop this pitch-black beer from Bellingham releases an unmistakable coffee-like aroma. In this one, head brewer and brewery co-owner Chad Kuehl presents flavors that are robust but dry, with notes of dark chocolate, coffee and roasted, almost burnt malt. True to its name, Global Mutt presents a mélange of flavors stemming from the use of globally sourced ingredients: fair-trade cacao nibs from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, coffee from Brazil and specialty grains from Europe. Available in bottles at bottle shops and occasionally on tap at beer-focused bars, or visit the brewery in Bellingham to get your growler filled.

**PAIRS WITH:** Continue the worldwide vibe by serving it for dessert with a traditional Italian biscotti, and don't be afraid to dunk.

**BREWERY AND TAPROOM (ALL AGES):**

Bellingham, 1807 Dean Ave.; [wanderbrewing.com](http://wanderbrewing.com)



Best Porter: Global Mutt Baltic Porter from Bellingham's Wander Brewing

**BEST PORTER FINALISTS:**

P-51 Porter, Wingman Brewers (Tacoma)  
Panther Lake Porter, Silver City Brewery (Bremerton)  
Profanity Hill Porter, Schooner Exact Brewing (Seattle)  
Robust Porter, Reuben's Brews (Seattle)

## BEST IPA

The hoppiest of all beer styles, today's IPA are often described with adjectives like *fruity, piney, citrusy and tropical*, all flavors imparted by the hops. Hands down, it's the most popular style of craft beer in America.

## JUMBO JUICE IPA

AIRWAYS BREWING

6 PERCENT ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

This Kent-brewed beer is big on fruity flavors, with not so subtle hints of orange and tropical fruit, which are actually provided by the use of copious amounts of citrus-forward hops. It pours a slightly hazy yellow, and you might think someone spiked your beer with OJ, but Alex Dittmar, the head brewer and owner, doesn't want you to be fooled—it's all beer. Unlike traditional IPA, it is light on bitterness, which makes it immensely quaffable, even for people who usually don't like IPA. This draft-only brew can be found on tap at both Airways Brewing locations in Kent, where you can get growlers to go, and occasionally at beer-focused bars around the area.

**PAIRS WITH:** The citrus notes will complement and amplify the spiciness of four-star pad thai, adding more depth of flavor to an already intense dish.

**BREWERY AND TAPROOM (21 +):** Kent, 8611 S 212th St.



Best IPA: Jumbo Juice IPA from Kent-based Airways Brewing

**BEER AND BISTRO (ALL-AGES BREW-PUB):** Kent, 320 W Harrison St. [airwaysbrewing.com](http://airwaysbrewing.com)

**BEST IPA FINALISTS:**

Bodhizafa IPA, Georgetown Brewing Company (Seattle)  
Crikey IPA, Reuben's Brews (Seattle)  
Positron IPA, Seapine Brewing Company (Seattle)  
Topcutter IPA, Bale Breaker Brewing Company (Yakima)

### TASTING PANEL

**Gary Sink**

owner of West Seattle's Beveridge Place Pub  
West Seattle, [beveridgeplacepub.com](http://beveridgeplacepub.com)

**Marley Rall**

owner of The Brewmaster's Bakery and Taproom  
Renton, [thebrewmasterstaproom.com](http://thebrewmasterstaproom.com)

**Karrie Stewart**

co-owner of TeKu Tavern  
South Lake Union, [tekutavern.beer](http://tekutavern.beer)

**Morgan Herzog**

owner of The Beer Junction  
West Seattle, [thebeerjunction.com](http://thebeerjunction.com)

**Brian Walczyk**

chef at Brave Horse Tavern  
South Lake Union, [bravehorsetavern.com](http://bravehorsetavern.com)

**Brian Dalbey**

beer buyer, Tom Douglas Restaurants  
[tomdouglas.com](http://tomdouglas.com)

Special thanks to Beveridge Place Pub and its staff for hosting the blind tasting.

**FOR INFORMATION ON HOW WE CHOSE THE AWARD WINNERS, SEE PAGE 109**



## READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

# BEST PLACES TO DRINK BEER

The people have spoken. The region's legion of beer fans pick the best places to experience local brews.

### BEST BREWPUB

*A restaurant or pub with its own brewery on site*

#### THE PIKE BREWING COMPANY

One of the city's oldest brewpubs remains the favorite. This expansive brewery and all-ages pub at the south end of Pike Place Market has been serving delicious beer and grub for more than 20 years. For many tourists, this is the closest they get to experiencing Seattle's vibrant brewing culture, and that's just fine; Pike Brewing is a worthy ambassador. Be sure to take a peek into the Museum Room, where Charles Finkel, one of the owners and cofounders, along with his wife, Rose Ann, displays a portion of his massive collection of beer memorabilia. *Downtown, 1415 First Ave.; 206.622.6044; pikebrewing.com*

#### BEST BREWPUB FINALISTS:

Elliott Bay Brewhouse and Pub (three locations: Burien, West Seattle, Lake City)  
Naked City Brewery and Taphouse (Greenwood)  
Resonate Brewery and Pizzeria (Bellevue/Newcastle)  
Schooner Exact Brewing (SoDo)

#### BREWERY TAPROOM

*A taproom with a tasting room on site where you can get tastes and pints but not food; that is, it's not a brewpub*

#### HELLBENT BREWING COMPANY

Great beer is the solitary focus at this Lake City brewery and taproom, where dogs are welcome, but children are not (21 and older only). You'll often find a food truck serving up victuals in the

parking lot out back next to the spacious patio; the food truck schedule is available on the brewery's website. You're also welcome to bring food with you. Cozy couches help lend the main level of the taproom a living room atmosphere, and upstairs you'll find video games, dart boards and a pool table. Say hello to Steven, the enormous and affable yellow Lab who frequently hangs out in the taproom; he belongs to the head brewer, Brian Young. *Lake City, 13035 Lake City Way NE; 206.361.3707; hellbentbrewingcompany.com*

#### BEST BREWERY TAPROOM FINALISTS:

Flying Bike Cooperative Brewery (Greenwood)  
Fremont Brewing (Fremont)  
Ravenna Brewing Company (Ravenna)  
Reuben's Brews (Ballard)  
Stoup Brewing (Ballard)

#### BEER-FOCUSED RESTAURANT

*A restaurant or pub with an exceptionally strong focus on beer*

#### BROUWER'S CAFÉ

Soon after opening in 2005, this Belgian-inspired café in Fremont, which features more than 60 beers on tap and hundreds more in bottles, quickly earned a well-deserved reputation as one of Seattle's top beer bars. You might get bleary-eyed looking at the beer list, but don't miss the food menu, which focuses almost entirely on Belgian cuisine, such as stoofvlees, a traditional stew made with beef, bacon and beer, served over a bed of pommes frites. Along with the city's greatest variety of local and international beers on tap, Brouwer's serves cocktails, cider and wine. You'll need to leave the kid-

dos at home because this place is for grown-ups only (21 and older). *Fremont, 400 N 35th St.; 206.267.2437; brouwerscafe.com*

#### BEST BEER-FOCUSED RESTAURANT FINALISTS:

Collective on Tap (Woodinville)  
Dog and Pony Alehouse and Grill (Renton)  
Latona Pub (Green Lake)  
The Pine Box (Capitol Hill)  
The Westy (West Seattle)

#### BEST BEER RETAILER

*Best places to buy beer to go specifically*

#### CHUCK'S HOP SHOP

Both of Chuck's locations, in Greenwood and the Central District, are full-service beer emporiums, offering hundreds of beers in bottles and cans, as well as dozens of beers on tap for growler fills. In fact, you can even order a pint if you like. The original mini-mart-meets-beer-hall location in Greenwood is cozily cramped and always packed, with highly coveted picnic-table seating out front during the drier months. The Central District location is equally popular, but bigger inside, with a small outdoor seating section. A key to Chuck's success at both locations is the family-friendly atmosphere (until 9 p.m.), and you'll usually see more strollers than bikes parked out front. *Greenwood, 656 NW 85th St.; 206.297.6212; Central District, 2001 E Union St.; 206.538.0743; chuckshopshop.com*

#### BEST BEER RETAILER FINALISTS:

The Beer Junction (West Seattle)  
Full Throttle Bottles (Georgetown)  
Metropolitan Market (vari-

ous locations)  
Special Brews (Lynnwood)  
Total Wine and More (various locations)

#### BEER-FOCUSED BAR

*A bar with at least 12 beers on tap, which are rotated regularly; bar only, no food*

#### BEVERIDGE PLACE PUB

In West Seattle, people think of this warm, wood-heavy meeting place as their second living room, which just happens to have a constantly rotating selection of more than 30 beers on tap. Located at the corner of California Avenue and Beveridge Place, it's a place where beer-loving adults (21 and older) gather around large tables or sink into one of the well-used couches to play a game of cribbage, Scrabble, Trivial Pursuit or one of the pub's other board games. But that's only half the story. The back room features pub-height tables, shuffleboard, darts, billiards and plenty of televisions for watching the big game. There's no food beyond pub snacks, but you are welcome to bring your meal with you or order it from any of the neighborhood restaurants, some of which will deliver to your table. We also love that it's a beer bar without that beer bar smell. *West Seattle, 6413 California Ave. SW; 206.932.9906; beveridgeplacepub.com*

#### BEST BEER-FOCUSED BAR FINALISTS:

The Brewmaster's Taproom (Renton)  
Flatstick Pub (two locations: Kirkland and Pioneer Square)  
Malt and Vine (Redmond)  
Stumbling Monk (Capitol Hill)  
TeKu Tavern (South Lake Union) **S**