

Big Beers Festival: Legal to Drive

Vail, CO - Big Beers turns 16 in 2016! A Vail event since the inaugural tasting and lone seminar at 8150 and the Hubcap Brewery in March 2001, the Big Beers, Belgians & Barleywines Festival prompted about as much excitement as teens getting their driving permit this year when tickets went on sale on September 2. Tickets for the food pairing events were claimed in 10 seconds, and the VIP Tickets (\$500/ticket) were gone within 30 minutes.

The Sixteenth Anniversary of the Big Beers Festival will be held January 7 – 9, 2016. The Vail Cascade Resort has been the host for this multi-day educational and charitable event since its tenth anniversary, and has seen dramatic growth of the event over this six year period. “We started in the Centennial Ballroom with the Commercial Tasting”, said Laura Lodge, event coordinator, “and then expanded to two floors of the Conference Center, and now we’re in Gore Range Hall filling more than double the space.” Last year the Gore Range Hall was filled to capacity with a waiting list for breweries wishing to participate, and the list has grown longer in 2016.

There are plenty of Commercial Tasting & Seminars tickets still available on the Big Beers Festival website (www.BigBeersFestival.com), and reserved seats available to 7 of the ten ticketed educational seminars. Wait lists are kept and always used for all of the food pairing events, so if interested in the Calibration Dinner with Avery Brewing Co. & Dogfish Head Craft Brewery, the Traditional Brewmasters’ Dinner with Alaskan Brewing Co. & Surly Brewing Co., or the Small Plates and Craft Beer Pairing with Nebraska Brewing Co. & Perennial Artisan Ales, contact Lodge at bigbeersfestival@hotmail.com.

In addition to ticketed educational seminars, there are two complimentary pairing events that are available to the general public without a ticket. They are the Cigar Pairing Experience on Friday night from 10pm – midnight and The Yoga of Brewing on Saturday morning from 10 – 11am.

Lodging sponsors for Big Beers 2016 in the Vail Valley are as follows: Simba Run Condominiums, Holiday Inn/Apex Vail, Evergreen Lodge, Lion Square Lodge, Montaneros Condominiums, and the host resort, the Vail Cascade Resort & Spa. All lodging sponsors are offering a discounted rate to all participants and attendees on a space available basis. More details with regard to lodging can be found at <http://bigbeersfestival.com/vail-colorado-lodging-transportation.html> .

In addition to lodging discounts, ECO Transit is providing complimentary tickets for both Friday and Saturday for riders wishing to travel responsibly before and after the event. Charter Sports in the Vail Cascade is likewise offering discounts to all participants and attendees, with a 35% discount on rentals.

For more information about the Big Beers Festival, visit <http://www.bigbeersfestival.com/> or contact the event team at bigbeersfestival@hotmail.com. For more information about the Vail Valley Charitable Fund, Big Beers’ worthy beneficiary, go to their website at <http://vvcf.org/> or email info@vvcf.org .