

New Year's Resolution: Learn More About Beer?

December 2018

Breckenridge, CO – If beer was included in your goals for 2018, the Big Beers, Belgians & Barleywines Festival has you covered. The event's Eighteenth Anniversary kicks off Thursday at the Beaver Run Resort with pairing dinners, educational seminars, affiliated events around town, and much more. (bigbeersfestival.com)

"Education has been a primary focus of the Big Beers Festival since its inception", said Laura Lodge, Event Coordinator, "and when we started the not for profit Big Beers Educational Foundation, we wanted emphasize exactly that." You can see from the seminar line up for the 2018 Big Beers weekend that the BBEF team takes education seriously.

Brewmasters and industry specialists are featured for the lion's share of the seminar schedule, with a variety of classroom and experiential elements included. Attendees will taste straight from the barrels in the sour program at Avery Brewing Co. with Andy Parker, Special Projects Manager & Barrel Herder. As an added bonus, they will learn about where those flavors originate with Patrick Coombs, Avery's Mad Sensory Scientist in their seminar "Adventures in Babysitting Barrels". In contrast, participants will become teams in "Pairing Your Way", coming to a consensus about the best pairings that can be made from the beer & food presented by Jeff Mendel and JoAnne Carilli-Stevenson of Sapere Aude.

Seminars are available for the aficionado with no interest in actually brewing as well as those who are advanced homebrewers or pro brewers. Dr. Nicole Garneau of DraughtLab, LLC is a sensory scientist, and she will be guiding attendees through "The Science of Pairing with Spicy Foods", and John Holl, Senior Editor of Craft Beer & Brewing Magazine will lead the discussion and tasting about "The Coffee in Your Beer".

On the more advanced side, Jeffrey Stuffings of Jester King and Cory King of Side Project Brewing, the 2018 Featured Brewmasters, will be "Tasting the Native Culture" of both breweries, and Jester King Head Brewer Averie Swanson will be joining forces with King for "Blending: Approaches and Philosophies of Side Project & Jester King".

Further, Jensen Cummings with Good Bugs and Brewed Food will lead his panel into the depths of "Good Bugs: Flavor Expression of Fermentation" with his savvy panel, Master Brewer Annie Johnson of

PicoBrew will be teaching about “Homebrewing Belgian Styles: The Champagne Method”, and Neil Fisher of WeldWerks and Ross Koenigs of New Belgium will share their lab results with fellow brewers in the 2018 Experimental Brewing Seminar titled “New England IPAs: The Bitterness Challenge”.

To attend these seminars and more, general admission to all is included with the purchase of a Commercial Tasting & Seminars Ticket on the Big Beers Festival website. Three seminars are complimentary and open to walk-ins, however, including the Cicerone Workshop on Friday morning, the Cigar Pairing Experience Friday night, and this year’s “Fruitful Yoga Pairings” on Saturday morning.

For additional information about purchasing reserved seats to these seminars, buying Commercial Tasting & Seminars tickets for the weekend, getting lodging & equipment discounts for destination travelers, and more about the Big Beers, Belgians & Barleywines Festival overall, visit the website at www.BigBeersFestival.com or contact festival organizer, Laura Lodge, at Laura@BigBeersFestival.com.

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The Big Beers, Belgians & Barleywines Festival is the perfect combination for a Winter Wonderland getaway: A world-class beer festival in the Colorado Rocky Mountains! Meet renowned brewmasters and brewery owners, taste hundreds of big, Belgian style, and experimental beers, explore beer & food pairings, and learn from an impressive array of brewmasters and industry experts over an action-packed three day weekend. As a novice, an aficionado, or an advanced homebrewer, you can enjoy an unprecedented opportunity to discuss beer with the amazing people who make it happen. Visit www.bigbeersfestival.com to learn more about this little festival in the mountains that the beer industry holds in such high esteem.

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Beaver Run Resort and Conference Center is located at the base of peak 9 at the Breckenridge Ski Resort. Beaver Run is a full service, year round resort featuring slope-side condominium style lodging, multiple on-site bars and restaurants as well the largest conference center in Breckenridge, Colorado. Visit <http://www.beaverrun.com/> for more information.

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The Breckenridge Tourism Office is the destination marketing organization for the Town of Breckenridge. Visit GoBreck.com for activity and event information or connect @GoBreck on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for the latest photos and updates.