

## Big Beers 2018 Celebrates Breckenridge Style

BRECKENRIDGE, CO –The Big Beers, Belgians & Barleywines Festival truly flooded participating venues in Breckenridge with top notch beers, brewers and attendees over its January 4 – 6 weekend. “Need more events!” was the cry. For their 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, although only the second year in Breckenridge, participants embraced the town and found new ways to navigate throughout the events and the weekend.

“We reconfigured the overall experience in many ways to adapt to our new home”, said Laura Lodge, Event Coordinator and Executive Director of the Big Beers Educational Foundation. “From helping people more specifically with parking options to creating a new gathering place in Beaver Run Resort and offering more navigation assistance within the Commercial Tasting, we responded to the feedback from our brewers and attendees by making changes and will continue to do so.”

The two most dramatic changes were an app that was created by event sponsor DigitalPour that combined printed program content with the Commercial Tasting event map and the new “pop-up” version of the iconic Falling Rock Tap House in Denver. Survey information will help both DigitalPour and Falling Rock to refine their experiences for version 2.0 in 2019, as creators were very pleased with the extremely positive response received.

Education was hot this year, as many of the thirteen seminars and workshops were full to capacity and overflowing. Julia Herz & Chef Adam Dulye of CraftBeer.com and the Brewers Association took things up a notch on Friday evening with their Beer + Food Experience by pairing the same food with five different beers. “It highlighted the way in which food and beer can enhance each other in a unique manner,” one attendee reported, with the Outer Range IPA pairing very differently than the 2015 Lost Abbey Angel’s Share. “The mushroom soup really resurrected the barrel notes from the 2015 beer.”

Presenters were also attendees throughout the weekend, with Herz tweeting “Another [#MindBlown](#) from this [New England IPA: The Bitterness Challenge] seminar as shared by Ross Koenigs of New Belgium: Low level enzymatic activity can occur from dry hopping to further attenuate beer.” Further, “My take away. IBU as we know it defined as a measurement is about to have to change.”

Featured Brewmasters Jeffrey Stuffings of Jester King Brewery and Cory King of Side Project Brewing Co. were swamped by excited attendees in both their Brewmasters' Track of seminars and throughout the Commercial Tasting. The "Blending: Approaches and Philosophies" seminar was a particular favorite showcasing Averie Swanson, Head Brewer at Jester King, offering her techniques alongside those of King at Side Project.

The Big Beers Homebrew Competition Awards Ceremony is always a highlight of the Commercial Tasting, and the 2018 chapter did not disappoint. The 2018 Best of Show winner is Anthony Burink of Frederick, Colorado. His entry, named "Wild Pitch 5", was entered into the European Sour Ale category and defeated 305 other entries. Wild Pitch 5, a Gueuze, will be brewed with Dry Dock Brewing Co. to be poured at the Falling Rock Tap House and entered into the 2018 Great American Beer Festival ProAm Competition. For the full winners list, visit the Homebrew Competition page on the Big Beers Festival Website at [BigBeersFestival.com](http://BigBeersFestival.com).

Big Beers will be returning to Breckenridge January 10 – 12, 2019. For additional 2018 reviews, media reports, photos by event photographer Dustin Hall of The Brewtography Project, and more, join the Big Beers, Belgians & Barleywines Festival group on Facebook, find updates on the Press page of the website at [BigBeersFestival.com](http://BigBeersFestival.com), Twitter @BigBeersFest, and Instagram.

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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](http://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](http://GoBreck.com) for activity and event information or connect @GoBreck on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for the latest photos and updates.