

THE VINE AND STEIN

News from Buehler's Beer and Wine Department
Holiday 2016

Wine,
anyone?



what's that wine doing in a whiskey barrel?

Many of the things we love and use every day were created in Scotland or by inventors from Scotland. The telephone, the bicycle, the steam engine, and of course some of the world's most popular sports including golf. Perhaps the greatest invention dreamed up by a Scotsman involves little more than water, barley, wheat or rye and often a great deal of patience.

Ah, whiskey, that wonderful liquid of the gods, perfectly suited for a cold winter night when the wind howls and a fireplace roars. The Scots call whiskey Scotch - and no one else can use that name other than distillers in Scotland. Americans down south created a great variation called Bourbon.

So if you're a big fan of Scotch or bourbon, you'll really enjoy these up and coming red wines. To be clear, we are talking about wine aged in barrels once used to age whiskey. We are definitely not talking about any whiskey being added to wine. The use of whiskey barrels is unusual. It's been the modus operandi of the craft beer world to run edgy experiments with flavors and aging protocols, and it's refreshing to see the often conservative wine business following suit. Generally repurposed barrels travel in the opposite direction - from wineries to distilleries. In other words, none of these wines is a whiskey bomb. These are not wines for whiskey lovers. Whiskey lovers love whiskey, and if they also love wine, they surely don't want it to taste too much like whiskey. And these don't.

It is sometimes fun to tell a story about a winemaker, or a particular bottle, as you are pouring, and if that is your thing - to mention something novel about the wine as you present it - you are covered here. "This wine was aged in whiskey barrels." Say that, and you will grab your friends' attention.

You'll need a full bodied wine to take on the power of the whiskey; think Shiraz or Cabernet Sauvignon, rather than Pinot Noir or Gamays. Try different ones to see which wines are best in whiskey barrels and which are better in scotch or bourbon barrels.

Heaven only knows if the marriage of wine and whiskey barrels will last, but a handful of these out-of-the-ordinary wines are available right now and are increasing in popularity. They are usually only available in limited quantities.

If you're interested in trying one of these new wines on the market you might want to try 2014 Robert Mondavi Private Selection Bourbon Barrel-Aged Cabernet Sauvignon or 1000 Stories Bourbon Barrel Aged Zinfandel which are available at your local Buehler's store (while they last).



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the craze that is Christmas beer

No, Great Lakes Brewery did not invent Christmas Ale....

Though many wait in great anticipation for its arrival, the history (and actual requirements) for Christmas beers and ales goes back centuries to the times when our ancestors celebrated the pagan holiday of Winter Solstice. Indeed, over the centuries, the entire notion of "Christmas beer" became ingrained in the holidays as much as yule logs and mistletoe. Norwegian farmers were required to brew juleøl—yule ale—for their workers or face expulsion from their property. And throughout the 19th century, British workhouses—those Dickensian homes for the poor—broke the tedium with free Christmas ale for their residents.

The backstory of this iconic style is important because it establishes that Christmas/Winter beer isn't really a style—it's a tradition. It's as fanciful as stockings hung by the chimney with care, or a child's dreams of flying reindeer. It follows no criteria. Not that some rule-makers haven't tried. The Beer Judge Certification Program style guidelines (Category 21B) say its aroma should be "reminiscent of Christmas cookies", its appearance should be amber to dark brown and it must taste "rich and malty." Interestingly, the guidelines also demand: "spices are required."

However, some would point out that some brands including the hugely popular Troegs Mad Elf might taste spicy but that sensation is a product of its phenol-producing Belgian yeast strain, not cinnamon or nutmeg.



Indeed winter spice beers produced by America's small and independent brewers embody the spirit of the holiday season and folks go crazy for them. Down in Asheville, NC, Highland Brewing Co. unveils the iconic Cold Mountain Winter Ale each November just before Thanksgiving

and for the entire month it's the talk of the town. Fans skip work on Cold Mountain Monday to raid area stores for the spiced amber brew, emptying shelves within hours or even minutes!

During their annual "First Pour" event in late October, the staff at Great Lakes Brewing Co. brewpub pours about 430 pints of Christmas Ale every 60 minutes for 12 consecutive hours. That's one pint every eight seconds.

Suffice it to say, holiday ales are highly anticipated every year and whether or not they stick to the guidelines, they are a tradition that continues to grow by leaps and bounds as more breweries enter into the fray each year, giving us beer drinkers more varieties to try and anticipate!

So whatever your personal traditions may be, raise a glass of one (or more) of these special beers and say "Cheers!" to a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

featured growlers

NOVEMBER

Lager Heads Winter Mischief \$10.99

DECEMBER

Shiner Holiday Cheer \$8.99

while supplies last

Buehler's Big Beer Exchange

Wooster Milltown & Medina Forest Meadows





upcoming...

November 10
Medina Forest Meadows
Thank Goodness for Wine!
\$20 per person
Call 330-725-0535 for reservations.

November 17
Wooster Milltown
Special Event
Reserve Tasting - \$50 per person
Call 330-345-5908 for reservations.

Events
begin at 7 pm
•
Reservations
required

November 17 & 18 • Medina River Styx
Reserve Tastings - \$20 per person
Call 330-725-5000 for reservations.

November 1 • Canton Nobles Pond
Let's Give Thanks - \$4 for 8 tickets
1:00 – 5:00 PM. No reservations required

December 1 • Canton Nobles Pond
Bottles N Brushes - \$50 per person
Call 330-834-3400 for reservations.

December 8 • Medina Forest Meadows
Reserve Tasting - \$35 per person
Call 330-725-0535 for reservations.

December 8 • Wooster Milltown
Special Event
Holiday Wines - \$30 per person
Call 330-345-5908 for reservations.

December 17 • Canton Nobles Pond
Holiday Cheer - \$4 for 8 tickets
1:00 – 5:00 PM. No reservations required



dress up your holiday gifts!

Dress up your holiday gifts with these unique sweaters and glamorous coats and hats! At retails from \$2.99 - \$3.99, these are sure to be a hit (you may just want to get some for yourself)!

wine down fridays

different wines each week

- Wooster Milltown 2 - 7 PM
- Medina Forest Meadows, Medina River Styx, Wadsworth 4 - 8 PM

*limit 4 samples

wine & beer picks!

One of my favorite wines is Twenty Bench Cabernet Sauvignon from Knights Valley Sonoma County. This cabernet is a beautiful 2014 Vintage. I fell in love with this wine the minute it hit the back of my palate. It has beautiful soft tannins and a velvety texture flowing with flavors of black currant and dark cocoa with a bit of earthiness to it and a wonderful soft oak finish. I absolutely love this wine and it is sure to be one of your favorites too. Stop by and pick up a bottle, you are sure to fall in love. I absolutely did!

My "go to" beer this time of year is Affligem Noel Belgium Beer. It's rich and dark fruity scents are slathered in caramel sweetness. Perfect for a chilly holiday night!



Sandy Taylor
Canton Nobles Pond
Beer & Wine Lead

Our Wine Leads' Top Choices!



DaVinci Pinot Grigio

This Pinot Grigio has a brilliant straw color and delicate floral aromas. The palate has notes of apple, tropical and citrus fruits, and a hint of minerality. Lively acidity and a fresh, crisp profile make this a wonderfully versatile white wine.

Pairs well with lasagna, pizza or spaghetti.

10.99 750 ml, Save \$7



DaVinci Chianti

A well-balanced wine of medium weight with jammy flavors of ripe plums, cherries and red fruit. It has a deep crimson color and is a lively wine with a soft mineral finish and round tannins that linger in a long, peppery finish. (Best served slightly below room temperature.)

Pairs well with all starters, pastas and meat dishes.

10.99 750 ml, Save \$7



2015 Los Vascos Cabernet

The nose is rich in fruit aromas, - fresh plums, cherries, and ripe raspberries followed by pleasant black currant notes mingling with hints of licorice and white pepper. Well-balanced acidity, alcohol, and tannins.

Pairs well with pepper steak or mildly spiced tapas.

92 points from James Suckling, renowned wine critic

8.99 750 ml, Save \$6



The Prisoner Red Blend

The wine features enticing aromas of Bing cherry, espresso, and roasted fig. Persistent flavors of ripe raspberry, pomegranate and wild berry linger.

Pairs well with hamburgers or steak.

91 Points Wine Spectator

44.99 750 ml, Save \$3



Louis Martini Sonoma Cabernet Sauvignon

This wine is a blend of unique characteristics from several vineyards creating a superbly balanced Cabernet Sauvignon. It has ripe flavors of black plum jam and black currant. Hints of oak and a touch of baking spice support the fruit.

Pairs well with NY Strip Steak and macaroni & cheese.

Wine Spectator Top Value

16.99 750 ml, Save \$9



2013 Mercer Estates Cabernet Sauvignon

Aromas of black cherry, plum, and blackberry jam are elevated with hints of brown sugar, clove and cocoa. The lush fruit continues in the palate, contributing to the round and full mouthfeel. Well integrated oak and sleek tannins lead into a velvety finish with a finishing touch of acidity.

Pairs well with steaks, lamb, and soft cheese.

90 Points Wine Spectator

19.99 750 ml, save \$9



Lager Heads Winter Mischief

A holiday spiced ale made with honey and spices is a must-try for those who enjoy this style of Christmas ale. It has a wonderful fresh-spice flavor and aroma on a deep amber body; and at 8 percent alcohol by volume this is a true winter warmer ale.

11.99 6 pk bottles



Rhinegeist Dad Hoppy Holiday Ale

This hoppy Holiday Red Ale has a blend of hop spice, citrus and some caramel malts to raise the holiday spirit in this Pale Ale.

9.99 6 pk cans



Southern Tier Chokolat

This is a strong Double Imperial Stout, and it has a pronounced chocolate flavor, but it also has a variety of flavors that adds a nice complexity to the beer. Although this is a big beer, it is smooth and really enjoyable to drink.

95 Beer Advocate Score

12.99 4 pk bottles

10% discount on full cases of wine mix n match!