

cheers!

Beer has come of age in Australia with awards raining down on these innovative brewers

WORDS CHRIS CANTY



Eat and drink up at
Mudgee Brewery

From major Australian cities, to quaint country towns, devoted brewers are churning out some of the best craft beers in the world. We scour the country to find the pioneers, the new upstarts and the recent award-winners at the 2009 Australian International Beer Awards (AIBA) where Aussies took 10 out of the 15 trophies, in a field of 1,140 entries from across 39 countries.

Mudgee Brewery

In the small country town of Mudgee, three hours from Sydney, you'll find a 100-year-old wool store that has been lovingly converted into a brewery by Mudgee local, Gary Leonard. For him, beer is something more than a career.

"Identifying and producing different beer tastes obviously requires a lot of beer tasting, one of the more enjoyable jobs that a brewer must do," he says. "The variety of grains, hops and other flavour ingredients gives an unlimited scope to producing different tastes and aromas. Beer is not just about the taste but about the whole drinking experience."

RECENT AWARDS: 2009 AIBA, Bronze Medal — Mudgee Porter.

CHECK OUT: Their great menu and variety of brews in their own restaurant-bar. Tasting and informal chats with the brewer are always available and there's live acoustic music on Thursday nights.

Flying Horse Brewery

This little gem only opened last year, but is already making waves, ironically in the surfing town of Warrnambool at the tail end of Victoria's Great Ocean Road. Brewer Matt Doswell says it isn't hard to find inspiration.

"Brewing beer on a micro brewing scale is a very hands-on process so everything



Take off for Flying Horse Brewery

that happens from grain to glass is in the brewers' control. Knowing this gives me the desire to create something great. If it's a case of creating something new, we listen to the drinkers and experiment with what they want, or we use our own imagination."

RECENT AWARDS: 2009 AIBA, Champion Porter — Dirty Angel.

CHECK OUT: Their brewery doubles as a 100-seat restaurant with outdoor terrace and courtyard. Brewery tours every Friday at 5pm or by appointment. Live music most weekends.

Colonial Brewing

Margaret River might be one of Australia's most famous wine regions, but that didn't stop Richard Moroney from opening a brewery, smack bang in the middle of it. Now some tourists come to the area just to sample his

brews. When asked about his inspiration he answers philosophically.

"Handcrafted beers reflect what it means to be human. Good beers tend to brew you, just as much as you brew them. We focus on attention to detail and careful selection of raw materials, ensuring we deliver a superior beer experience."

RECENT AWARDS: 2009 AIBA, Best WA Beer — Colonial Kolsch Ale.

CHECK OUT: The views of the Bramly National Park forest, while sampling a few brews straight from the tap. If you're hungry, try out the pizza or tapas from 11am–4pm daily.



Head to wine country for award-winning beer at Colonial Brewing



Mountain Goat Brewery is no kid to brewing

Mountain Goat Brewery

It's hard to believe that this multi-award winning Melbourne brewery has been operating for the last 13 years, making it one of the pioneers of Victoria's craft beer industry. But as brewer Dave Bonighton attests, there are no signs of complacency.

"I get easily inspired when it comes to beer. When it came to brewing Rapunzel, our Belgian Blonde, I'd just come back from Belgium and my taste buds were alive with Belgian-style ales. It's a style that not many brewers in Australia attempt. We brew beers that we like to drink, and where we think there's a gap in the bottle shop shelf."

RECENT AWARDS: 2009 AIBA, Best Victorian Beer — Rapunzel.

CHECK OUT: Their trendy inner city pad on Fridays 5pm–midnight where a range of beers and pizzas are available. Free brewery tours on Wednesdays at 6.30pm.

Two Metre Tall Company

Deep in Tasmania's Derwent Valley, Jane and Ashley Huntington are doing everything from scratch. Growing their own barley, wheat and hops, their farm-based brewery is rare in Australia.

"Growing our own ingredients inspires us to brew fully flavoured real ales," says Jane. "As a trained winemaker now brewing ale, Ashley can't believe that no other breweries are growing their own ingredients like wineries grow their grapes."



Two Metre Tall Company have given themselves high standards

RECENT AWARDS: The brewers choose not to enter competitions.

CHECK OUT: Their brewery is a converted shearing shed on a 600ha farm with stunning views of Mount Field National Park and beyond. Call ahead for tastings, tours of the farm and brewery, and direct sales.

does it. Trends are something that most craft brewers avoid, preferring to concentrate on making a quality beer and letting the consumer discover it themselves."

RECENT AWARDS: 2009 AIBA, Champion Reduced and Low Alcohol Beer — Sunshine Coast Summer Ale.

CHECK OUT: Their Brewery Bar is open Mon–Tue 11am–2pm, and Wed–Sat 11am–6pm, providing a selection of craft beers on tap and good value lunches.

Sunshine Coast Brewery

Situated just outside of Maroochydore, around 15 minutes from the Sunshine Coast's famous beaches, brewer Ian Watson offers holidaymakers and beer lovers an ideal respite from the sun. He says it's best for a brewer to follow their heart.

"There's no such thing as a new taste, it has all been done before but perhaps not done quite the way that each individual brewer

Blue Sky Brewing

Opened late last year, there's something a little over the top about building a brewery in what is already paradise — Cairns being a launching point for the Great Barrier Reef, rainforests and picturesque islands. Australia's most northern brewery hasn't wasted any time making an impact, already creating nine award-winning beers.

Like the local weather, Adam Smith says making beer is all about adapting.

"Blue Sky holds a brewer's reserve which is a seasonal beer changing every three months to coincide with warming or cooling weather patterns and subsequent changes in diet. We've just released a honey-laden Blue Sky pale ale with a crisp yet malty finish — a perfect spring edition."

RECENT AWARDS: 2009 AIBA, 4 silver and 5 bronze medals.

CHECK OUT: Their daily beer tours and tastings at 11am, 4pm and 6pm (AU\$16) and their nightly food and drink specials that attract hundreds each day.



A drop of gold at Sunshine Coast Brewery

Photo: Matt Kirkegaard

Taste paradise at Cairns' Blue Sky Brewing



Feral Brewing

When Feral Brewing dominated the 2009 Australian International Beer Awards, beer lovers from outside of Western Australia asked in unison... who are these guys? Brewer Brendan Varis says getting inspiration is all about living in WA.

"Often I will become aware of a historical beer style that may suit our climate or way of life here. There are many historical beer styles that the public know nothing about that have a heap of interesting flavours. That being said, when doing new product development, there are no boundaries."

RECENT AWARDS: 2009 AIBA,
Champion Exhibitor Trophy;
Champion Small Brewery
Champion Ale — Feral Hop Hog;
Champion Scotch & Barley
Wines — Razorback;
Champion Hybrid Beer
— Feral White.

CHECK OUT: Their
restaurant-brewery which
Varis says offers "slightly
offbeat beer food for slightly

offbeat people". Open Mon–Thu 11am–5pm.
Fri–Sun 11 to late. ★

*Jetstar flies to Sydney, Avalon, Perth,
Melbourne, Hobart, Sunshine Coast and
Cairns. Book online at Jetstar.com*

FIND IT

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ビールで乾杯!

オーストラリアのビール造りが熟成の時期を迎えた今、革新的な醸造所に注目が集まっている

Mudgee Brewery

小さな郊外の街マッジーは、シドニーから3時間ほど。ここにあった100年の歴史を誇る羊毛店をゲイリー・レオナルドが醸造所にした。

「ビールに大切なのは、味だけじゃない。飲んでいときの五感が大切なさ」

最近の受賞歴:2009年度AIBAにてブロンズメダル受賞 マッジー・ポーター

ポイント:自社経営のレストラン&バーはビールをはじめ、フードメニューも豊富。

Flying Horse Brewery

この小さな醸造所がワーナンブルにオープンしたのは去年のことだが、すでに大きな評判となっている。同社のマット・ドズウェルは言う。「小さな規模での醸造は、本当に手作りという言葉どおり」

最近の受賞歴:2009年度AIBAにてチャンピオンポーター受賞 ダーティ・エンジェル

ポイント:100席のレストランには屋外テラスと庭園を併設。定例の醸造所見学ツアーは金曜日の午後5時から。

Colonial Brewing

マーガレットリバーはオーストラリア有数のワインの産地として知られるが、リチャード・モロニーが開いたこの醸造所は、このワインの産地の真ん中にある。「うちでは、細かいところまで目配りし、特に原材料にはこだわっている」

最近の受賞歴:2009年度AIBAにてベストWAビール受賞 コロニアル・コルシュ・エール

ポイント:樽から注がれるビールを試飲しながら、ブラムリー国立公園の景観を堪能できる。

Mountain Goat Brewery

数々の受賞歴を誇るメルボルンにあるこの醸造所は、設立から13年。ビクトリア州の醸造所としては、パイオニア的な存在だ。同社のデブ・ボナイトンは言う。「ここでは、自分たちが飲みたいと思うビールを造っている」

最近の受賞歴:2009年度AIBAにてベスト・ビクトリア・ビール受賞 ラブンゼル

ポイント:市内にあるおしゃれな造りのお店では、金曜日の午後5時から真夜中まで、多くのビールとピザを楽しめる。

Sunshine Coast Brewery

マルーチャイデア郊外にあるこの醸造所で、イアン・ワトソンはビール愛好家たちが暑さを癒すためのビールを造っている。「これまでにほとんどの味が作られてきたと思うけど、小規模な醸造所はそれをとことんまで追求できるというのが違いになっている」

最近の受賞歴:2009年度AIBAにて低アルコールビール・チャンピオン受賞 サンシャイン・コースト・サマー・エール

ポイント:醸造所に併設のバーは月曜日と火曜日は午前11時から午後2時まで、水曜日から土曜日には午前11時から午後6時まで営業。

ケアンズに昨年オープンしたこの醸造所は、オーストラリアで最も北に位置する。開業した

ばかりだが、すでに9種類ものビールで高い評価を得ている。「新製品は蜂蜜を使ったブルー・スカイ・エール」

最近の受賞歴:2009年度AIBAにて、4つのシルバーメダルと5つのブロンズメダルを受賞

ポイント:テイスティングができる醸造所見学ツアーを毎日、午前11時、午後4時と6時に開催(参加費16ドル)。

Feral Brewing

2009年度オーストラリア国際ビール賞を独占した醸造所。同社のブレンダン・ヴァリスのインスピレーションのみならず、西オーストラリア州に住んでいることそのものだという。「一般には知られていないビールは、本当にたくさんある。だからこそ、味の宝庫だと言えるね」

最近の受賞歴:2009年AIBAにて出品者チャンピオンロフィー、小規模醸造所チャンピオン受賞。チャンピオンエール(フェラル・ホップ・ホッグ)、スコッチ&バーリーワインチャンピオン(レイザーバック)、ハイブリッドビールチャンピオン(フェラル・ホワイト)受賞

ポイント:醸造所にはレストランが併設されている。ヴァリスによれば、「ちょっと変わったビールとつまみをそろえていて、ビール好きにおすすめ」なのだそう。営業時間は、月曜日から木曜日までが午前11時から午後5時まで。金曜日から日曜日は午前11時から深夜まで。