



The Beer Companion: A Connoisseur's Guide to the World's Finest Craft Beer

Stephen Snyder

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From amber American ale to hearty Irish stout, golden Bavarian wheat to rich British bitter, beer is the beverage of choice for a new and sophisticated audience of gourmets. More and more, people are appreciating the ancient art of brewmaking and the ever-expanding range of modern brewing masterpieces. *The Beer Companion* is the ultimate guide for those who are intrigued by the fabulous variety of beers available today. This authoritative volume provides both a fascinating look at the brewing process and indispensable ratings for 125 of the world's finest breweries.

The strong and rising interest in quality beer celebrated by *The Beer Companion* is to a great extent a new phenomenon. Indeed, the period that followed Prohibition saw the mass-marketing of dull, homogeneous beer across the continent. Over the last two decades, however, beer drinkers have rediscovered the wonderful complexity of finely crafted beer. In this full-color, lushly illustrated volume, author Stephen Snyder recounts the history of beer and also provides a guided tour of the process of beer making. A detailed breakdown of the world's beer styles follows, including a discussion of the technical parameters for the major styles of beer. In addition, expert advice on buying, storing, and tasting beer addresses questions like: What are the warning signs that a brew has been exposed to heat and may be skunked? At what temperature should beer be stored? and What size head is ideal?

At the core of *The Beer Companion* are reviews of 125 of the world's best breweries with ratings of their top products. These exemplary brewers are grouped as:

1. Classics -- perennial award winners, consistently ranked among the world's best, breweries that have created or defined a classic beer style
2. Laureates -- smaller or lesser-known award winners, producers of exceptional beers of consistent quality
3. Rising Stars -- above-average quality, trendsetters, and master brewers to watch

Each superb profile includes the history of the brewery and its products, great tips for pairing the beers with food, and a connoisseur's rating. A complete appendix includes helpful cross-references such as top-rated beers by style and fascinating information like the ten strongest beers in the world.

Packed with information, intelligently organized, and beautifully illustrated, *The Beer Companion* is the indispensable guide for today's lover of great beer.

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