

# 10 Not-to-Miss Breweries

## 1. Cambridge Brewing Company: Cambridge, MA

- ❑ **The Wind Cried Mari:** Brewers travel to the Massachusetts coast to handpick the fresh heather flowers, wild gale, and lavender that replace hops in this light-bodied heather ale. The beer is dry and tinted with wildflower and honey flavors.
- ❑ **Cerise Cassée:** This complex and sour beer goes through a three-day process in which it is turned to grist, a sour grain mash, before it's blended with 300 pounds of tart cherries. The mix is set in oak barrels, where it is fermented with wild yeast.

## 2. Dogfish Head Craft Brewery: Milton, DE

- ❑ **Midas Touch Golden Elixir:** A medal winner last year, this beer—with wine and mead qualities—showcases ingredients found in King Midas' tomb: barley, white Muscat grapes, honey, and saffron.
- ❑ **60 Minute, 90 Minute, and 120 Minute IPAs:** Dogfish's flagship beer was the 60 Minute IPA (with 60 IBUs—international bitterness units—and 6 percent alcohol) until the brewery released its 90 Minute IPA, heralded by *Esquire* magazine as “perhaps the best IPA in America” (90 IBUs and 9 percent alcohol). If you can handle it, try the 120 Minute IPA. At 120 IBUs and 20 percent alcohol, this beer packs not only bite, but 450 calories per 12-ounce pour.

## 3. Durango Brewing Company: Durango, CO

- ❑ **Derail Ale:** Nothing complements Colorado's sunny weather like a big, golden ale. This one is loaded with hops and alcohol (8.5 percent).
- ❑ **Dark Lager:** This GABF—medal winner may be simply named, but it's a complex blend of crystal and chocolate malt flavors, which make for a smooth, dark beer.

## 4. Firestone Walker Brewing Company: Paso Robles, CA

- ❑ **Opal:** This wheat wine—a cousin of Barleywine—is barrel-aged and has an alcohol content of more than 9 percent.
- ❑ **Parabola:** A Russian Imperial Stout that has spent months in bourbon, brandy, and new American oak barrels, this beer features dark chocolate flavors with hints of tobacco, oak, and whiskey.

## 5. Maui Brewing Co.: Maui, HI

- ❑ **Coconut Porter:** Maui's canned Coconut Porter is flavored with toasted coconut, a sweet complement to its malts.
- ❑ **Mana Wheat:** Accented with pineapple and coriander, the honey-scented Mana Wheat recalls pineapple-upside-down cake with a touch of lemon and orange.

## 6. Nodding Head Brewery: Philadelphia, PA

- ❑ **Ich bin ein Berliner Weisse:** This GABF—award-winning, German-style wheat beer is more than just your average hefeweizen. Its tart suds are refreshingly light at 3.5 percent.
- ❑ **The Phunk:** This wacky beer lives up to its name. It's brewed with several strains of yeast to produce a flavor its brewers describe as “this really sour funky thing.”

## 7. Port Brewing Company and Lost Abbey Brewing: San Marcos, CA

- ❑ **The Angel's Share 2006:** Such care has gone into this Barleywine—aged in brandy barrels since March 2006—that it might well be the nectar of angels. Expect sweet malt, oak, and vanilla aromas.
- ❑ **Red Poppy:** The sour red ales of Flanders inspired the Red Poppy, which was aged in French oak barrels with sour cherries and wild yeasts.

## 8. Russian River Brewing Company: Santa Rosa, CA

- ❑ **Damnation:** Russian River tagged this strong golden ale keeping in mind Belgian tradition, which allows brewmasters to bestow their suds with devilish names. Expect accents of banana and pear, with a sweet malt flavor.
- ❑ **Blind Pig IPA:** Finally, a big-flavored IPA that doesn't put you under the table with its alcohol content. While many craft IPAs are 9 and 10 percent, this one is a light 6 percent.

## 9. Ska Brewing: Durango, CO

- ❑ **Decadent Imperial IPA:** Made to celebrate Ska's tenth year in business, this citrusy, big IPA weighs in at 10 percent.
- ❑ **Nefarious Ten Pin Imperial Porter:** Another big beer at 8 percent, this dark porter blends chocolate, cream, coffee, and cherry flavors.

## 10. Steamworks Brewing Company: Durango, CO

- ❑ **Colorado Kölsch:** Take a break from heavy flavors with this crisp, clean, Czech-style brew, which tips in at just 4.5 percent.
- ❑ **Conductor Imperial IPA:** Three kinds of American hops—Warrior, Tomahawk, and Simcoe—work together in this brew to deliver big hops smells, flavors, and finish.

—Compiled by Jennie Dorris