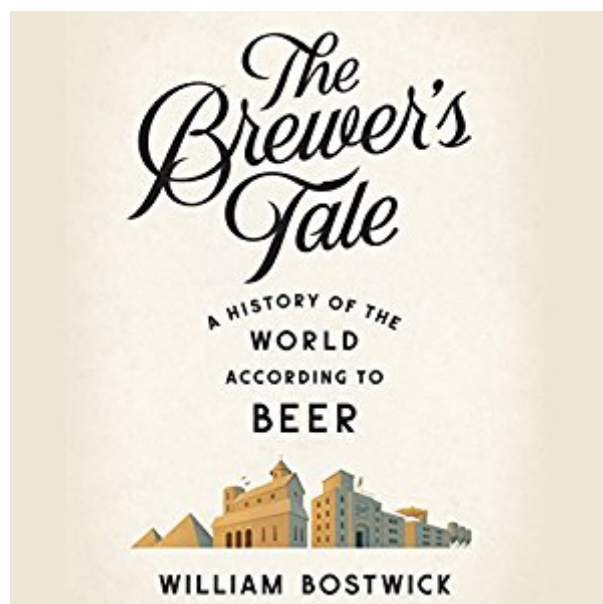


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The Brewer's Tale: A History Of The World According To Beer



Synopsis

Winner of 2014 US Gourmand Drinks Award Taste 5,000 years of brewing history as a time-traveling home brewer rediscovers and re-creates the great beers of the past. *The Brewer's Tale* is a beer-filled journey into the past: the story of brewers gone by and one brave writer's quest to bring them - and their ancient, forgotten beers - back to life, one taste at a time. This is the story of the world according to beer, a toast to flavors born of necessity and place - in Belgian monasteries, rundown farmhouses, and the basement nanobrewery next door. So pull up a barstool and raise a glass to 5,000 years of fermented magic. Fueled by date-and-honey gruel, sour pediococcus-laced lambics, and all manner of beers between, William Bostwick's rollicking quest for the drink's origins takes him into the redwood forests of Sonoma County, to bullet-riddled South Boston brewpubs, and across the Atlantic, from Mesopotamian sands to medieval monasteries to British brewing factories. Bostwick compares notes with the Mt. Vernon historian in charge of preserving George Washington's molasses-based home brew, and he finds the ancestor of today's macrobrewed lagers in a nineteenth-century spy's hollowed-out walking stick. Wrapped around this modern reportage are deeply informed tales of history's archetypal brewers: Babylonian temple workers, Nordic shamans, patriots, rebels, and monks. *The Brewer's Tale* unfurls from the ancient goddess Ninkasi, ruler of intoxication, to the cryptic beer hymns of the Rig Veda and down into the clove-scented treasure holds of India-bound sailing ships. With each discovery comes Bostwick's own turn at the brew pot, an exercise that honors the audacity and experimentation of the craft. A sticky English porter, a pricelessly rare Belgian, and a sacred, shamanic wormwood-tinged gruit each offer humble communion with the brewers of yore.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A pretty decent pop-history book on the history of beer. Each chapter takes you through time, from ancient Babylon to the modern day, sanitized Miller factory ... which would have been a very depressing destination, if not for the epilogue. Overall it was a great, entertaining read. Bostwick is a good writer, and I will excuse him for calling San Francisco "Frisco" just this once. His editor should be fired for not catching it, though. Anyhow, my only other complaint is that, like most modern pop history books, the author inserts himself into the story. I usually prefer that the author stands back and lets the story tell itself, but I think it was mostly alright in this case. If you want a book that's a good introduction to beer and craft beer history, this is a quick and easy read to get you started

A fascinating tale, starting with beers humble origins in mesopotamia, and following the various stages of this legendary character as it changes with each era of human history. A great read that brings you closer to the rich tradition behind that pint.

MUCH more than a history of beer. This book is a journalistic account of the methods and motivations of the brewers that originated the styles we drink today. The author doesn't just connect us to a historical time and place, but for every era he seeks out contemporary brewers who are making great beer in the same spirit and tradition as the past, or seeking to recreate long-lost tastes. The best book i've read that captures the energy and spirit of contemporary brewing and meaningfully connects it with history, from small craft breweries like moonlight or jolly pumpkin to the big names like dogfish and sierra nevada. A great read for anyone who loves beer.

You follow the author on his journey to discover 8 major phases beer has gone through, starting with our ancestor's discovery of beer to post-prohibition drinking in America. This was a great read that is very informative and entertaining. Definitely a great gift for any beer lover or homebrewers you know!

Wall Street Journal beer critic William Bostwick takes a cruise through history through the lens of beer. Bostwick observes that unlike hunting or gathering, beer is one of the first human cultural items made by humans. It's our first food we have a recipe for. This allows him to make some

interesting observations on both human culture and beer. Through this journey, Bostwick tries to brew a beer representative of the historical/cultural stage he is discussing. He looks at beer in Babylonian society showing the relationship between beer, agriculture and towns. Next he approaches beer and the shaman showing the relationship between beer and religion and then follows up with a good discussion on the role of monastic beer and farm beer. His chapter on industrial beer discusses the rise of porter and the use of hops and how the industrial revolution transformed beer and our drinking habits. I liked his discussion of Patriot beer and the role beer played in the forming of America. His chapter on immigrant beer traces the origins and the spread of lager beer and its rise to dominance in the US. His concluding chapter on advertising looks at the rise of industrial lager after prohibition and how advertising has formed out taste in beer. A thoroughly enjoyable and well written book that people who like history, beer and a good story will enjoy.

Superb read---intimate and expansive. Beer tastes better now!

A great read for beer lovers interested in the history of the beverage, from Sumeria to Schlitz to Sam Adams and Sierra Nevada, with visits to Trappist monks, shamanic rites, London porter houses, and the sea voyage from Britain to India that necessitated the IPA. A book that can make you both appreciate a Bud and hunger for henbane spirit brews, understand why Sierra Nevada Torpedo tastes fresher than a local brew, and be thankful that Yard's Colonial-style ales are modern with only a little hint of what the founders had to drink.

William Bostwick is the best beer writer working today, and it should come as no surprise that his latest is a fascinating global beer crawl, overflowing with insight, humor, and intelligence. The book is both deeply reported and deeply personal, shifting effortlessly between engaging historical anecdote and wholly original tasting notes. It's enough to make even a dedicated wino reach for six pack opener between chapters. A terrific read.

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