28th Anniversary 1988 – 2016

Celebrator®

December 2015/January 2016

42 Holiday Beers

If I had any doubts that Wyoming was the least populous state in the USA, they were put to rest during a recent autumn road trip and beer reconnaissance mission to the Cowboy State. The 1,000-plus-mile round-trip route to Jackson by way of Cheyenne was a study in rugged Western landscapes, from the near-endless, antelope-intensive rolling grasslands along Interstate 80, to the postcard-perfect, chiseled peaks of the Grand Tetons.

There are currently 22 breweries located throughout Wyoming's widely dispersed settlements, according to John Giantonio, a Wyoming tourism professional and creator of the Wyoming Beer Trail (WyomingBeerTrail.com), a soon-to-be-launched online guide to the state's breweries. While that number of breweries may not sound especially impressive, Wyoming is among the leaders nationwide in breweries per capita.

Jackson

Although Jackson is located in remote western Wyoming, 300 miles from the nearest big city, the town of 10,000 is hardly untrodden. Jackson annually hosts 3 to 4 million visitors who arrive to take in the inspiring scenery, enjoy world-class outdoor recreation and visit nearby Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks. Three brewpubs have each carved a niche in the local beer scene and, to varying degrees, have gained prominence among beer enthusiasts.

A 10-minute drive from Jackson, the Q Roadhouse restaurant sits midway between the town and the famed Jackson Hole ski resort. In 2012, a brewhouse was built within the restaurant and operates as a separate entity under the moniker **Roadhouse Brewing Co**. The brewing operations are led by Adam Chenault and Colby Cox, former homebrewing partners who felt Jackson was deserving of a more diversified beer scene. They carved their niche by producing a variety of Belgian-inspired ales, though not to the exclusion of other styles.

The brewery keeps up to 15 house beers on tap. In addition, there is a cellar reserve list featuring several Trappist ales and other Belgian imports. Three full-time beers include the best-selling IPA; a cream ale brewed with barley, corn and oats; and a nicely executed saison that pairs well with much of the restaurant's gastropub-style menu. Roadhouse produces a fruited version of the house saison flavored with peaches and apricots. Saison en Regalia was a 2014 GABF silver medal winner in the Belgian-Style Fruit Beer category. If the weather permits, grab a table on the outdoor patio overlooking an expanse of lawn that is often visited by a grazing moose.

Extensive GABF Coverage

Vol. 28 No. 6
$4.95
celebrator.com

Chief Barrel Herder Andy Parker and Beer Badassador Jess Steinitz with a GABF medal that tasted so good for Avery Brewing Company of Boulder, Colo.