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2018 BEER
GUIDE

Backcountry

THE UNTRACKED EXPERIENCE



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Roadhouse Brewing Company Avarice & Greed

Roadhouse Brewing Company was on to something when naming the Avarice & Greed—the Belgian strong pale ale is “easily drinkable,” per one tester, who went on to warn that it “dries out well enough to be repeatable.” And there’s plenty of reason to have another, between what one called the “spicy and a touch sweet” taste, described by another as a “great balance of yeast character, alcohol warmth and malt flavor.” But when the greed kicks in, don’t forget that the ABV sits just under nine percent—a solid reminder that avarice is one of the seven sins.

Pairs With: As many laps as you did that day...divided by two.

8.9% ABV, Jackson Hole, Wyo., roadhousebrewery.com



Icicle Brewing Company Dirty Face Amber Lager

For the worn-in-flannel, duct-taped-jacket types, pull up a stool and crack open Icicle’s Dirty Face Amber. Brewed for the hardworking, no-frills folk in Washington’s Leavenworth Valley, the Dirty Face pairs “earthy hops with clean malt,” one tester said, with what another called “toasty and toffee notes in the flavor.” And forget the macrobrewery lagers: “This is a good, straightforward beer for a cold afternoon,” a third tester said, picking up on what Icicle calls the “smooth, medium body” and clean finish.

Pairs With: Not giving up the best secret spots.

5% ABV, Leavenworth, Wash., iciclebrewing.com



“TOASTY AND TOFFEE NOTES IN THE FLAVOR.”

—Jeff Schwartz on the Dirty Face Amber

Stone Brewing Company Stone Xocoveza

“You. Yes, you. What are you doing sitting there, reading beer reviews? Go buy this immediately,” one tester said of the Xocoveza, a mocha stout first brewed in 2014 and back by popular demand. The stout is Stone’s take on Mexican hot chocolate and brewed with cocoa, coffee and spices, and our testers happily lapped it up. “Fairy tale aroma: hot chocolate, spice, roast barley with a sweet finish,” one tester said. “A big stout accented with spice and chocolate flavor,” another reported, adding, “It’s all there and delicious.”

Pairs With: Fiestas after checking off dream lines.

8.7% ABV, Escondido, Calif., stonebrewing.com



Elevation Beer Co. Oil Man Imperial Stout

“This reminds me of an old man sitting outside a mine in the backwoods of Wyoming with a shotgun,” one tester said of the Oil Man, which Elevation calls a “bourbon barrel-aged crude.” That tester cited the “roasty taste, slightly lighter carbonation and the slight bourbon flavor from the barrels” for the Wild West imagery, and all testers felt that, while its ABV could turn a saloon upside down, the stout is “easily drinkable,” per one, and “boozy, but not in a bad way,” according to another.

Pairs With: Swapping tall tales with your closest buddies.

10% ABV, Poncha Springs, Colo., elevationbeerco.com



“BOOZY, BUT NOT IN A BAD WAY.”

—Robin Earle on the Oil Man Imperial Stout

Oakshire Brewing Sunmade Blackberry Berliner Weisse

Oakshire keeps their Sunmade series rolling through the spring and summer—including a Cucumber, Raspberry and Blackberry Berliner Weisse. And the Blackberry, our testers reported, hits the mark. “I expected the blackberry flavor to be overpowering going in, but the taste is nicely mellowed out by the sourness,” one reported. “Pleasantly puckering tartness, soft blackberry flavor,” another said, adding, “Thirst quenching, I’ll have another.” A third tester, less interested in fruity goodness, called it a “first step from wine cooler to craft beer.”

Pairs With: Corn—at the barbeque or underfoot.

4.7% ABV, Eugene, Ore., oakbrew.com

