

Cruising for a BREWS-ING



WHEN LARZ WATTS asked his girlfriend, Summer Nixon, to drive him and his buddies around for a tour of local breweries, she balked at the prospect of chauffeuring a carload of beer-guzzling guys. Plus she enjoys her Hefeweizen just as much as the guys do. The dilemma provided the inspiration for Brew Hop, the couple's new tour company showcasing San Diego's best breweries.

"We cater to bachelor/bachelorette parties, college groups, beer connoisseurs and out-of-towners looking for a taste of San Diego beer," says Nixon. "Or it's just an excuse to get out with friends and have an unforgettable party for no good reason at all."

Tour groups assemble at a featured brewery, where they sample suds before climbing into a luxury ride (think stretch Hummer). At each brewery stop, Brew Hop guests get "rock star access," which includes a 5- to 10-minute tour of the facility, meet-and-greet time with the brewmaster and beer tastings. Tours (wisely) conclude at a brewery restaurant, where VIP bracelets buy meal discounts. Choose between the Beer Connoisseurs Tour, a five-hour party that makes four brewery visits, or the Beer Tasters Tour, which stops at two or three breweries in half the time. Price ranges from \$75 to \$119 per person, depending on tour route and group size.

Brewery partners include Stone Brewing, Alesmith Brewing Company, Firehouse Brewing Company, Oggi's, Port Brewing (Pizza Port), Backstreet Brewing, La Jolla Brew House, Ballast Point Brewing, Green Flash Brewing Company and others. Visit brewhop.com or call 858-361-8457 for information on Oktoberfest tour specials and reservations.

Cup Half Full

THE DAVIS CUP (think World Series of tennis) could be headed to San Diego. The site of this truly international sporting event will be determined after two country-à-country showdowns September 21-23. If the United States—led by Andy Roddick and James Blake—beats Sweden, and if Russia defeats Germany, the finals will take place in the Sports Arena November 30 through December 2.

Tennis aficionado Bill Kellogg, who's also president of La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club, has secured the dates at the Sports Arena. What he hasn't fully secured is the \$400,000 sponsorship fee. If you've got \$5,000 or \$10,000 to spare, call Kellogg at 858-454-6500 or e-mail wjkellogg@msn.com. If the United States loses to Sweden, or Germany bests Russia, don't bother.

—RON DONOHO

Urban Cowboy



MAYBE YOU'VE SEEN HIM in Seaport Village: the grizzled Buffalo Bill lookalike who sings cowboy songs, then ever so slowly winds down until he's frozen in midverse. "When

[spectators] get too close or too curious, that's when I jerk back to life," says Bill Brinsfield, who's been strumming his guitar on Seaport Village's boardwalk for



Andy Roddick (top) and James Blake