



## PLEASURE BY THE PINT

*San Diego's booming craft*

## BREW SCENE

"All-Time Top Brewery on Planet Earth." This was the title recently bestowed by *BeerAdvocate* magazine upon Stone Brewing Company – an irreverent San Diego brewery with big dreams. Stone is just one of over 30 craft breweries in this city that is fast becoming the Napa of beer.

### Brew Hopping

Brewery tours are an incredibly fun way to sample some of the best local breweries. Brew Hop is a local tour that offers 2.5 to 5 hour tours in uber-cool limos. Tour the breweries, meet the brew masters, sample the beers and end with a great meal.

#### Urban Explorers: 5 Places to Taste

**The Ritual Tavern**  
4095 30th Street in North Park

**The Yard House**  
1023 4th Avenue Downtown

**Hamilton's Tavern**  
1521 30th Street in South Park/Golden Hill

**O'Brien's Pub**  
4646 Convoy Street in Kearny Mesa

**The Linkery**  
3794 30th Street in North Park

The list of San Diego brewers is long, colorful and filled with passionate brew masters whose enthusiasm and exuberance are downright intoxicating. Here are just a few:

**Stone Brewing Company's** new \$13 million facility is a must for those who worship the golden nectar. Their World Bistro & Gardens, which specializes in delicious and creative preparations of locally grown, organic produce and natural meats, is a fantastic place to soak in the sun and learn the ins and outs of pairing award-winning beer with great food. Don't miss the Arrogant Bastard Ale Onion Rings.

**Karl Strauss Brewing Company** was the first brewery to reintroduce San Diego to locally brewed, handcrafted beer, since brewpubs were banned during Prohibition. Twenty years later, their Brewery Restaurants serve 10 handcrafted beers on tap, including their original Amber Lager.

**AleSmith Brewing Company** (#5 on *BeerAdvocate's*, "Best on the Planet" list) is an unassuming, artisan brewer that's deeply rooted in the homebrewing community. Award-winning creations include their incarnation of a Belgian Strong Ale playfully named Horny Devil, and their special edition Speedway Stout, a jet-black Imperial Stout filled with dark chocolate and strong coffee flavors. A tasting room is open Friday and Saturday afternoons.

**Ballast Point Brewing Company's** Yellow Tail Pale Ale is a local staple for thirsty San Diegans. Started as Home Brew Mart in 1992, this craft brewery has become a local favorite and an international gold medal winner.

For more information on San Diego's craft beer movement, visit [sandiego.org/brew](http://sandiego.org/brew)



#### Brew-centric events

**Beach to Brewery Beer & Music Fest**  
May 9, Hosted by Karl Strauss with proceeds benefiting Surfrider Foundation.

**3rd Annual San Diego International Beer Festival**  
June 26-27, Sample over 200 handcrafted beers at the San Diego County Fair.

**13th Annual Stone Anniversary Celebration**  
August 22, The biggest craft beer fest in So. Cal. Proceeds go to charity.

Thank you San Diego Brewers Guild for input on this article. For more beer-centric events visit [sandiegbrewersguild.org](http://sandiegbrewersguild.org)

happy  
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