



2019

Winter Classes

Classes led by Top Hops' own Kevin Brooks, Advanced Cicerones® Chris Chou-Messina and Chris McClellan, Threes Brewer Joel Ford and Certified Cicerone® and Firestone Walker Market Manager, Josh Wood.

Mondays and Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30pm

\$50 per class unless noted*.

(\$50 discount for 5 classes or more.)

Class is limited to 10 students.

Price includes beer.

10% discount on all store purchases post-class.

BEER 101 (KB) - 1/22, 3/25

BELGIAN BEERS (JW) * \$65 - 1/28

TRAPPISTS (JW)* \$90 - 1/29

BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE: WINTER BEERS (KB) - 2/4

TRAVEL THE WORLD WITH BEER (JW) - 2/5, 3/19

STOUTS (JW) - 2/11

VERMONT BEER. THE REAL STORY (CMcC) - 2/12

HOPS (JF) - 2/19

BEER AND CHEESE (KB)* \$75 - 2/26, 3/18

SO NOW YOU'RE A BEER NERD: ADVANCED BEERS (KB) - 3/4

BEHIND THE GATES: THE HISTORY OF THE GUINNESS BREWERY (CMcC) - 3/11

SHE SAID BEER, HE SAID CHAMPAGNE: THE RISE OF BRUT IPAs (CC) *\$65 - 3/12

SOURS (JF) - 3/26

Visit www.tophops.com to register and pay.

Private classes available.

Also check out our class offering at Urbanspace 570 Lex.

Top Hops reserves the right to cancel any and all classes due to scheduling conflict, illness or poor attendance. Attendees of cancelled classes will be given a full refund and at least 24 hours notice whenever possible.

About Our Instructors

KEVIN BROOKS

Kevin Brooks left the legal services industry to follow his love of beer a little more than five years ago, hoping to find his way as a beer professional. A start at Murray's Cheese gave him an unexpected love of cheese and put him in a prime position to help with the launch of the beer program there. After two great years he left to work the streets as a rep for a beer distributor, selling beer to some of the top craft beer bars in New York City. A desire for a change found him back at his retail roots, managing the store at Top Hops and continuing his adventures in beer.

CHRIS CHOU-MESSINA

Chris Chou-Messina is the Director of Craft Innovation at Anheuser-Busch. She gained an appreciation for beer after working in several Michelin-starred restaurants and hospitality groups in New York City. She is drawn to the creativity and irreverence of craft beer, and can be found wandering beer aisles while her husband takes care of the actual groceries. Chris is an Advanced Cicerone[®], BJCP Certified Judge and has earned a WSET (Wine & Spirits Education Trust)[®] Level 2 Award passing with distinction.

JOEL FORD

Joel Ford is the assistant brewer at the acclaimed Threes Brewing in Brooklyn. He has a great passion for beer which he gained while living in places with great beer culture such as Minnesota, Michigan, North Carolina, and most recently Vermont. Since diving into home brewing in 2007 he has made over 200 different beers including numerous commercial examples.

CHRIS McCLELLAN

Advanced Cicerone[®] Chris McClellan was born and raised in Burlington, Vermont. He started his beer journey with his first job out of business school, working for his local brewery...a small shop called Magic Hat Brewing Company. He has stayed thirsty in the decade since, has a consulting business and works for the Guinness Brewery Ambassador team, an educational program focused on great storytelling and the fantastic portfolio of the Guinness Brewery. Chris lives in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn with his wife and dog.

JOSH WOOD

Certified Cicerone Josh Wood attended Wesleyan University where he learned one of the most important and indispensable skills possible, the brewing of beer. After spending 4 years brewing all ranges of beer – from Black Lagers to German Oktoberfests, IPAs to Belgian Tripels, he moved to New York City where he has been immersed in the beer world for the last 5 years. He has led craft beer tours in Brooklyn, worked for a local beer distributor and currently manages NYC for Firestone Walker Brewing Company. Josh also has a passion for cooking, exploring new areas of the city (and their restaurants), live music and international travel.

About Our Classes

BEER 101 (KB) - 1/22, 3/25

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between an Ale and a Lager? How about a Dry Stout or a Foreign Stout? What is beer actually made from? Wonder no more as we run through the basics of beer and introduce you to the major beer styles. We'll discuss everything from the American Adjunct Lager to the Imperial Stout in this introduction to the wonderful world of beer. Whether you're already a beer lover or you're just dipping your toe in the water, we welcome you to join us for some fun times and fun brews.

Note: A condensed version of this class will be offered at Top Hops Urbanspace 570 Lex.

BELGIAN BEERS (JW) *\$65 - 1/28

Belgium is often considered the champion country of brewing and the home of a large range of beer styles. Come join us as we explore this country through its suds. From historical breweries to new cutting edge brands, Belgium has lots to offer. Saisons and Farmhouse Ales, Dubbels, Tripels, Quads, Guezes and Lambics, blondes, pale and strong pale ales, Flanders Reds and Browns, Trappist Ales - have we said enough? Step into this country for an evening. May include items from Rochefort, La Chouffe, Hansenns, and many more.

TRAPPISTS (JW) *\$90 - 1/29

There are now 11 Trappist Breweries in the world (including one right here in the USA). With the first being one of the oldest breweries in the world, dating back to 1595, Trappist beers are regarded as 'holy' within the beer world. Please join us for a one of a kind experience, as we sample the products from 8 to 9 of these monasteries. Items will include the regularly produced products of the ITA designated Trappist breweries including the famed Westvleteren.

BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE: WINTER BEERS (KB) - 2/4

As the temperatures drop and the threat of snow increases, we all seek the warm embrace of a particular kind of beer. A winter warmer you might say. Let's cuddle together and explore these beers and keep the frost at bay.

TRAVEL THE WORLD WITH BEER (JW) - 2/5, 3/19

The beer world is hard to navigate at the start. Why not take a world tour that includes multiple regions and their hallmark beer styles. Build a foundation for further beer drinking by understanding the basics of each region. Get excited to learn how to identify each brewing tradition while traveling through 5 or more continents. Try everything from Trappist beers like Westmalle, to new American craft producers like Firestone Walker, to limited release beers from Japan.

STOUTS (JW) - 2/11

With 6 basic styles and even more sub-styles, there are an almost overwhelming variety of stouts to choose from. We'll have everything from the traditional Dry Irish Stout, to the ever popular Barrel Aged Imperial Stout, and even Sour Stouts. We'll discuss the history as well as what makes a stout a stout. We may even have a few Baltic or Imperial Porters sneak their way in. Expect items from Left Hand, The Bruery, and at least a couple from Goose Island.

VERMONT BEER. THE REAL STORY (CMcC) - 2/12

Beer and Vermont go hand in hand in the modern conversation around craft beer. But do you know how we got there? Join Chris for a deep dive into the breweries that helped define the zeitgeist and enthusiasm around the modern beer scene in Vermont, all while drinking a few beers from some of their most famous breweries, from Switchback to Zero Gravity.

HOPS (JF) - 2/19

Take a journey into the world of hops. We will explore what varieties of hops taste like from all regions of the world from noble European hops to the new popular American varieties. We will look at the influences new hops have had on emerging styles of IPA's and sample beer made with those hops. We will also take a look at how modern brewing techniques have enhanced the hop flavors everyone craves today. Beers may include examples from local American producers and some old forgotten favorites as well.

Note: A condensed version of this class will be offered at Top Hops Urbanspace 570 Lex. Kevin Brooks will be the instructor.

BEER AND CHEESE (KB) *\$75 - 2/26, 3/18

Wine and cheese is the height of elegance, we've been told. Wine and cheese=classy, right? Surely nothing goes together better than wine and cheese. Not so! Beer and cheese make a better pairing in every way, with a greater range of flavors working together to wow the senses. Come join us for a guided flight of four beers and cheeses selected by veteran cheese monger and beer expert

Kevin Brooks.

SO NOW YOU'RE A BEER NERD: ADVANCED BEERS (KB) - 12/3

You know your lagers from your ales, your bocks from your porters. But what about sours? Smoked beers? What the heck is a gueuze? And what is the difference between a porter and a stout? In this class we tackle some more advanced styles and dig deeper in to the brewing techniques that get us there.

BEHIND THE GATES: THE HISTORY OF THE GUINNESS BREWERY (CMcC) - 3/11

When we say "Guinness," what comes to mind? An Irish countryside and a freshly poured pint of stout, no doubt. Most people are fans of Guinness, but when you actually dive into the details of one of the world's most legendary breweries, you probably don't know too much. Join Chris, a Senior Ambassador for the Guinness Brewery, on a journey through history as we explore the stories and styles that have defined Guinness over the centuries.

SHE SAID BEER, HE SAID CHAMPAGNE: THE RISE OF BRUT IPAs (CC) *\$65- 3/12

What happens when wine and beer collide? Brut IPA is the latest craft style to capture our imaginations. We'll explore the birth of this style in the U.S., its trademark characteristics that bridge beer and wine, and its surprising roots in a classic U.S. style innovation from the '70s. Join us as we taste Brut interpretations from some of the most creative U.S. breweries, as well as a popular example from the champagne side.

SOURS (JF) - 3/26

Jump down the rabbit hole to explore the world of wild beers and what makes them so unique.

Pucker up as we dive into sour after sour and discuss the characteristics that different wild strains and bacteria provide. Beers may include examples from local American producers to Belgian favorites like Drie Fonteinen, Tilquin, and Cantillon.