



## The Best Brewery in The U.S. — According to The U.S. Open Beer Championship

**Erik Ofgang** Forbes Contributor Jul 8, 2024, *Exploring the world's best drinks and other mysteries of the universe.*



The best brewery in the U.S. is in Ohio according to this year's U.S. Open Beer Championship. Third Eye Brewing out of Hamilton, Ohio took home the [U.S. Open Beer Championship's](#) ultimate award and was named the 2024 Grand National Champion, the competition announced on Monday night, July 8. This means it is the highest point winner at the festival this year and 2024's best brewery, according to the competition.

"I am incredibly proud of our Team at Third Eye Brewing and grateful to see all our hard work recognized," Kelly Montgomery, head brewer and co-owner of Third Eye Brewing, told me shortly after the award was announced. "Winning Grand Champion is a dream come true for all of us at Third Eye."

The U.S. Open Beer Championship was founded in 2009 by brewer Dow Scoggins and is one of the most prestigious brewery festivals in the world along with notable festivals such as the World Beer Cup and The Great American Beer Festival. Unique among U.S. beer festivals, the U.S. Open Beer Championship allows award-winning homebrewers to compete against professional breweries. Even though, I'm always intrigued by the winners of major competitions, it's important to note that many great breweries don't compete in them each year. That said, I always look to the U.S. Open Beer Championship winners to help learn about new great breweries across the country as achieving success in this festival is a clear sign of excellence. For example, Third Eye Brewing emerged out of a competition field that included more than 9,000 beers across 170 different styles.

The Ohio brewery did this by winning 4 gold medals, 2 silver medals and 2 bronze medals. The brewery's victory was not only a victory for itself but for dark beers in general. Instead of the IPAs, pilsners, pale ales and other light beers that have come to dominate craft beer sales, each of Third Eye Brewing's 4 gold medal-winning beers were dark beers. These award-winning beers are Higher Consciousness (a Scotch ale), Double Astral (an imperial chocolate oatmeal stout), Dark Aura (a chocolate oatmeal stout), and Inner Sight (a brown ale). "We love our IPAs and other pale ales at Third Eye, but we wanted to focus on our darker styles that have won other national competitions," Montgomery said. [Founded in 2020](#), Third Eye Brewing has locations in both Sharonville and Hamilton, Ohio, but it's rare to find it outside of the state. Even so, the brewery is no stranger to beer competition success, having won the Brewery of the Year at the 2023 Great American Beer Festival. I haven't had the chance, to sample this brewery yet, but they're now top of my list.

The second-highest-scoring brewery at the Competition was [Monday Night Brewing](#) out of Atlanta, Georgia, which took home 4 gold medals and 4 bronze medals. The gold medals were for the beers Spoken Wisdom, Tears of Our Enemies, Madrigal, and Simple Illusion. I haven't had these specific beers from Monday Night Brewing, but I have enjoyed several other offerings, and the brewery is definitely one to watch. Coming in third was [Sun King Brewery](#) out of Indianapolis, Indiana, which won 3 golds for their Barrel Aged Scout Badge, Banana Daquiri and their Collaboration Beer, Up For Anything, brewed with 18th Street Brewery. They also took home a silver and 2 bronze medals. This is the latest chapter of success at the U.S. Open Beer Championship for Sun King Brewery, which was the competition's Grand National Champion in 2019 and 2022. I reached out to the organizer of the U.S. Open Beer Championship shortly after the competition results were announced but did not receive an immediate response. However, make sure to check back for updates.

## **2024 Year's Local Winners 54 different medals, including 17 Golds, 15 Silvers, and 22 Bronzes**

### **16 Lots**

Flotilla – Bronze Medal, Belgian Witbier

Smugglers Coffee Blonde – Bronze Medal, Coffee Beer

### **Brink**

Gold Top – Bronze Medal, Single Hopped IPA

Barrel-Aged Levelled Up – Gold, Barrel-Aged English Barleywine

### **The Common Beer Company**

I Need More Cowbelgian – Bronze Medal, Belgian Pale Ale

Grand Cru – Silver Medal, Belgian Strong Dark Ale

This Dark Cloud Won't Get Me Down – Silver Medal, European Dark Lager

### **Cincinnati Beverage Company**

Pitch Pilsner – Bronze Medal, American Style Pilsener

Roggenbier – Silver Medal, Historical Beer

### **Darkness Brewing**

LaFawnduh – Bronze Medal, Chocolate or Cocoa Beer

### **Esoteric Brewing Company**

Luminati – Silver Medal, Munich Style Helles

Oracle – Gold Medal, American Fruit Wheat-POG

Oracle – Bronze Medal, American Fruit Wheat-Mango

### **Fretboard**

Bootsy Brewski – Bronze Medal, Brut IPA

### **Grainworks**

Oatmeal Stout – Bronze Medal, Oatmeal Stout

Old Motor Oil – Gold Medal, Aged Beer

### **Gravel Road Brewing**

Driving On the Left – Bronze Medal, Special Bitter or Best Bitter

### **HighGrain**

Isar Weiss – Silver, German Hefeweizen

### **MadTree**

Seeing Colors – Bronze Medal, New England/Juicy IPA

### **Municipal Brew Works**

Guthrie – Gold Medal, Peated Strong Scotch Ale

Recovery Red – Bronze Medal, Imperial Red Ale

Orange Agave Blonde – Bronze Medal, American Fruit – Orange

### **Narrow Path**

Path Blue Ribbon – Silver Medal, American Premium Lager

Hot Honey Saison – Bronze Medal, Chili Pepper Beer

Missing Linck Honey Saison – Bronze Medal, Specialty Honey Beer

### **Nine Giant**

Happiness Is All the Rage – Bronze Medal, Berliner Weisse

Brilliant Colors – Gold Medal, Barrel-Aged Belgian Quad

Trendy – Silver Medal, Brett Beer

### **Northern Row**

Coaster – Silver Medal, American Fruit Wheat-Misc

### **Rhinegeist**

Acoustic Glow – Bronze Medal, Contemporary Gose

Cheetah – Bronze Medal, American Cream Ale

### **Sonder**

Kato – Gold Medal, Coffee Beer

Divot – Gold Medal, Tea Beer

Grodziske – Gold Medal, Grodziske

### **Streetside**

Black Cats – Silver Medal, English Brown Ale

Samoan Cookie Demogoran – Gold Medal, Coconut Beer

### **Third Eye**

Groovy Baby! – Bronze Medal, English Dark Mild

Higher Consciousness – Gold Medal, Strong Scottish Ale

Chai Eye Captain – Silver Medal, Herb and Spice Beer

Double Astral – Gold Medal, Chocolate or Cocoa Beer

Barrel-Aged Higher Consciousness – Silver Medal, Wood/Barrel-Aged Strong Scotch Ale

Kelly's Private Stash – Bronze Medal, Barrel-Aged English Barleywine

Dark Aura – Gold Medal, Peanut/Peanut Butter

Inner Sight – Gold Medal, Nut Beer

### **Urban Artifact**

Rangle – Silver Medal, American Fruit-General

Teak – Gold Medal, American Fruit-POG & Pineapple

Peaches And Cream – Bronze Medal, American Fruit-Peach

Pickle – Gold Medal, Field Beer

Pumpkin Ale – Gold Medal, Pumpkin

Seedless: Mango – Silver Medal, Non-Alcoholic Fruit & Spice

**Wandering Monsters** Fogbringer 8 – Silver Medal, New England/Juicy IPA

Maple BA Viator Obscura – Gold Medal, Breakfast Stout

Pomona-Pina Colada – Bronze Medal, Smoothie Sour

We're All Family Beer – Silver Medal, Italian Pilsner



**Eight** years is something to be proud of, and we are. Great staff, great beer, and awesome fans and supporters. Please join us in celebration as we raise our glasses to how far we've all come together.

**Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.**

Live Music Noon to 10pm.,

All Taps Open with special Anniversary beers.

Special Mayan Burger of the Month

New this year:

Make your own tie-die Darkness T-Shirt.





# 49TH OHIO MINI-CANVENTION 12-13 JULY 2024 GREENE COUNTY EXPO CENTER 120 FAIRGROUND ROAD XENIA OH 45385

DETAILS WILL BE ADDED  
TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!  
STAY TUNED!!

Join us for our second year at GCEC! We feature 8-foot tables, air conditioning, and no stairs. Your pre-registration will include beverages for the entire show. We will have five raffles of quality Breweriana, including a 1939 Heileman's Old Style Lager Low Profile Cone Top, donated by Beer Cans Plus. Camping is available on-site and there are 3 hotels within 10 minutes of the show.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration can be sent to  
Miami Valley Chapter, BCCA  
ATTN: Ken Stidham  
12014 Kilbride Dr, Cincinnati OH 45251  
Paypal MvBCCA@hotmail.com

**REGISTRATION**  
(Choose 1 Day or 2)  
2 Day = \$35 *Significant Others*  
1 Day = \$20 *& Kids are FREE!*  
Choose: Friday/Saturday  
Rent a table @ \$20/each.

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



For camping information visit  
[GreenecoExpoCenter.com](http://GreenecoExpoCenter.com)

Questions? Contact  
Teri Galford at 937-831-0046 or [Terigal61@gmail.com](mailto:Terigal61@gmail.com)  
Chuck Cannon at 513-518-6770



As one of our West Sixth Trailblazers, we thought you should be among the first to know that ***we are THRILLED to be opening a new taproom in Northern KY!*** Located serendipitously at 100 West Sixth St in Covington, we'll begin pouring beers for the community this fall.

It's been a long time coming and we're excited to round out our Northern Kentucky reach with this bigger taproom space. We'll have 20 beers on tap, plenty of space for families and friends, and eventually, a food concept. We're honored to add another page to story of this historical building. ***Check out our website to learn more about the history of Covington Haus and our reinvestment in the area— and stay tuned for an official grand opening announcement.***

# GUINNESS®



## CINCINNATI CELTIC FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY:



## Guinness Cincinnati Celtic Festival Presented by Red Leprechaun

**WHEN: FRI., JULY 12, 5-11 P.M., SAT., JULY 13, 12-7 P.M. AND SUN., JULY 14, 12-7 P.M.**

**EXPERIENCE THE 2024 GUINNESS CINCINNATI CELTIC FESTIVAL, PRESENTED BY RED LEPRECHAUN, FROM JULY 12-14, 2024, LOCATED ON FREEDOM WAY AT THE BANKS NEAR GREAT AMERICAN BALL PARK. ENJOY LIVE MUSIC, DANCING, GAMES, AND AUTHENTIC CELTIC CUISINE. ELITE BANDS LIKE THE HITCHHIKERS AND DULLAHAN WILL ENTERTAIN WHILE YOU SAVOR GUINNESS AND BANGERS AND MASH. LOCAL ACTS AND CONTESTS, INCLUDING CELTIC IDOL AND 'REDDEST HAIR,' ADD TO THE EXCITEMENT. THE OPENING CEREMONY FEATURES THE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK GLEE CLUB, WITH BILL CUNNINGHAM AS HONORARY CHAIRMAN. DOWNLOAD THE CINCYFESTS APP FOR DETAILS. BEST OF ALL, ADMISSION IS FREE!**



# CINCINNATI Burger & WEEK

July 15-24, 2024

*\$7 Burgers  
at Cincinnati's  
Favorite Eateries*



DOWNLOAD APP  
Download on the  
App Store  
GET IT ON  
Google Play

EAT BURGERS, EARN POINTS, WIN PRIZES.  
DOWNLOAD THE OFFICIAL APP FOR PARTICIPATING  
RESTAURANTS AND EVENT INFORMATION.  
[CINCINNATIBURGERWEEK.COM](http://CINCINNATIBURGERWEEK.COM)



Over 15 area breweries are participating this year!