

Wicked Cellars Tasting Notes
Saturday, January 12th, 2-5 p.m.
A Blind Tasting of IPAs
To Mourn and Replace
"Pliny the Elder"

\$5 Tasting Fee



On Saturday we're doing a Blind IPA tasting in search of a replacement for Russian River Brewing's "Pliny the Elder" that will no longer be distributed in Washington State. It will cost just \$5 to through the line-up and vote for your favorite. We'll keep the top two to three winners on the shelf for your future pleasure.

Silver City Whoop Pass IPA

Whoop Pass American Double/Imperial IPA from Silver City Brewing Company in Silverdale, Washington is another in a long line of hop monsters from America's upper left hand corner. Silver City has done themselves proud and have carried on the regional tradition of brewing remarkably hoppy, amazingly delicious beer.

Skagit River Gospel IPA

Co-brewed with Arlen Harris, former brewer at LaConner Brewing this recreates a regional favorite from years ago. Dry and earthy in character, this IPA is a medium orange hue with a touch of haze with citrusy, earthy hops that sit atop a lightly toasty, biscuity malt backbone.

90 Minute IPA from Dogfish Head

Esquire Magazine calls this 90 Minute IPA from Milton Delaware "perhaps the best IPA in America." An imperial IPA best savored from a snifter, 90 Minute has a great malt

backbone that stands up to the extreme hopping rate.

Consider pairing this with pork chops, beef, grilled fish, frites, focaccia, split pea soup, Stilton cheese and escargot.

Fort George Vortex IPA

Fort George Brewing, Astoria, Oregon

India Pale Ales were designed to withstand the long voyage to India. Today, it seems one has to design the IPA strong and hoppy enough to make the trip back as well. It's designed not to rip the taste buds off your tongue, but rather vigorously stimulate them and your palate into a lupulin-ecstasy of pleasure.

Gigantic IPA

This American IPA from Portland, Oregon's Gigantic Brewing Company is a different soul from the reincarnated IPA style. More flavorful than the English IPA, color can range from very pale golden to reddish amber. Hops are typically American with a big herbal and/or citric character. This one borders more on the pine side of the hop fence with just a slight touch of citrus and smells just about right for the Oregon coast.

Very clean, crisp with a mango-like aftertaste and definitely a bit of citrus and bread, this has all the staples of a good IPA.

Firestone Walker Double Jack IPA

This Double Jack IPA features a big malty middle that cloaks the high alcohol and mouth puckering hop bitterness. Huge tangerine, grapefruit and juicy fruit aromas blossom over the herbal blue basil and malt earthiness of this aggressive brew that's enjoyed in moderation to avoid flashing blue lights in the rearview.

