

LIFE ON TAP

DRAFT

BEST
BEER
GIFTS

WINTER'S
SLOW-COOKED
MEALS

T O P

2 5

B E E R S

of the

Y E A R 2012

Holiday
SIXER



10
TEA
BEERS

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2012



Deschutes Jubelale
A winter beer for the hopheads: Bright, pithy grapefruit hop flavors enliven Jubelale's chocolate roasted malts.

Dick's Double Diamond Winter Ale
This luscious brew's creamy malts drown the taste buds in rich caramel and bread before gentle bitterness and warming alcohol clean up each hearty sip.



Sprecher Winter Brew
Fresh malts command this brew's aroma while toasted bread and rich nuttiness prelude a snappy lager finish.

**THE DRAFT SIXER:
WINTER WARMERS**

Curl up fireside with these snifter-worthy brews.



Hoppin' Frog Frosted Frog Christmas Ale
Christmas confections abound in this rich ale: Big cinnamon notes flow over the tongue with touches of ginger and nutmeg—a perfect pair for holiday desserts.



Brooklyn Winter Ale
Brooklyn's winter release is decidedly British: Biscuity malts carry subtle cherry notes over the tongue for a profile that's exceptionally balanced.



Mission Dark Seas
Nothing warms like an imperial stout. Big chocolate, roast and peppery booze pack tightly into this San Diego-made version; a post-sip alcohol glow negates chilly SoCal ocean breezes.



NEW DOG IN TOWN: LUCKY DOG ➔

Great things come from great places. That's the mantra Greg Nichols used when marrying his Nantucket homeland with the Rocky Mountains to make Lucky Dog Vodka. Distilled right outside Idaho's Sun Valley by the best "lab-coat-wearing vodka nuts," Lucky Dog is very much a farm-to-bottle product. From harvesting the local Idaho winter wheat to tapping the Snake River Aquifer for runoff from the Rockies, everything happens within 30 miles of the distillery.

Except for the name—that originated on the rocky shores of the East Coast. After years with the U.S. Freestyle team, Nichols traded in his skis for a surfboard. He and his buddies came up with the term "lucky dog" to describe that fortunate bastard who's always in the perfect spot when the



wave breaks. It seemed fitting for vodka, too.

Nichols embodies the same adventurous spirit that's in his brand. After 25 years of running a Nantucket architecture firm, his business got stale. "It was time for a second act," he decided. Though Nichols knew nothing about distilling, he figured his lifelong dream to make vodka was worth a try. He did something right; the vodka won a gold medal at the 2011 New York World Wine & Spirits Competition before even hitting stores last spring. Now it's all over the East Coast and spreading west. The key to Lucky Dog's success: "We're not trying to take vodka too seriously like all the other brands; we just want to have fun with it," says Nichols. Or maybe he just got lucky. —Madison Kahn