



FEATURES

SOME THOUGHTS ON DISCOMFORT AND BEER LABELS

News broke this week that the Binny's in Lincoln Park (the biggest liquor outlet in Chicago) would refuse to stock Happy Ending Imperial Stout in their ...

MARCH 27, 2015

SWEETWATER COMES TO SWEET HOME CHICAGO

Thanks to our friends at Lakeshore Beverage Distributing, we had the opportunity to check out SweetWater Brewing's release party on March 23rd. In addition ...

MARCH 27, 2015



Over Valentine's Day weekend, I had the opportunity to attend my first beer dinner. It was at the Motor restaurant, which is attached to the Harley Davidson ...

MARCH 24, 2015

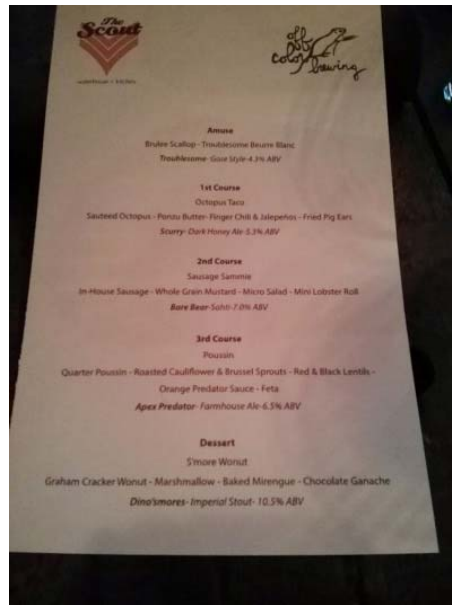
DA BA DEE, DA BA DI

SweetWater Brewing in Atlanta, GA was kind enough to send us samples of the four beers they are launching in the Chicago area this spring: 420 Extra Pale ...

MARCH 19, 2015

ADJUNCT BREWING: BOGEYMAN OR BOON?

One of the first things that I heard from people that liked craft beer was that I should steer clear of adjunct beers: "Would you want to drink that



Finesse > Pretension: a beer dinner with Off Color Brewing at The Scout

After hearing about this dinner on Twitter, I was super excited to see what the evening would hold. Before the dinner started, Clay from Off Color and I talked for a while and one of his comments, that Off Color focuses on finesse over flambovance seems to encapsulate the whole evening. While Off Color is not the loudest brewery out

FEATURES | STORE | ABOUT | CONTACT | ARCHIVE | RSS

Our dinner began with a **bruleed scallop** and **Troublesome**, their Gose style wheat beer, brewed with coriander, salt, and a souring bacteria. Now, I have a six-pack of Troublesome in my fridge at home and really enjoy that beer, but I was obviously not really waiting for this beer with bated breath. That made it all the more shocking, therefore, when I tried it paired with the scallops. The caramelized crust of the scallop and the tender, buttery interior balanced perfectly with the tart crispness of the Gose. This was an example of a pairing that took two already great things and united them perfectly. In some ways, this was my favorite pairing of the night, partly because of its simplicity. The scallop was perfectly prepared, but it was not overly complex. Similarly, Troublesome is delicious, but it has finesse, not pretension. This was simply beautiful.

swill ...

DECEMBER 3, 2014

RECENT TWEETS

It was an honor to meet a brewing pillar like Randy Mosher. I've got my spring break reading now. <http://t.co/J5ZfMQoJuL>

APRIL 2, 2015

I love a beer scene that hosts homebrewers and authors on the same night. Thank you @BEERMISCUOUS! <http://t.co/eZyUkVWVti>

APRIL 2, 2015

@CHIBERGEES Hey, didn't realize you were there! Let me know if you're hitting up another Lake Effect event and we could chat.

APRIL 1, 2015

Follow @laymansbeer



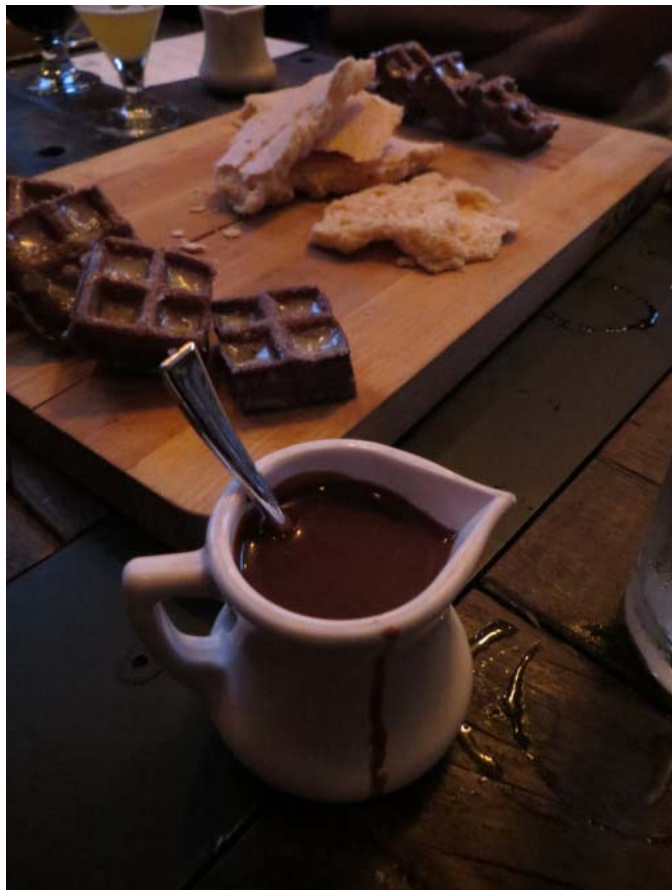
The next course paired an **octopus taco** with **Scurry**, their honey ale. While the first pairing was a solo piano played with heartrending beauty, this was the full orchestra. The octopus was cooked sous-vide in the beer, which left it incredibly tender. There was a nice interplay between the heat of the chilies and Scurry, which actually enhanced the honey and molasses notes in the beer. This was a pairing that really worked, but had a LOT going on. I actually had to stop a couple of times to let my palate take a break and digest what I was tasting.



Our second course paired Off Color's **Bare Bear**, their sahti inspired beer, and a **housemade sausage**. Bare Bear was one of the beers I was most looking forward to trying, but it wasn't what I expected. Between oak staves thrown in the boil and filtering through juniper branches, I was expecting a palate buster. I forgot, however, that Off Color is more about finesse, so the beer itself was complex but incredibly drinkable. The sausage was delicious as well, but this wasn't a fantastic pairing. Both the sausage and the beer were good, but they really didn't interact at all.



Our final savory course was a **quarter poussin** paired with **Apex Predator**, another year round beer from Off Color. This was an incredible marriage, as the meaty smokiness of the poussin was perfectly complemented by the citrus funk of the farmhouse ale. This was not my favorite course, as the chicken was a little hard to eat politely, but they were a delightful combination.



Dessert was a **deconstructed s'more** and **Dino S'mores**, Off Color's Russian Imperial Stout. Dino S'mores is one of Off Color's more sought after releases, despite being completely outside of their standard repertoire. I've had Dino S'mores before, and I was excited to have it again, if only to see if I was remembering it correctly. Sadly, I was; it's good, but it is not incredible. Please, please Chicago, stop making such a big deal out of this beer so Off Color can get back to making the funky stuff they love and do so well. The dessert, however, was fricking amazing. The wonut, a donut cooked on a waffle iron, was crispy and just a little salty, which highlighted the caramel notes in the baked meringue and toasted marshmallows. It was sumptuously complex without being overwhelming. It even managed to highlight the graham cracker notes in the Dino S'mores, which was great. It was actually a pretty solid pairing, as the dark chocolate bitterness managed to cut through some of the sweetness in the S'mores.

Honestly, this was a beautiful beer dinner. Clay was hilarious and informative in a better way than I've often experienced in brewery tours or beer festivals; he was incredible. After the dinner wrapped up, the head chef Frank came out. He and I talked a bit about how he came up with the pairings (it seemed equal parts trial and error, inspiration, and sleep deprivation), as well as what they were going for with the whole experience. This seemed like a great partnership, as the result was a synthesis that highlighted both members. I don't know if they will do something like this again, but I wholeheartedly recommend checking out both THE SCOUT and OFF COLOR BREWING.

🏠 1 WEEK AGO 👤 BY ELDRITCHSPIRITSBREWING ❤️ 5 NOTES 💬 0 COMMENTS



RECENT COMMENTS

0 Comments



🔗 Share

Sort by Best ▾



Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

5 NOTES

- ARCANEACCOUNT likes this
- PLAYFULPLATO likes this
- PORTLAND351 likes this

- SCOTSOFBHEMIA likes this
- ANAKRONISTICAL likes this
- LAYMANSBEER posted this

FEATURES STORE ABOUT CONTACT ARCHIVE RSS 🔍 SEARCH

MALLOW THEME VERSION 2.2.0 CREATED BY STORYWARE POWERED BY TUMBLR

