

FOOD

BITES & PIECES

Columnist Laura Groch is on vacation. Her column will return next week.



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SAN DIEGO BEER WEEK CELEBRATES THE LOCAL SCENE

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Put down the leftover Halloween candy and pick up a pint — San Diego Beer Week is back for a second round.

The 10-day “week” begins Friday and continues through Nov. 14 with something for everyone, at every price point — there are many “keep the glass” nights at bars around the county, and many restaurants are hosting special beer-centric dinners.

The celebration officially kicks off at 2 p.m. Saturday with the San Diego Brewers Guild Festival at Liberty Station in Point Loma. The festival features tastes from local breweries, food from more than a dozen San Diego Brewers Guild allied members and other vendors, and music; tickets are \$35 and include 10 tastes, and VIP session tickets are \$50 and include a noon start with a meet-and-greet with brewers and exclusive tasters. The festival is the only event featuring all of the Guild’s brewery members.

“Everybody is kind of showing off (at the festival),” said Adam Carbonell, president of the San Diego Brewers Guild. “We all kind of bring our A game.”

Carbonell said that while Beer Week does focus on craft beer, it also highlights other cultural

SAN DIEGO BEER WEEK

WHEN: Nov. 5-14

SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION:

sdbw.org

— Photo courtesy of San Diego Beer Week

aspects of San Diego — food, music and art.

Many Beer Week events include food pairings, from special menus at restaurants such as Sammy’s Woodfired Pizza to a “walkabout” at Urban Solace in North Park, and other events feature local bands (an event on Nov. 12 at Eleven even features a band of brewers from Karl Strauss, Green Flash, Stone and others).

“We’re trying to help build San Diego’s cultural community at large,” Carbonell said. “Our greatest cultural icon is a killer whale, and I’d like to get away from that.”

This year’s Beer Week has new participants, and as of Tuesday, there were more than 300 events listed on the Beer Week website. Carbonell said the only criteria for an

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event it that it features craft beer. Other than that, he told venues to "get creative and do what you do best."

"We want people ... to experience the best of San Diego and the best of whatever it is (venues) have to offer," Carbonell said. "I think San Diego

has a lot to offer."

Other highlights include Vista's Green Flash Brewing Co. eighth anniversary festival from noon to 4 p.m. Nov. 13; five days of Phil's BBQ and Beer Fest (at the San Diego location); an event with Shipyard Brewing Co., with appetizers, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 14 at Encinitas Ale House; and a Backyard BBQ with Lady Dottie & the Diamonds at 1 p.m. Nov. 14 at Stone Brewing Co. in

Escondido.

To close out the event, The Lodge at Torrey Pines will host a beer garden from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nov. 14. Some of San Diego's top chefs will pair dishes with brews from a dozen breweries; participating restaurants include Pamplemousse Grille, Harney Sushi, Brandt Beef, Cal-a-Vie Spa and Stone Brewery, and participating breweries include Ballast Point Brewing Co.,

Pizza Port, Karl Strauss Brewing Co., Green Flash Brewing Co. and Lightning Brewery. Tickets are \$65.

Want to play it safe? Carbonell said the Brewers Guild promotes safe travel, so the event website has an extensive list of transportation options, as well as special hotel deals for the week. Some hotel deals include tickets to specific Beer Week events. Go to sdbw.org.