



San Diego Things To Do

BEER WEEK: A Preview of San Diego's Suds Fest

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It's the most wonderful time of the year...for a beer! Or at least it will be when San Diego Beer Week crashes over the county like a tidal wave of sudsy goodness. From November 5–14 (okay, so it's longer than a week...you're not complaining, are you?), businesses of all kinds—restaurants, hotels and, of course, bars, brewpubs and breweries—will go to great lengths to promote San Diego's vibrant brewing industry and subculture.



San Diego Beer Week: November 5-14.

Courtesy photo

Last year, there were well over 300 events; such a large number that many thought the festival, which was in its inaugural form in 2009, had been around for years. With increased visibility and popularity, it's a sure bet the sophomore version will be even bigger in terms of the quantity and range of activities. The calendar will for sure be further populated by incredible events by the time Beer Week kicks off, but here's a look at a few early stand-outs:

Stone Rare Beer Breakfast

(November 5, 10 a.m. – noon): For those whose anticipation is akin to enthusiastic sale-goers with their faces pressed against the door of their favorite store chanting *open, open, open*, there's this homage to early risers and esotericism. With live jazz, 25 truly hard-to-come-by brews and pair-able breakfast fare with which to sop them up, this is possibly the most legitimate excuse you'll ever have to drink before noon.

Stone Brewing World Bistro & Gardens, 1999 Citracado Way, Escondido, 760-471-4999, www.stoneworldbistro.com

San Diego Brewers Guild Festival (November 6, 2 – 6 p.m.): This San Diego-only beer festival is easily the best opportunity to sample ales and lagers from the county's vast array of brewing companies while getting your head and taste buds around our region's brewing scene. A few hours will give even craft beer first-timers an appreciation of this special culture and an understanding of San Diego's world class status among beer-ophiles.

Liberty Station, 2750 Womble Road, Point Loma, www.sandiegobrewersguild.com

The Lost Abbey Art Show & Sacrifice Dinner (November 11, 6 p.m.): While it's the quality of the quaffable in the bottle that matters, the hand-drawn and painted artwork adorning the beers of The Lost Abbey are just as special. Enough so that, the Hotel Solamar's Jsix restaurant will allow guests to feast their eyes on these dynamic pieces while downing a wide variety of The Lost Abbey's Belgo-inspired beers and feasting at food stations stocked with dishes made using whole animals.

Jsix, 616 J Street, Downtown, www.jsixrestaurant.com

Green Flash 8th Anniversary Festival (November 13, noon – 4 p.m.): It's the grandest brand of coincidence that has this award-winning brewing company's birthday fall during Beer Week, yet totally by design that proceeds from this sudsy soiree benefit the fight against ALD (Adrenoleukodystrophy). Don't miss this hop-portunity to help out a good cause while simultaneously quenching your thirst for good beer and cheer.

Green Flash Brewing Company, 1430 Vantage Court, Vista, 760-597-9012, greenflashbrew.com

Beer Garden (November 14, 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.): This grand scale event will take place at The Lodge at Torrey Pines' outdoor Arroyo Terrace and team up a number of talented local chefs and brewers. The former will design dishes that pair with latter's liquid assets. Look for big names from both the dining and brewing industry to be on-hand scarfing and sipping unlimited food and beer right along with the general public at this admirable adieu to Beer Week.

The Lodge at Torrey Pines, 11480 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, 858-453-4420, www.lodaetorrepines.com

For more information on these and the hundreds of other events, large and small, happening during San Diego Beer Week, check out sdbw.org. Be sure to check back often as events are posted live and sometimes with very little notice. Likewise, be sure to check sandiego.com regularly for daily reports on this 10-day celebration of one of our county's finest exports.