



Press Release

Midnight Sun Brewing Company Wins Bronze at Great American Beer Festival

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA – October 4, 2006 - Midnight Sun Brewing Company won two bronze medals at this year's Great American Beer Festival (GABF), the largest national beer competition that recognizes the most outstanding beers produced in the United States today. The top three winners in the competition's 69 beer-style categories were announced September 30 at the 25th Great American Beer Festival Awards Ceremony held at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, Colo.

Midnight Sun's Arctic Rhino Coffee Porter, an eclectic brew that combines two quintessential Pacific Northwest favorites – ale and coffee, was recognized in the Coffee-flavored Beer category among 28 entries. Arctic Rhino Coffee Porter also garnered a bronze medal in the same category in last year's GABF competition. "This is one of our 'experimental' beers that somehow found a tremendous local following and is now brewed year-round for sale in 22-ounce bottles and draft for the Alaska market. We are preparing to distribute this beer in Oregon by year's end," says Barb Miller, VP.

Additionally, Midnight Sun claimed a bronze in the Barley Wine-style Ale category for its most award-winning beer, Arctic Devil Barley Wine, which—for several years now—has consistently placed in the top 3 at the Great Alaska Beer & Barley Wine Festival (held annually in January in Anchorage), the Toronado Barley Wine Fest (held annually in February in San Francisco) and—the newest competition—the Hard Liver Barley Wine Fest (held annually in March in Seattle). This is the first GABF award for Arctic Devil, judged third out of 55 entries in this category.

Barley wine is an intriguing beer style. Each year Head Brewer Gabe Fletcher brews an intense English-style barley wine, which is transferred to oak barrels after fermentation. This "wine-strength" ale resides on oak for 6-8 months to gain character and complexity before being transferred back to a stainless steel tank for blending. It is then carbonated and bottled. Arctic Devil is a great example of the brewery's "science marries art" approach to designing and producing distinctive brews from grain to glass. Traditionally, Midnight Sun releases each new vintage of Arctic Devil Barley Wine on the Friday after Thanksgiving.

The 2006 Great American Beer Festival Competition winners were selected by an international panel of brewing experts from an impressive field of 2443 entries received from 450 U.S. breweries. More than 1,200 breweries were invited to compete.

For more Great American Beer Festival info and 2006 winners' list, visit www.GreatAmericanBeerFestival.com.

The **GREAT AMERICAN BEER FESTIVAL**® has been held every year since 1982 and is presented by the Brewers Association not-for-profit educational, trade association for craft brewers. Its mission is to make quality beer and brewing knowledge accessible to all. Visit the website: www.beertown.org to learn more. The Association also hosts the bi-annual World Beer Cup® and is based in Boulder, Colo., U.S.A.

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