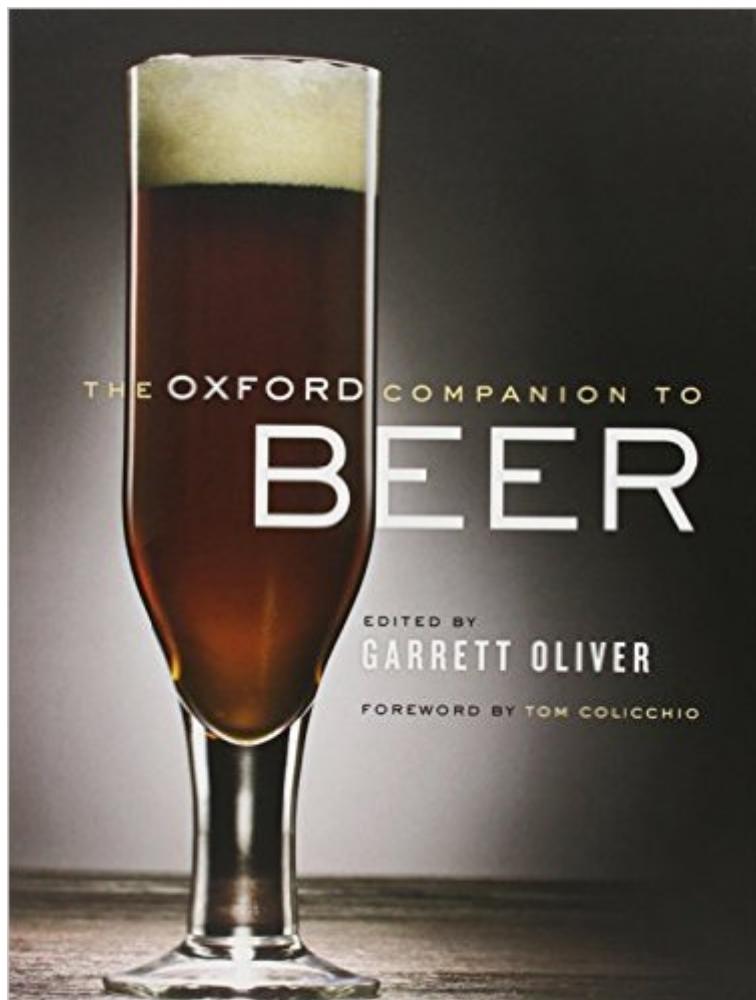


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# The Oxford Companion To Beer (Oxford Companion To... (Hardcover))



## Synopsis

1st Place Winner of the 2012 Gourmand Award for Best in the World in the Beer category. For millennia, beer has been a favorite beverage in cultures across the globe. After water and tea, it is the most popular drink in the world, and it is at the center of a \$450 billion industry. Edited by Garrett Oliver, the James Beard Winner for Outstanding Wine, Beer, or Spirits Professional, this is the first major reference work to investigate the history and vast scope of beer. The Oxford Companion to Beer features more than 1,100 A-Z entries written by 166 of the world's most prominent beer experts. Attractively illustrated with over 140 images, the book covers everything from the agricultural makeup of various beers to the technical elements of the brewing process, local effects of brewing on regions around the world, and the social and political implications of sharing a beer. Entries not only define terms such as "dry hopping" and "cask conditioning" but give fascinating details about how these and other techniques affect a beer's taste, texture, and popularity. Cultural entries shed light on such topics as pub games, food pairings and the development of beer styles. Readers will enjoy vivid accounts of how our drinking traditions have changed throughout history, and how these traditions vary in different parts of the world, from Japan to Mexico, New Zealand, and Brazil, among many other countries. The pioneers of beer-making are the subjects of biographical entries, and the legacies these pioneers have left behind, in the form of the world's most popular beers and breweries, are recurrent themes throughout the book. Packed with information, this comprehensive resource also includes thorough appendices (covering beer festivals, beer magazines, and more), conversion tables, and an index. Featuring a foreword by Tom Colicchio, this book is the perfect shelf-mate to Oxford's renowned Companion to Wine and an absolutely indispensable volume for everyone who loves beer as well as all beverage professionals, including home brewers, restaurateurs, journalists, cooking school instructors, beer importers, distributors, and retailers, and a host of others.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I must admit that I did not even begin to appreciate the history and complexity of beer and related subjects until I began to browse through this spectacular book. For one thing, it is remarkable how far beer has progressed in the United States in just the past few decades. The choices available in the 1970's, when I was in college, were pretty much the well-known mass-market brewers. Import beers were also available, but expensive and not yet well established. Today, it is not unusual for large supermarkets to offer a wide selection of choices of beers from brewers both large and small, regional craft brewers seem to be setting up shop in every major city and town, and restaurants offer beer selections as extensive as their wine lists. We have here in the United States a variety of high quality, craft beer products, that is greater than in any other place in the world. Imagine that American craft brewers now serve as an example to the traditional brewers in places such as Germany and England! But that does not begin to describe the history of beer, which according to this book predates the baking of bread, or the variety and complexities of beer, which is described as "the most complex and varied of drinks". Not to mention that beer is said to be the third most popular drink in the world, after water and tea! Into today's very dynamic beer culture this book, The Oxford Companion to Beer, now appears, perfectly timed to serve not only those who consume and enjoy beer, but also brewers (both amateur and professional), restaurants, and all who are interested in beer and brewing. It is an impressive reference for "all things beer".

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