



STRATEGY GUIDE



This unofficial strategy is not endorsed by the Great American Beer Festival, The Brewers Association or any of their partners; it simply reflects the arbitrary opinions of two podcasters who drink a lot of beer and talk about it. This list reflects our recommendations, with more focus on some lesser-known breweries. In other words, we left off most of the big ones, unless there's something really special worth mentioning. Hear our "Road to GABF" episode on September 12th at abvchicago.com or on iTunes.

Special Character Key

✓	Take our word for it, this beer is a verified favorite of ours from past experience. Don't miss it.
🏆	This beer won a GABF medal in 2017 - bask in its glory. Bask!
🎙️	We've interviewed these folks before - click the mic for a link to the episode. And their beer is great.

The table below is purely speculative - we don't know for sure what beers each brewery will bring. If they don't bring the beers we've listed, check them out anyways - these are solid breweries. And no, we haven't had all of these beers - but we hear good things.

✓	Brewery	Especially if they bring...
	4 Noses Brewing Co. (Broomfield, CO)	'Bout Damn Time (IPA) ✓, Bubblin (Brut IPA), Pump Action (Imperial Pumpkin Ale), Reciprocal (Strong Stout)
	Austin Beerworks (Austin, TX)	Einhorn (Berliner Weisse), Fire Eagle (IPA), Montecore (Oktoberfest), Pearl-Snap (Pilsner), Super Awesome Lager 🏆
	Bagby Beer Company (Oceanside, CA)	Asphalt Jungle (Irish Dry Stout), Biggie Stout (Imperial Stout), Dork Squad (IPA) Herd of Turtles (Baltic Porter) 🎙️
	Beachwood BBQ & Brewing (Long Beach, CA)	Amalgamator (IPA), Hoppa Emeritus (Black IPA) 🏆, Mocha Machine (Imperial Porter) ✓, Vanilla Fudge (Imperial Stout)
	Beachwood Blendery 🎙️ (Long Beach, CA)	Careful With That _____ Eugene (Lambic-style), Dia de los Mangos (Chili Beer) 🏆, Funk Yeah (Gueuze-style)
	Black Bottle Brewery (Fort Collins, CO)	American Graffiti (Sour Ale), Cereallyously Count Chocula (Milk Stout), Zero to Tooty Fruity (Sour Saison)
	The Brewing Projekt (Eau Claire, WI)	Dare Mighty Things (NE IPA) ✓, Gunpowder IPA, Movin' 2 Da Country (Sour Milkshake IPA), RESIST (Milkshake IPA)
	Brink Brewing Co. (Cincinnati, OH)	Afterglow (NE IPA), Brink ESB (English Bitter), Hold the Reins (English Mild) 🏆 ✓, Moozie (Milk Stout)



✓	Brewery	Especially if they bring...
	Chuckanut Brewery (Bellingham, WA)	Dunkel 🍷, Helles, Kolsch 🍷, Märzen, Schwarzbier
	Columbus Brewing Co. (Columbus, OH)	Bodhi (DIPA), Creeper (DIPA), Insane Wanderer (IPA), Sohio (Coffee Stout)
	Copper Kettle Brewing Co. (Denver, CO)	Le Chapeau (BA Saison), Mexican Chocolate Stout (Spiced Stout), Snowed In (BA Stout)
	Crooked Lane Brewing Co. (Auburn, CA)	1-2 Punch (NE IPA), Hop Rhapsody (NE TIPA), SR16 (DIPA), Wobblor (Doppelbock) 🍷✓
	Cruz Blanca Brewery 🍷 (Chicago, IL)	Agent Piña (BA saison) ✓, Das Bueno (Doppelbock), Gringo Honeymoon (Lager), Palm Shade (IPA)
	Forager Brewery 🍷 (Rochester, MN)	Gummies Make Us Likable (Imperial Fruited Berliner), Pudding Dribbles (Imperial Porter), Pudding Goggles (Imperial Porter) ✓
	Forbidden Root 🍷 (Chicago, IL)	Ghost Tropic (NE DIPA), Strawberry Basil Hefeweizen, Toro (NE TIPA) ✓
	Great Notion Brewing 🍷 (Portland, OR)	Big Papaya (Sour Ale), Blueberry Muffin (Sour Ale), Double Stack (Imperial Stout) ✓, Juice Box (NE DIPA)
	Hi-Wire Brewing 🍷 (Asheville NC)	10W-40 (Imperial Stout), Blueberry Sour Ale, Hazy & Juicy & Hoppy & Fresh (NE IPA), Pink Drink (Sour Ale)
	Highland Park Brewery 🍷 (Los Angeles, CA)	Hello, LA (IPA), Relaxing Weekend (Pilsner), Satisfied (BA Saison), World Champ (Hazy DIPA), Yo Coco (NE IPA)
	Hop Butcher for the World (Darien, IL) 🍷	Blazed Orange Milkshake (IPA) ✓, Double Grid (Hazy DIPA) ✓, Galaxy Bowl (Hazy DIPA) ✓, Paris on the Prairie (Saison) ✓
	Indeed Brewing Company (Minneapolis, MN)	Flavorwave (IPA), L.S.D. Honey Ale, Mexican Honey (Imperial Lager), Peach Bum (IPA), Rum King (BA Stout)
	J. Wakefield Brewing 🍷 (Miami, FL)	Big Poppa (Imperial Stout), DFPF (Berliner Weisse) ✓, Haterade (Berliner Weisse) ✓, Miami Madness (Berliner Weisse) ✓
	Jack's Abby Craft Lagers (Framingham, MA)	Copper Legend (Octoberfest), Framinghammer (Baltic Porter), Hoponius Union (IPL), Post Shift (Pilsner)
	Joseph James Brewing Co. (Henderson, NV)	Imperial Smoked Porter w/ Cacao Nibs 🍷✓, Tenth Anniversary (BA Stout), Suave Felon: Fatalisk Barnd (Wild Ale)

✓	Brewery	Especially if they bring...
	Kane Brewing Co. (Ocean, NJ)	A Night To End All Dawns (BA Stout) ✓, Galaxy Punch (IPA), Morning Bell (Imperial Porter), Sunday Brunch (Imperial Porter)
	La Cumbre Brewing Co. (Albuquerque, NM)	Elevated (IPA) ✓, Full Nelson (IPA), Make IPA Clear Again, Project Dank (IPA), Piña Quercus (Sour Ale)
	Lickinghole Creek Craft Br. (Goochland, VA)	Bad Donkey (Black Lager) ✓, Carrot Cake (Imperial Red Ale), Heir Apparent (Imperial Stout), Rosemary Saison
	Little Machine Beer (Denver, CO)	Razz Against the Machine (Fruit Beer) 🍷 ✓, Supercharger (DIPA), YAFI (IPA)
	Live Oak Brewing Co. (Austin, TX)	Berliner Weisse, Big Bark Amber Lager, Grodziskie, HefeWeizen ✓, Pilz, Schwarzbier
	Lupulin Brewing (Big Lake, MN)	Blissful Ignorance (DIPA), Brunch Stout (BA Stout), Dortmund 🍷 ✓, Hooey (IPA), Straight Hash Homie (DIPA)
	MadTree Brewing Co. (Cincinnati, OH)	Blood Orange PsychOPathy (IPA), Citra High (DIPA), Dreamsicle (Kölsch), JOON (BA Kölsch) ✓
	Maplewood Brewing Co. 🍷 (Chicago, IL)	Big Pulpy (NE IPA) ✓, Charlatan (Pale Ale) ✓, Pulaski Pils, Son of Juice (Hazy IPA)
	Middle Brow Beer Co. 🍷 (Chicago, IL)	How It Starts (Wild Ale), Little Crush (Session IPA) ✓, Milk-Eyed Mender (Imperial Milk Stout) ✓, Robyn (Saison) ✓
	Minneapolis Town Hall Br. (Minneapolis, MN)	Alpha Nimbus (Belgian White), Masala Mama (IPA), Three Hour Tour (Mlk Stout), Twisted Trace (BA Barleywine)
	New Sarum Salisbury Br. (Salisbury, NC)	142 Blonde Ale with Grits, Lemon Balm & Beet Hoppy Wheat 🍷 ✓, Roundhouse (Robust Porter)
	Odd13 Brewing 🍷 (Lafayette, CO)	Blackberry Sheriff Shane Sherman (Sour Ale), Codename: Superfan (IPA), Stanky Cape Man (DIPA)
	Our Mutual Friend Brewing (Denver, CO)	Crysknife (IPA), Gratitude Five (Brett Beer), Little Maker (Sour Ale), Neon Nail (NE IPA), Saison Trystero 🍷 2
	pFriem Family Brewers 🍷 (Hood River, OR)	Frambozen (Lambic-style) ✓, Jammy Pale Ale, Oud Bruin, Peche (Lambic-style) ✓, Schwarzbier
	Ratio Beerworks 🍷 (Denver, CO)	Continuous Thunder (DIPA), Dear You (Saison), Hold Steady w/ Coffee (Scotch Ale), New Wave (Berliner Weisse)

✓	Brewery	Especially if they bring...
	The Referend Bier Blendery (Pennington, NJ)	Berliner Messe (Berliner Weisse/Lambic-style), Krek! (Lambic-style Kriek), The Name of the Rose (Wild Ale)
	Revision Brewing Co. (Sparks, NV)	Hops In A Can (NE TIPA), Pete's Secret Stash (NE IPA), Reno As Fuck (NE DIPA), Revision IPA
	Second Chance Beer Co. (San Diego, CA)	3rd Anniversary (Imperial Pilsner), Festa Imperiale (Oatmeal Stout), Legally Red (Amber Ale) 🍷, Tabula Rasa (Porter) 🍷✓
	Sly Fox Brewing Co. (Pottstown, PA)	Baby Sparkles (NE IPA), Grisette Summer Ale 🍷✓, Ichor (Belgian Quad), Incubus (Belgian Tripel)
	Social Kitchen & Brewery (San Francisco, CA)	Borderline Hoppy Lager, Mr. Kite's Pale Ale 🍷✓, Puttin' On The Spritz (Brut IPA), The Smell (IPA)
	Speciation Artisan Ales (Comstock, MI)	Biomimicry (Wild NE IPA), Genetic Drift (Wild Ale) ✓, Incipient: Dry-Hopped (Wild Ale), Saltation (BA Sour)
	Sunriver Brewing Co. (Sunriver, OR)	Cinder Beast (Imperial Red Ale) 🍷, Fuzztail Hefeweizen 🍷✓, Rippin Northwest Ale, Vicious Mosquito IPA
	Tangled Roots Brewing Co. (Ottawa, IL)	City of Green (NE IPA), Forty1Eighty8 (Pale Ale), Oktoberfest ✓, White Peach Kupfer (Amber Ale)
	Taxman Brewing Co. (Bargersville, IN)	Declaration (Belgian DIPA), Deduction (Belgian Dubbel) 🍷, Exemption (Belgian Tripel), La Maison (Saison) ✓
	Une Année/Hubbard's Cave (Niles, IL)	El Zacaton (Imperial Stout) ✓, Framboise (Wild Ale) ✓, Fresh IIPA One Hop Simcoe ✓, Le Grande Monde 2018-1 (BA Wild Ale)
	Wolf's Ridge Brewing 🍷 (Columbus, OH)	Buchenrauch (Smoked Lager), Cinnamon Toast Brunch (Cream Ale) ✓, Terre du Sauvage (BA Farmhouse)
	Wren House Brewing Co. (Phoenix, AZ)	Predation (Imperial Stout), Raisin Eaters (BA Barleywine), Sad Boy Wally (TIPA), Spellbinder (NE IPA)

Need more breweries to try? Of course you do! In order to keep the list above to just 50, I left off a lot of great breweries that are worth your time. Here's a few more:

Austin Beer Garden, Band of Bohemia, Barrel Theory, Bearded Owl, DESTIHL, Faction, Fremont, Figueroa Mountain, Funkwerks, Greenstar Brewing, Hailstorm, Kern River, Knee Deep, More, Night Shift, Noble Ale Works, Noon Whistle, On Tour, Pure Project, Rahr & Sons, Societe, Two Roads, TAPS, WeldWerks

And don't forget to drink water. 🚰

