

BREWING UP A STORM

Count the Lion City among the world's many destinations that have jumped on the craft-beer bandwagon. From a Balinese nanobrewery to a new Tokyo-style taproom, here are four boutique operations to look out for
BY BRIAN SPENCER



BLUE BALI BREWHAUS

Head brewmaster Richard Wellershoff boldly vowed to brew at least 52 different beers last year—or one per week—at his small one-man nanobrewery within Blue Bali on Cluny, an atmospheric Balinese restaurant housed in a tropical bungalow on the NUS Bukit Timah campus. And wouldn't you know, he did it, though many of his single-batch beers, brewed in small 120-liter tanks, were

quickly tapped out. Signature microbrews commonly available, however, include the mildly hoppy Bali Gold, brewed with pumpkin from a local fruit market, and the wheaty Pink Mamba, an aromatic dragon-fruit ale with subtle hints of white wine from its Nelson Sauvin hops (1D Cluny Rd.; 65/6733-0185; bluebali.sg).

JUNGLE BEER Following another successful showing at



SINGAPORE SUDS Clockwise from left: Aditya Challa, the owner and brewmaster of Jungle Beer; bottled beers at the Taphouse by Brewerkz; pulling a pint at the Taphouse.

Singapore's annual Beerfest Asia, with "Best in the World" honors going to its full-bodied Kiasu Stout, Jungle Beer has fielded an increasing number of requests from specialty bars and restaurants for exclusive bespoke beers. Such collaborations have included a rich stout for indie coffee roaster Papa Palheta and a nutmeg-based ale for new dining hotspot Oxwell & Co, though you can quaff brewer Aditya Challa's latest experiments at the brewery's monthly open house, which includes five hours of free-flow taps for about US\$31 (04-27, FoodXchange @ Admiralty, 8A Admiralty St.; junglebeer.com).

TAPHOUSE BY BREWERKZ

Perched on a prime corner of Dempsey Hill in the same vicinity as Tawandang Microbrewery and the RedDot Brewhouse, the latest outlet of long-standing craft brewers Brewerkz is arguably their best. While its sprawling bistro on Clarke Quay has a bigger food menu and more taps, the

Taphouse offers a decidedly more subdued experience, with colored lights strung over a spacious outdoor terrace and polished wood, exposed stone and other natural materials employed indoors. Three signature and three seasonal Brewerkz beers are on draft, along with the brewery's full suite of bottled beers and well-curated list of imports. Watch out for Brewerkz's first overseas branch, set to open in Jakarta's Senayan City mall later this year (18E Dempsey Rd.; 65/6634-1229; brewerkz.com).

20TAPS Debuting early March at the space currently occupied by English-style gastropub Old Empire, 20Taps launches under the supervision of Jeremy Reynolds, director of Singapore's JiBiru Japanese Craft Beer Bar and craft-beer importer Eastern Craft. Inspired by the casual, stripped-down communal style of Tokyo's thriving tap bars, it will feature a custom-built cold room with 20 taps pouring a revolving number of local and imported craft beers from the likes of Hitachino Nest, Brouwerij Van Den Bossche, Sankt Gallen Brewery, and BrewDog (491 River Valley Rd., #01-16 Valley Point Shopping Centre; 65/6735-7881). ☉



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