

Media Alert
May 6, 2020

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Virginia Museum of History & Culture Partners with VCU, Local Brewers and Richmond Beeristoric to Launch New Thirsty Thursdays Series on May 7

Richmond, VA – The Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC) is teaming up with experts from Richmond Beeristoric, local brewers and the VCU Office of Continuing and Professional Education for Thirsty Thursdays. In this Commonwealth Classroom program, viewers will learn about beers enjoyed by the 17th-century English colonists who arrived in this region, the growth of lagers in the 19th century, prohibition and its impact on brewing, and the craft beer revolution.

“We’re very proud to join up with this team of experts for this series, with proceeds going to Ardent Helps RVA, which provides emergency grants for food service workers in crisis,” said Michael Plumb, VMHC Vice President for Guest Engagement. “We think it is vitally important to give back in this pandemic.”

Every Thursday in May, local brewers whose libations reflect specific periods in Richmond’s beer history will provide tasting notes and information about their beers. Participants are encouraged to purchase beers from local retailers prior to the class so that can raise a social-distanced pint together.

The cost per class is \$6 for members of the VMHC or Richmond Beeristoric and \$8 per class for non-members. Participants who register for all four classes in this series receive a discount: \$20 for all four classes for members of the VMHC or Richmond Beeristoric and \$25 for non-members. After tickets are purchased, participants will receive an email containing Zoom registration instructions and promo codes for VMHC discounts.

[Details for each program for the four-week series:](#)

Week 1: Brewing in the Colonial Era Thursday, May 7 5:00-5:30pm

This class will focus on brewing techniques popular during the Colonial era, with Lee Graves, Mike Gorman, and Eric Mink of Richmond Beeristoric alongside guest speakers Frank Clark, Master of Historic Foodways with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and Dave Gott, Vice President of Operations at Legend Brewing Co.

Featured Beers: Legend Brown Ale, Alewerks Tavern Brown Ale

Suggested Alternatives: Midnight Not My Job Southern English Brown Ale, Newcastle Brown Ale, Samuel Smith Nut Brown Ale, Fuller’s London Porter, Samuel Smit Taddy Porter

Week 2: The Lager Invasion Thursday, May 14 5:00-5:30pm

This class will explore the development and growth in popularity of the lager style, with Lee Graves, Mike Gorman, and Eric Mink of Richmond Beeristoric alongside guest speaker Tom Sullivan, Co-Founder and Co-Owner of Ardent Craft Ales.

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Featured Beer: Ardent Pilsner

Suggested Alternatives: Hardywood Richmond Lager, Triple Crossing pilsner or kellerbier, Devils Backbone Gold Leaf Lager, German imports such as Paulaner Premium Lager, Spaten Premium Lager, Weihenstephaner Original

Week 3: Prohibition-Before and After
Thursday, May 21 5:00-5:30pm

This class will examine the events that led to Prohibition in America and the long-term impacts it created with Brandon Carter, Mike Gorman, and Eric Mink of Richmond Beeristoric alongside guest speakers Matthew Mullett and Hank Schmidt of Richbrau Brewing Co.

Featured Beer: Richbrau Lager

Suggested Alternatives: Anchor California Lager (historic style), Brooklyn Lager (amber), Coors, Yuengling Traditional Amber Lager, Budweiser, PBR, Miller High Life

Week 4: The Craft Beer Revolution
Thursday, May 28 5:00-5:30pm

This class will look at the growth of craft beer breweries and beermaking, with Annie Tobey, Lee Graves and Mike Killelea of Richmond Beeristoric alongside guest speakers Theresa McCulla, Curator of American Brewing History initiative at the Smithsonian Institution, and Eric McKay, Co-Founder of Hardywood Park Craft Brewery.

Featured Beer: Hardywood Great Return IPA

Suggested Alternatives: IPAs from your favorite local brewer

For more information please visit VirginiaHistory.org/AtHome.

The Virginia Museum of History & Culture is owned and operated by the Virginia Historical Society – a private, non-profit organization established in 1831. The historical society is the oldest cultural organization in Virginia, and one of the oldest and most distinguished history organizations in the nation. For use in its state history museum and its renowned research library, the historical society cares for a collection of nearly nine million items representing the ever-evolving story of Virginia.

The Virginia Museum of History & Culture is located at 428 N Arthur Ashe Boulevard in Richmond's Museum District. Hours are Monday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the galleries and museum shop, Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the research library. For more information call 804.340.1800, visit VirginiaHistory.org, or connect on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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