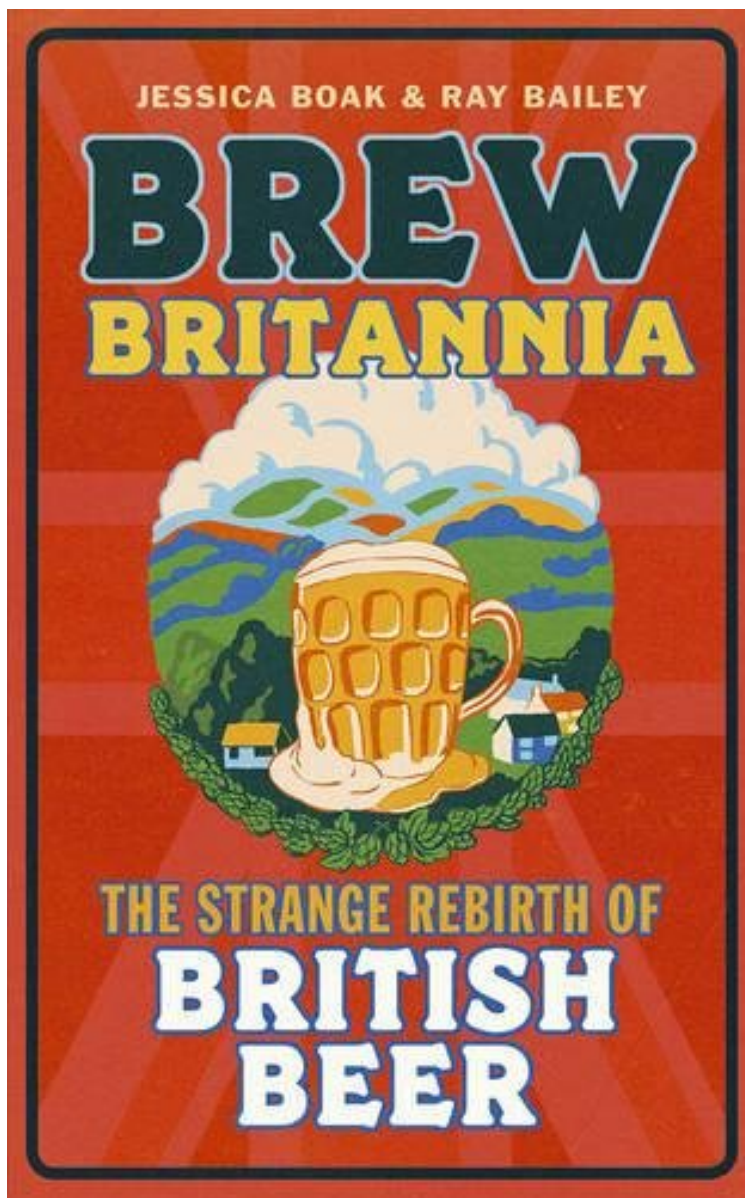


(Free) Brew Britannia: The Strange Rebirth of British Beer

Brew Britannia: The Strange Rebirth of British Beer

Jessica Boak, Ray Bailey

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Jessica Boak, Ray Bailey : Brew Britannia: The Strange Rebirth of British Beer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Brew Britannia: The Strange Rebirth of British Beer:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Extremely readable, well-researched history of last 60 years of beer in Britain By Mark R Lindner Brew Britannia is eminently readable (except for the ultra-tiny endnote numbers) and

highly enjoyable. The authors cover the last 60 years of brewing history in Britain and while there are parallels with the growth of craft beer in the US over the last 30 or so years there are also huge differences. I believe it to be well-researched and well-written, and having read Boak Bailey's Beer Blog for over a year now I know that they interact enough with folks who would call BS that we can take it as a reasonably accurate portrait. In the past two years or so I have read at least seven other British beer books and this was my favorite. This is a partially unfair judgment as some of those read are quite simply historical pieces now. They are also vastly different genres of book so it is perhaps unfair to compare them. [Mark Dredge – Craft Beer World, Pete Brown – Three Sheets to the Wind, Martyn Cornell – Beer: The Story of the Pint, Richard Boston – Beer Skittles, Michael Jackson – The English Pub (am aware of authorship issues) and Michael Jackson's Beer Companion, Melissa Cole – Let Me Tell You About Beer. Ian Hornsey's Brewing, 2nd ed. is probably my overall favorite but that truly is unfair as it is a fairly technical book on the state of brewing knowledge. I do own a couple more Hornsey and RSC books that I hope to read soon (e.g., Hornsey's Alcohol and its Role in the Evolution of Human Society). If you are interested in the history of the British beer industry (and prior) then you should read both Cornell's Beer: The Story of the Pint and Boak Bailey's Brew Britannia. Cornell begins in prehistory and comes up to around 2000 but the recent material focuses mostly on industry consolidation (breweries, pub cos) and government legislation (Beer Orders, ...). Boak Bailey are looking at only the last 60 years or so and while they certainly address the above topics they also cover the various consumer movements in far more depth. SPBW is not even in the index in Cornell (although it does appear, at least once, in the book), while CAMRA has 3 entries. In BB, CAMRA (in multiple name variants) and sub-topics has 6.75 column inches (17 cm) of entries and SPBW has 3 entries but they cover ~11 pages. BB also focus far more on the independent, smaller, newer breweries. Together they do a great job covering the history of British beer. If you are more interested in the recent past or want more of a consumer focus or more on the rise of "craft" beer in Britain then definitely read Brew Britannia. It is available in both paperback and ebook and from US and UK, along with other vendors, of course. Most of the beer books I read do not necessarily make me want to have a beer with the author/s, and often make me not want to, but between Brew Britannia and their blog these folks are the authors I would most love to have a beer (or three) with. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent read By Lars M. Garshol The book, written by well-known British beer bloggers Boak Bailey, recounts the story of how the decline of British beer was stopped, and turned around, by a rather unlikely cast of characters. In the 50s and 60s, British beer was going pretty much the same way American beer had gone: toward a few vast breweries turning out indistinguishable products with no character. But before British brewing got there, a counter-reaction from outraged beer drinkers stopped the decline, and a new wave of brewers started reviving British beer culture. As is well known, CAMRA played a large part in this turn-around, but what's interesting about this book is that it brings out many of the other players, too. It actually follows British brewing right up to the present day, so one of the last sections cover Brewdog, for example. As expected from Boak Bailey, the result is extremely readable, despite being meticulously researched. In addition to good research, they've also done a very good analysis of the material they've collected, so that the book presents a historical narrative that hangs together and makes sense. This is much less common than it might sound. It's actually downright unusual, and a major selling point for the book. Another selling point is the outstanding quality of the writing, which brings to life not just times past, but also the characters in the story. And some of them are characters indeed. In fact, it made me laugh out loud in several places. So, in short, a very well written account of the past 5-6 decades of British brewing. If you find this interesting at all then this book is a must-have. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I loved this book By Sleepy Fox I loved this book! A quarter of the way through, if I wasn't already a CAMRA member I would have joined right then. This is one of the greatest beer stories I have ever read. It is unquestionable that Corporations, whether in Britain or America or elsewhere will dumb the product down, increase your cost, and do what is necessary to inflate profits. It is our duty to stop them and keep quality alive and that is just what CAMRA and a number of other entrepreneurs have been doing in Britain (and here minus CAMRA). A really amazing book that no doubt took a lot of research and pounding the pavement. I grew up drinking foreign beer because American corporate beer sucked. The world is in a beer renaissance and hearing the stories of how that came about is enlivening. Cheers.

In a barn in Somerset, plans are afoot to ferment a beer-cider hybrid with wild yeast that blows on the wind, while in Yorkshire an almost extinct style of 'salty 'n' sour' wheat beer is being resurrected for the 21st century. Fifty years ago, this would have seemed impossible. Back then the prospects for British beer looked weak, sweet, bland and fizzy, as colossal combines took over the industry, closing local breweries and putting profit before palate. Yet today the number of breweries is at a post-war high, with over a thousand in operation. Whether you drink traditional, CAMRA-approved 'real ale' or prefer a super-strong, fruit-infused, barrel-aged Belgian-style 'saison', you are spoiled for choice. In Brew Britannia acclaimed beer bloggers Boak and Bailey tell the story of a very British fightback. Following a cast of bloody-minded City bankers, hippie microbrewers, style gurus, a Python, and a lot of men in pubs, they reveal how punter power pulled the humble pint back from the brink.

'Brew Britannia is informed, funny, well researched and eminently readable' - Tim Hampson (author of Great Beers

and London's Best Pubs)