



South Park Magazine
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UPSCALE BEER? IT'S HERE

When a certain South Park staffer proposed running a story about beer; I admit having serious reservations. I could not determine if my concern was that beer wasn't just upscale enough for our audience, or if my personal beer experiences had created the uncomfortable feeling in the pit of my stomach.

I had to get in touch with my personal concerns before dealing with the upscale issue. You see, I was never a close friend of beer; being raised in a Southern Baptist home where beer was never discussed, let alone served. I admit that in my teen years, like most of my friends, I snuck into beer "joints" and sampled beer. This was before carding was in vogue.

My relationship with beer completely changed during my sophomore year in college. With football season over; my buddies and I planned a series of road trips. Since I owned a car, even though scholarship athletes were not allowed to have them, I promised Sandy that I would be the designated driver and she need not be concerned about me because I could abstain from having even one sip of beer.

Even though I have not lived up to my sip-free proclamation, upon returning to campus with a full "tank" of beer, I felt necessary to profess my guilt and undying love for one very special coed. With the help of my best friends I stood on the hill opposite of her dorm, where I repeatedly and loudly told her, "I luv ya." In the midst of this "Romeo and Juliet" scene, I lost my balance and cart wheeled down the hill, only to be dragged away by my two gleeful, beer-filled friends.

As was out custom, the next morning Sandy joined me for an early breakfast and an explanation. To her credit she didn't say a word, but I knew she took great pleasure in my pain. Neither she nor I knew whether my nerves were shaky because of my dishonesty, or if my hangover was the reason that the spoon I kept lifting my lips was devoid of the cereal I was trying to eat. This was the moment I swore off beer binges and lying.

Surprise Pairings and Recipes

When we discussed a story about beer for this issue, I confessed a lack of knowledge on the subject. I was astounded that some of the beer mentioned in our story sells for over \$20 per bottle. I had no idea that "beer pairings" were as prevalent and important as wine pairings when it came to selected dishes. At the Dress for Success special event prior to the opening of the Southern Women's Show in September, I met Bonnie Jesseph, who wrote the book "*Man Your Grill... Cookin' and Grillin' With Beer.*" When she showed me her book, I was surprised to find her over 200 pages of recipes that contain beer as an ingredient. One desert called Sauerkraut and Beer Fudge Cake made me close the book and wander off in search of a 'brat.'

My thanksgiving story, "comfort and Joy," shows that even I used beer was a major component in the preparation of a most succulent turkey. If you lose your can of beer while smoking a 14-pound turkey, I can tell you where to find it. If you look closely at the photographs and still don't see it, give me a call.

Heed This Warning

Now that I'm older and wiser when it comes to beer, I feel compelled to repeat the warning found in most beer commercials: "Drink Responsibly." I would never expect that some of you-like me-do not include beer on your list of beverage choices. I do find that beer has added much to the culinary arts by bringing out flavors or enhancing many delicacies. We have such an interesting story on beer, and a real eye opener for many of us, in this issue. We were so impressed with the world of beer that our cover features beer, nature's nectar with all of its subliminal nuances.

Remember Uncle D's Main Rule: If you drink, don't drive. And if you drink, skip the cereal the morning after.

Cheers to beers, and please have a Thanksgiving filled with comfort and joy.