

IF YOU WANT YOUR BEER  
REVIEWED BY THE ALSTRÖM BROS:  
MAIL@BEERADVOCATE.COM

## Scores

A+	world-class
A	outstanding
A-	excellent
B+	very good
B	good
B-	worthy
C+	decent
C	mediocre
C-	not worthy
D - F	avoid

## How We Taste Beer

### Decant

Whether from a bottle or a can, we serve all of our samples at their ideal style temperature and pour them into the appropriate, clean glassware.

### Look

We take pause and marvel at it, noting its color, consistency and head. We might even swirl the beer gently in the glass to pull aromas and nuances, and stimulate carbonation.

### Smell

Scientists suggest that around 90 percent of what we humans experience as "taste" is through our sense of smell. Inhale deeply and ponder its bouquet. Repeat as needed.

### Taste

Next, we sip the beer, letting it wander and explore our palates.

**"BEHIND EACH BEER IS A PERSON WITH FEELINGS AND PRIDE. BEER MIGHT BE THEIR PASSION, LIVELIHOOD OR ENTIRE LIFE. EVEN IF YOU DON'T LIKE A BEER, AT THE VERY LEAST HAVE SOME RESPECT AND BE CONSTRUCTIVE WITH YOUR CRITICISM."**

—TODD ALSTRÖM,  
FROM *HOW TO REVIEW A BEER* ON  
BEERADVOCATE.COM

## Black Flag Imperial Stout

Beer Valley Brewing Company  
Ontario, OR, USA  
beervalleybrewing.com

STYLE: American Double/Imperial Stout

ABV: 11.0%

AVAILABILITY: Year-round

SAMPLE SIZE: 22oz brown bomber

**Our Score: B**

BA Overall: B+



Good ole Black Flag, aka Jolly Rodger—commonly known as the flag with the skull and crossbones on it. A fitting name for the style. Pours out with an almost motor oil viscosity, black as night with slowly rolling brown bubbles which form a massive head that seems to stick everywhere on the glass. Impressive head retention. Extreme aromatics of extra dark chocolate, ripe dark berries and a hefty, oily hop which gives off herbal and slight citric tones in the nose. Creamy full body with a slick mouthfeel as the oily hops coat the palate. Wow, the taste buds get smacked around both from the hops and malt. Aggressive hopping is noticeable throughout with a bitterness bomb that is followed by a thick herbal, evergreen and citric flavor. The malt comes out swinging, with a huge burnt char flavor to start, then high roasted coffee and dark choco-goodness. Finishes bittersweet with a never-ending aftertaste.

Pushing the envelope of flavor here, simply said, this beer is over-the-top. Is that a good thing? That all depends on how much you are looking for and how much you can handle. Black Flag get a thumbs up from us by keeping extreme beer real.

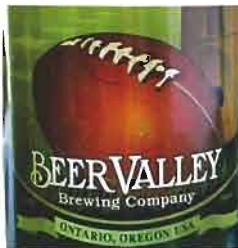
## Pigskin Pale Ale

Beer Valley Brewing Company  
Ontario, OR, USA  
beervalleybrewing.com

STYLE: American Pale Ale  
ABV: 6.0%  
AVAILABILITY: Year-round  
SAMPLE SIZE: 22oz brown bomber

**Our Score: B+**

BA Overall: B



At the time of reviewing this beer the New England Patriots had just finished a perfect season of zero losses and perhaps by the time you read this the dynasty will still be alive. Or not. Damn themed beer, enough of the sports, let's get to the guts of it.

No fear of frothing as it rises to the occasion and comes right to the brim with a dense, rocky head that seems to cling everywhere. Orange blossom in the nose with a sweet biscuity malt in tow. Solid malt backbone of lightly toasted malt, some sweetness and a lingering graininess. Hops are American all the way with a tight kernel of herbal bitterness and citric coating. Hint of nutty yeast, a little wet citric zest and a kiss of tobacco. The balance happens middle to end with a fusion of intertwining malt and hops to a bittersweet finish.

The American Pale Ale is solid through and through, 6.0 percent is a bit more than expected to qualify as a session ale, but sip at it, and it will make due. Either way, it's on the money when it comes to style.

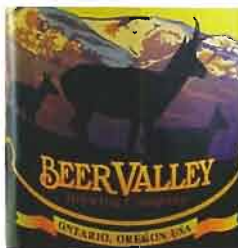
## Owyhee Amber Ale

Beer Valley Brewing Company  
Ontario, OR, USA  
beervalleybrewing.com

STYLE: American Amber Ale  
ABV: 5.5%  
AVAILABILITY: Year-round  
SAMPLE SIZE: 22oz brown bomber

**Our Score: A**

BA Overall: B+



What is in the name? Owyhee is a tributary of the Snake River and flows through one of the most sparsely populated areas in the US, hence the wildlife art of the label.

Stunning clarity with a pale copper hue. Quickly rising foam drops a substantial amount of lacing on the glass. Clean malty aroma shows mild toasted grain, hint of caramel and crisp hay bales. Big on smoothness and creamy as this beer flexes its medium body to the max.

Lots of complex maltiness, heavy biscuit and dried grass with tones of toasted bread and mild caramel in the back. Clean palate with little from the alcohol or yeast. Hops come through enough to keep this beer balanced.

The maltiness is lovely with pleasing complexities. This is the other side of craft beer that is not talked about enough—easy drinking session beers that are all about flavor. What a spectacular amber ale to be had.