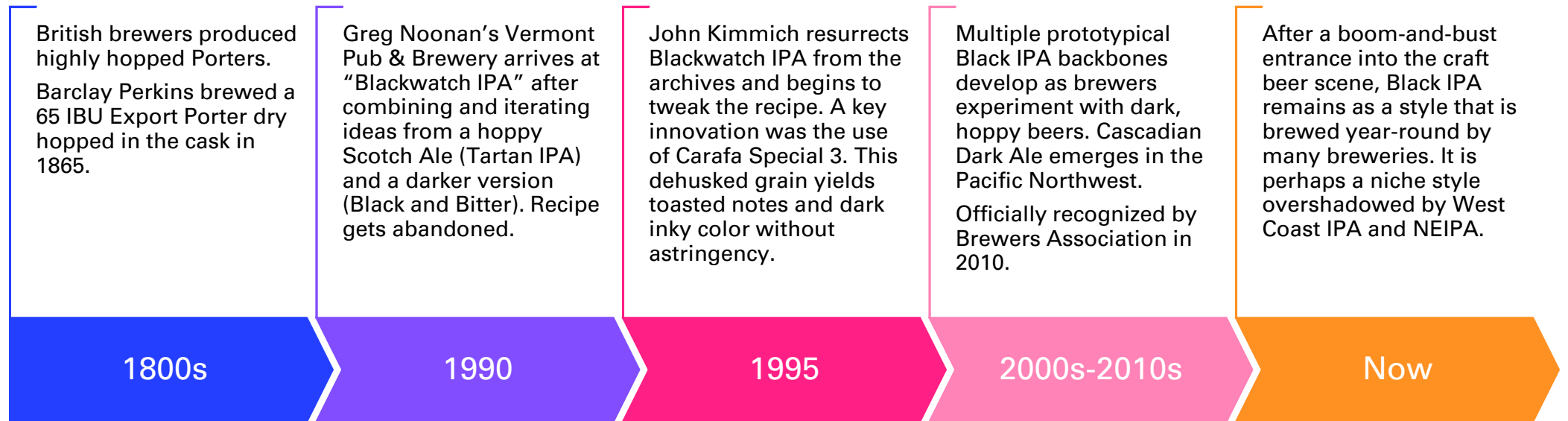


BLACK IPA





Silicon Valley Sudzers
Stephan Piotrowski

Milestones in Black IPA History



BJCP Definition (Added 2015)

21B. Specialty IPA: Black IPA

IBU	50-90		
SRM	25-40		
OG	1.050-1.085		
FG	1.010-1.018		
ABV	5.5%-9%		

- Overall Impression
 - Dry, hop-forward balance, and flavor characteristics of an IPA with darker color
 - No strongly roasted or burnt flavors
 - Darker malt flavor is gentle and supportive – not a major flavor component
 - High drinkability
- Appearance
 - Dark brown to black
 - Clear or slightly hazy if unfiltered and dry-hopped
 - Can be opaque but not murky
 - Good head stand, persistent light tan to tan color
- Flavor
 - Medium-low to high hop flavor
 - Medium-high to very high hop bitterness
 - Contribution to bitterness from dark malts is allowed
 - Clean base malt flavor, low to medium intensity
 - Restrained chocolate/coffee
 - No ashy/burnt taste
 - Low to moderate fruitiness
- Mouthfeel
 - Smooth, medium-light to medium mouthfeel
 - No astringency
 - Can be resinous (dry-hopped)
 - Medium carbonation

Commercial Examples

Back in Black
21st Amendment



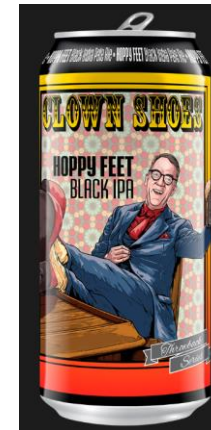
6.8% ABV
65 IBU
?? SRM

Sublimely Self-Righteous
Stone



8.7% ABV
90 IBU
?? SRM

Hoppy Feet
Clown Shoes



7% ABV
?? IBU
?? SRM

Wookey Jack
Firestone



8.3% ABV
70 IBU
62 SRM

Black IPA Controversies

- Conflicting names
 - Cascadian Dark Ale: Pacific Northwest variety with lower ABV
 - Black Ale: Brewer's Association official style name
- The various naysayers
 - "India *Pale* Ale can't be black!"
 - "Roasted malts can't work with fruity hops!"
- My opinion
 - "Black IPA" conveys the correct expectation of the overall flavor
 - A richer malt character can pair nicely with strong hop character
 - If you don't like it you don't have to drink it

Brewing Black IPA

- Malt Bill

- 2-row base malt (pale or your favorite)
- Crystal/caramel malt to balance the hoppiness
- Dehusked dark grain like Carafa III or Carafa II
- Be careful with Black Patent or avoid it completely
- Consider adding complexity other grains but avoid getting too malt-forward and keep the beer drinkable
 - Munich, rye, victory...

- Hops – Emulate traditional West Coast IPAs

- Use an early boil addition of high alpha hops like Chinook for IBUs
- Consider “old school” hops like Simcoe, Columbus, Centennial, Amarillo, and Cascade for late additions and dry hopping
- Experiment with newer varieties like Citra, AU/NZ hops, etc. but don't go into NEIPA territory

Brewing Black IPA

- Yeast
 - “Chico” yeasts like WLP001, WY1056, US-05, A07, etc. are always a sure bet
 - Some light fruity/estery character is ok
 - Avoid yeast character that would be considered out of style for an IPA
- Water: West Coast IPA
 - 3:1 $\text{SO}_4^{-2}:\text{Cl}^-$ ratio (150:50ppm)
 - Some Ca^{+2} (75ppm) for hardness
- Alternative water options
 - Experiment with profiles to feature the malt more by increasing Cl^- amount

My Black IPA: Mowgli's Black Cat IPA

5.5 gallon target volume at end of boil; target OG 1.067

Fermentable	Bill %
US Pale 2-Row	75.9%
German Carafa II	3.4%
Munich 20L	6.9%
Crystal 20L	6.9%
American Rye	3.4%
Flaked Rye	3.4%

Hop	Amount	Time
Chinook	1 oz	60min
Amarillo	1 oz	5min
Amarillo	2 oz	Flameout
Citra	2 oz	Flameout
Amarillo	1 oz	3 days
Citra	2 oz	3 days

Yeast	Amount
WLP001	1 vial

Brewing Salt
CaCl ₂
Epsom Salt
Gypsum

Ion	Target ppm
Ca ⁺²	70
Mg ⁺²	8
Cl ⁻	45
SO ₄ ⁻²	143

BLACK IPA

+



o



21B. SPECIALTY IPA: BLACK IPA

A drinkable beer with the hop-forward flavor of a West Coast IPA and the malt character of a dark beer without astringency or ashy flavor

.



References

- <https://beermaverick.com/understanding-srm-and-lovibond-beer-color-calculations/>
- <https://www.bjcp.org/style/2015/21/21B/specialty-ipa-black-ipa/>
- <https://www.northwestbeerguide.com/home/2010/07/nw-get-it-now-in-cans-21st-amendment.html>
- <https://www.brewersassociation.org/edu/brewers-association-beer-style-guidelines/#41>
- <https://www.goodbeerhunting.com/blog/2021/4/5/darkest-before-the-dawn-the-unlikely-return-of-black-ipa>