

# The trendiest beer in the world

San Diego's Rough Draft Brewing  
Company offers four IPAs ▶ DON TSE

UNLESS YOU'VE BEEN living in a cave, you know that craft beer is hot. Liquor store shelves are overflowing with local and import beers covering an incredible spectrum of styles and flavours. Every week, new beers hit the shelves to slake the thirst of Calgary's discerning beer drinkers.

Within that trend lies other sub-trends. IPAs (India Pale Ales) are the hottest category of craft beer. In fact, the craft beer movement was built on the back of hoppy beers. Now breweries are offering, in addition to regular IPAs, double IPAs (higher alcohol, fuller-bodied), white IPAs (unfiltered, fermented by Belgian white beer yeast), black IPAs (made with dark malts), red IPAs (made with caramel and crystal malts) and even session IPAs (lower alcohol so several can be consumed over a long session of drinking).

Another sub-trend is San Diego beers. Now boasting more than 90 breweries, San Diego is a hotbed of craft beer. Legendary brewers such as Stone Brewing Co. and AleSmith Brewing Company hail from the town that refers to itself as America's Finest City.

When you combine the craft beer trend with these two sub-trends, you get four IPAs offered by San Diego's Rough Draft Brewing Company. While Rough Draft does make other beers, only four of their beers are now available at Calgary's finer liquor stores and all of them are IPAs.

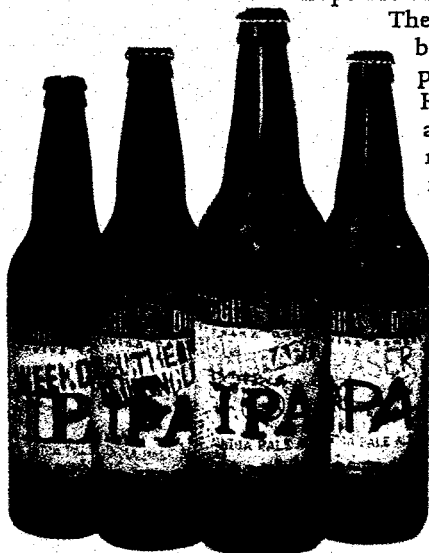
• **Weekday IPA** — At 4.8 per cent, this is not much lower than regular beer (which generally has 5 per cent), but it is low for an IPA. This makes Weekday IPA a session IPA — it's named "Weekday" to imply that it won't ruin you for tomorrow's work at the office. But don't let the lower alcohol level fool you. Packed with Citra and Simcoe hops known for their powerful punch of tropical fruit flavours, Weekday IPA will tickle your taste buds without taxing your liver.

• **Eraser IPA** — There are so many sub-styles of IPA now that I'm not sure there is such a thing as a "regular" IPA anymore. If there is such a thing, this is it. But "regular" does not mean "ordinary" or "boring." At seven per cent and 80 IBU (International Bitterness Units), this IPA is bitter, but features a malty backbone with great citrus and spruce flavours.

• **Southern Triangle IPA** — Another sub-trend that is developing in craft beer is the use of New Zealand hops. In the case of Southern Triangle, the New Zealand hops used are: Nelson Sauvin, known for notes of lychee; Motueka, known for citrus; and Galaxy, known for peach. In Southern Triangle, this combination of hops will take your taste buds to the tropics. Southern Triangle weighs in at 6.5 per cent.

• **Hop Therapy Double IPA** — Galaxy

hops are also used in Hop Therapy, but in this beer they give off piney flavours. Hop Therapy is a rather hefty nine per cent, so it is meant to be sipped. This is a dangerous beer because it is wonderfully flavourful and will tempt you to drink more. ▶▶



BOOZE