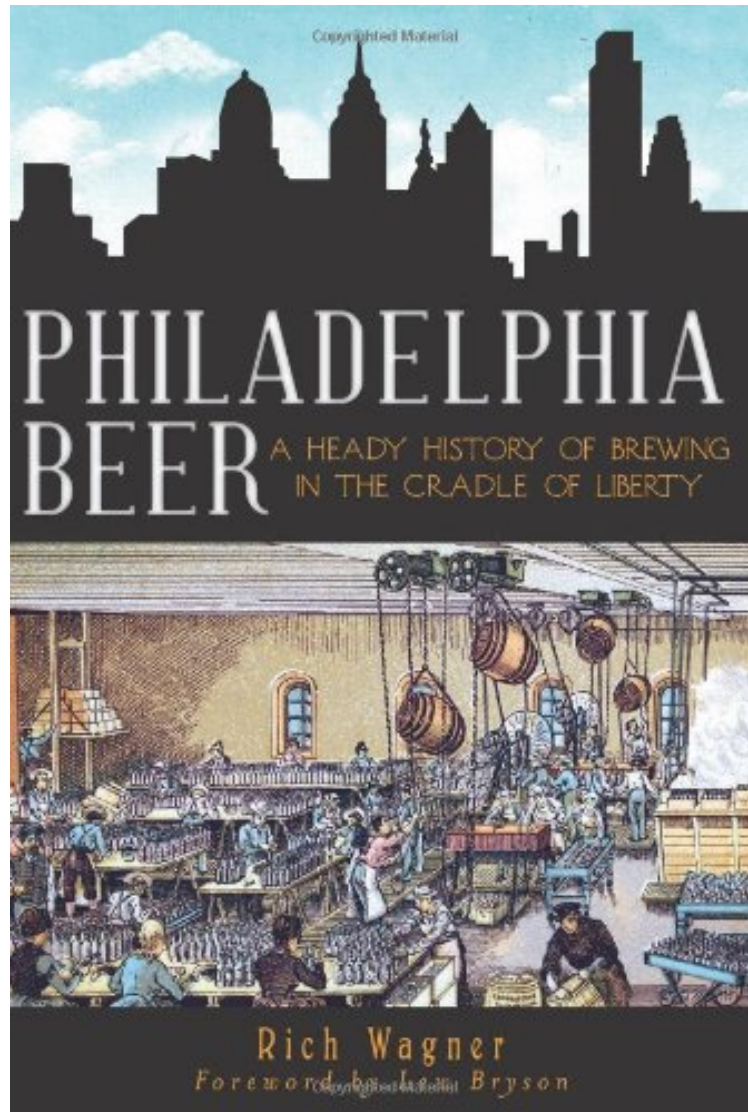


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Philadelphia Beer: A Heady History of Brewing in the Cradle of Liberty (American Palate)

Rich Wagner

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Rich Wagner : Philadelphia Beer: A Heady History of Brewing in the Cradle of Liberty (American Palate)

before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Philadelphia Beer: A Heady History of Brewing in the Cradle of Liberty (American Palate):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I'd give it a 3.5 if I could By Andrew Matthey The first half of this book covers the nearly 250 years of Philadelphia brewing before prohibition. Suitably, Wagner examines the history of

Philly brewing by placing it in the context of neighborhoods, and also by establishing a timeline of the particular styles that gained prominence era to era. It was interesting to read about Philadelphia's pioneering of Lager beer, and how its popularity helped to establish the city as a nationally leading beer producer. This section of the book was comprehensive, but also somewhat dry. At times, I felt as though I was reading a long wikipedia page on the subject. The book picks up in its second half, as Wagner goes on to describe how the Volstead Act utterly destroyed one of Philadelphia's largest industries. The vast majority of breweries closed at the introduction of the act, but some remained open manufacturing near beer and selling it as a breakfast food (so punk rock.) Prohibition was of course repealed, but at that point the economy was suffering through the Great Depression, and most of Philadelphia's breweries would never reopen. There were over a dozen large scale breweries in the city before prohibition. By 1950, there were only four, and by 1970 there were two. Schmidt's was the last brewery operating in the city when it shut down in 1989 and began its transformation from an abandoned industrial complex to a bro stomping ground. The final chapter dealt with Philly's more recent history, from the small brewpubs that popped up during the 90's to the large scale breweries of Yards and PBC that we enjoy today. This book was a short, and I finished reading it rather quickly. The beginning of it was a bit boring, but only because so much of Philadelphia's early brewing history has been lost to time. As the book continued, the author was able to interject an increasing amount of detail, making the book worthwhile for those with an interest in the subject. At the very least, it will give you some new things to ponder while walking around Brewerytown, or while catching a band at Ortleib's. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Philly Brew History By Vince This is a very nice historic review of Philadelphia Brewery history for this format. A lot of info included about the brewers and production figures although you can tell there is much more behind the stories of each of these breweries. A few historical maps of the neighborhoods described in each era would have made it easier to visualize the growth and movement of the Philly beer business for those who might not be familiar with the city. A nice easy read and good reference source for Beer History buffs and collectors. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book that I found more interesting than just beer! By John Henry I bought this as a Christmas present for someone but after looking at it I decided to keep it for myself. It's packed full of information I never knew about Philly! Good book and purchase !

The finely aged history of Philadelphia brewing has been fermenting since before the crack appeared in the Liberty Bell. By the time thirsty immigrants made the city the birthplace of the American lager in the nineteenth century, Philadelphia was already on the leading edge of the country's brewing technology and production. Today, the City of Brotherly Love continues to foster that enterprising spirit of innovation with an enviable community of bold new brewers, beer aficionados and brewing festivals. Pennsylvania brewery historian Rich Wagner takes readers on a satisfying journey from the earliest ale brewers and the heyday of lager beer through the dimly dry years of Prohibition and into the current craft-brewing renaissance to discover and celebrate the untapped history of Philadelphia beer.

...Every neighborhood had its own brewery, and every corner had a saloon ...The city's population was barely half of today's, and yet it had 12 times the number of breweries we boast of in 2012.