

# THE BEER DEMYSTIFIER *NEW YORK CITY FILES* 2009-2010

## BREWERY PROFILE

### Magic Hat Brewing Co.

#### *Type: Domestic Craft Brewery*

5 Bartlett Bay Road, Burlington, VT 05403. Tel. 1 802 658 2739.

Available in cask? – By special arrangement.

Available in keg? – Yes.

Available in bottle or can? – Yes.

Distributor: Union Beer Distributors, tel. 1 718 497 2407.

Who's who: President – Alan Newman; Brewmaster – Todd Haire.

Notes: An eccentric and popular brewery which has been growing steadily since it was founded in 1994. Best known for their #9 apricot beer. A series of special brews changing roughly every two months is underway, known as 'The Odd Notion Series'. It is likely that Magic Hat will take over Pyramid Breweries during the currency of this guide.

Planned beers: **Odd Notion American Sour Ale**, **Odd Notion American Lager**.

*Distance to the brewery from New York City: 349 miles.*



## Ratings

Each beer has been given a rating from one to five which should be interpreted as follows.

\* Bland, one-dimensional, or tasting of cheap adjuncts – unenjoyable. Not recommended.

\*\* Nothing special but may be worth trying if nothing better is available.

\*\*\* Good, recommended.

\*\*\*\* Great, highly recommended.

\*\*\*\*\* Exceptionally good, very highly recommended.

*Ratings are based on personal taste although, in certain instances, outside evaluations have been used when a particular beer has not been sampled by the author/webmaster.*

{S} after the beer name denotes seasonal availability.

**Hocus Pocus {S}** (4.5%) \*\*\* < - AMERICAN PALE WHEAT ALE - > – Quenching summer American pale wheat ale with lemon zest.

**Orlio Organic Seasonal Black Lager {S}** (4.5%) \*\*\*\* < - SCHWARZBIER - > – Malty schwarzbier with some chocolate undertones, hopped with Hallertau and Magnum varieties. Discontinued.

**#9** (4.6%) \*\*\* < - FRUIT BEER - > – Golden, refreshing ale with apricot prominent in the aroma and taste.

**Orlio Organic Common Ale** (5.0%) \*\*\* < - CALIFORNIA COMMON BEER - > – Mellow and golden, hopped with Styrian Goldings and Northern Brewer. Discontinued.

**Single Chair Ale {S}** (5.0%) \*\*\* < - AMERICAN PALE ALE - > – American pale ale brewed with Hallertau and Columbus hops.

**Fat Angel** (5.2%) \*\*\* < - AMERICAN PALE ALE - > – American pale ale, copper colored and quite light.

**Heart of Darkness {S}** (5.3%) \*\*\*\* < - OATMEAL STOUT - > – Dark and delicious winter stout with chocolate notes.

**Circus Boy** (5.4%) \*\*\* < - GERMAN WEISSBIER / HEFEWEIZEN - > – Unfiltered hefeweizen brewed with Amarillo and German Magnum.

**Orlio Organic Seasonal India Pale Ale {S}** (5.4%) \*\*\*\* < - AMERICAN IPA - > – Centennial hops provide a nice bite to this very drinkable organic IPA. Discontinued.

**Blind Faith** (5.6%) \* \* \* \* < - ENGLISH IPA - > – English IPA, moderately hoppy with balancing malt. The aroma is malty. Discontinued.

**Roxy Rolles {S}** (5.8%) \* \* \* \* < - AMERICAN AMBER ALE - > – Malty, sweetish, autumnal amber ale.

**Lucky Kat** (5.9%) \* \* \* < - AMERICAN IPA - > – A pleasant, deep golden ale with a moderate Amarillo and Crystal hoppiness and some caramel and toastiness.

**HIPA {S}** (6.8%) \* \* \* \* < - AMERICAN IPA - > – Warrior hops, citrus, pine, and a little caramel are evident in this refreshing amber American IPA. Available in spring.

**Jinx {S}** (6.9%) \* \* \* \* < - WEE HEAVY STRONG SCOTCH - > – Warrior and Centennial hops are partnered with peat smoked whisky malt (among others) in this deep brown beer fermented with English ale yeast. Fall availability.

- **Occasional and commemorative beers:**

**Odd Notion Summer '08 (English Dark Mild)** (3.6%) \* \* \* \* \* < - ENGLISH DARK MILD - > – A complex brew which is a hybrid of an English mild interestingly melded with some Belgian characteristics. A superb session ale, moderately sweet with light caramel notes. Hopped with Columbus.

**Odd Notion Spring '08 (Irish Red Ale)** (4.6%) \* \* \* < - IRISH RED ALE - > – A spicy, deep red ale with notes of cardamom.

**Ravell (aka Mardi Gras Ale)** (4.8%) \* \* \* \* < - ROBUST PORTER - > – American porter with strong vanilla notes.

**Batch 376** (5.0%) \* \* \* < - SCHWARZBIER - > – A mellow SCHWARZBIER with some mild roast notes.

**60 Winks** (5.8%) \* \* \* < - GERMAN PILSNER - > – Clean German pilsner.

**Batch 374** (5.9%) \* \* \* \* < - AMERICAN AMBER ALE - > – American amber ale with grapefruit and orange on the palate.

**Saint Goötz (aka Batch 371)** (5.9%) \* \* \* < - DUNKELWEIZEN - > – Mid-brown dunkelweizen with notes of clove.

**Braggot** (6.0%) \* \* \* \* < - SPECIALTY BEER - > – Historic ale brewed with a large amount of honey. Soft and sweet. On hiatus until Fall 2008.

**Batch 375** (7.5%) \* \* \* < - IMPERIAL / DOUBLE IPA - > – A bold double IPA, extremely hoppy.

**Feast of Fools** (7.5%) \* \* \* \* < - FRUIT BEER - > – Dark ruby, chocolate and raspberry are the main flavors.

**Odd Notion Winter' 07 (Dark Wheat Ale)** (7.5%) \* \* \* \* < - AMERICAN DARK WHEAT ALE - > – Hopped with Hersbrucker, this deep brown ale has notes of toffee, caramel, cocoa, and roasted malt.

**Thumbsucker** (7.8%) \* \* \* \* \* < - RUSSIAN IMPERIAL STOUT - > – Rich Russian Imperial Stout, slick and chewy.

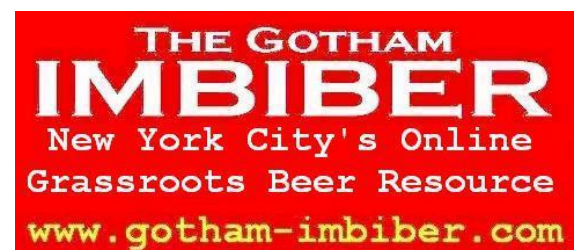
**Chaotic Chemistry** (10.8%) \* \* \* \* < - WOOD-AGED BEER - > – Very rich barleywine aged in oak for three years.

**SEE BEER MENUS FOR AVAILABILITY (EXTERNAL LINK)**

<http://www.beermenus.com/breweries/magic-hat-brewing-company>

*Ratings and tasting notes are taken from Beer Demystifier New York City 2008-2009 by Alex Hall (published June 2008).*

*This page is written by Alex Hall, and is updated to June 2008.*



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