

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

## BREWERY PROFILE

### Stone Brewing Co.

*Type: Domestic Craft Brewery*

1999 Citracado Parkway, Escondido, CA 92029.

Tel. 1 760 471 4999.

Available in cask? – No.

Available in keg? – Yes.

Available in bottle or can? – Yes.

Distributor: S.K.I. Beer Corporation, tel. 1 718 821 7200.

Who's who: President – Greg Koch; Brewmaster – Steve Wagner.

Notes: One of the fastest growing producers of craft beer in the country, with a reputation for high quality and arrogant, tongue-in-cheek messages on their bottles.

Planned beers: **12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ale**, a bitter chocolate oatmeal stout; **08.08.08**

**Vertical Epic**, an IPA-Tripel hybrid.

*Distance to the brewery from New York City: 2832 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.*

**Levitation Ale** (4.4%) \*\*\*\*\* < - AMERICAN AMBER ALE - > – Amber ale with hops dominant, quite complex for the style.

**Pale Ale** (5.4%) \*\*\*\*\* < - AMERICAN PALE ALE - > – Clean-tasting, well balanced pale ale with a bready aroma. Smooth on the palate.

**Smoked Porter** (5.9%) \*\*\*\*\* < - ROBUST PORTER - > – Dark burgundy porter with chocolate, licorice, and some coffee and smoky notes.

**IPA** (6.9%) \*\*\*\*\* < - AMERICAN IPA - > – An outstanding golden IPA, with a bold spruce and grapefruit hop profile.

**Arrogant Bastard Ale** (7.2%) \*\*\*\*\* < - AMERICAN STRONG ALE - > – Well-balanced, hoppy strong ale with an attitude and a brash mouthfeel. The antidote to bland light lagers (check out the ranting on the bottle!).

**Oaked Arrogant Bastard Ale {S}** (7.2%) \*\*\*\*\* < - AMERICAN STRONG ALE - > / < - WOOD-AGED BEER - > – Woody and hoppy, assertive but smooth.

**Ruinination IPA** (7.7%) \*\*\*\*\* < - IMPERIAL / DOUBLE IPA - > – A delicious, sprucey brew with a very brazen attitude.

**Double Bastard {S}** (10.0%) \*\*\*\*\* < - AMERICAN STRONG ALE - > – Fruity, hoppy, potent ale released each winter.

**Imperial Russian Stout {S}** (10.8%) \*\*\*\*\* < - RUSSIAN IMPERIAL STOUT - > – Rich, black, thick, chewy and complex. Licorice and vine fruits are well balanced in this truly outstanding brew. Released in April.

**Old Guardian {S}** (11.2%) \*\*\*\*\* < - AMERICAN BARLEYWINE - > – Disrespectful barleywine, ferociously hoppy and alcoholic. A beer to sip, relax, and enjoy. Bottles are year dated, and are good to cellar for a number of years.

- **Occasional and commemorative beers:**

**07.07.07 Vertical Epic** (8.4%) \*\*\*\* < - BELGIAN GOLDEN STRONG ALE - > – Spicy saison – tripel hybrid, part of a series of beers released when the numbers of the date all match up every 13 months.

**06.06.06 Vertical Epic** (8.6%) \*\*\*\* < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – Malty chestnut-colored Belgian-style ale, 2006's brew.

**XI – 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ale** (8.7%) \*\*\*\*\* < - AMERICAN STRONG ALE - > – An unusual dark ale with a mix of roast and citrus notes from the use of Chinook, Simcoe, and Amarillo hops with German dehusked dark malt. The finish is dry and satisfying.

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary India Pale Ale** (10.0%) \*\*\*\*\* < - IMPERIAL / DOUBLE IPA - > – Commemorative deep copper beer packed with Simcoe (and some Chinook and Crystal) hoppiness.

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

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

**FIZZY YELLOW BEER  
IS FOR WUSSIES -  
Greg Koch, Stone Brewery**

*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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