

GUARANTEED WIN

BRIDGE CREEK PILSNER, SILVER MOON BREWING
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In a region dominated by hopped-up IPAs and heavy, dark beers, and where winters are long, cold, and rainy, it seems a pilsner would be doomed to a lifespan equal to that of, well, a fruit fly drifting lazily about the mash tun. That is, until a passionate brewmaster who's crazy about Bohemian-style lagers presents us with a crisp, hip alternative to the same old, same old. That's exactly what brewmaster Tyler West has created for Silver Moon Brewing in Bend, Oregon.

Owner Tyler Reichert started the brewery in 2000 as a one-barrel "nano" operation out of his brewing supply store, The Brew Shop. By 2005 Reichert decided to focus on brewing, sold the supply shop, and moved Silver Moon to NW Greenwood Avenue. The new facility allowed "The Tylers" to expand their operations to a 10-barrel system, but the brewery is just far enough off the beaten path on Bend's Ale Trail that many visitors make the tragic mistake of missing it.

West's commitment to brewing German-style lagers has driven him to produce a clean beer that still offers plenty of hoppy appeal to the West Coast palate. With seven national and international awards to his credit, including a bronze medal for the Bridge Creek Pilsner at the 2010 Great American Beer Festival, West has created many remarkable brews over the years, but when we broach the topic of pilsners there's a little extra excitement in his voice.

"There's nearly always a pilsner on tap at Silver Moon, year round, when many brewers drop it to focus on other seasonals. Just this past winter we featured a seasonal beer called Little Red—a noble Bohemian-style pilsner made with dark

malts, to provide a distinctive blood red color." says West. "Generally sales of the pilsner slow a bit in winter months, but we have this amazing German yeast that we need to keep alive, so I'm brewing pilsner year-round."

Beyond brewing award-winning beer, Silver Moon also takes entertainment a step further by sponsoring a popular event among locals called the Roller Rumble;

participants race on stage, side by side, on fixed, stationary bikes. From a dead stop contestants sprint as fast as possible for 400 meters, through several qualifying rounds to the championship match. It certainly solves the problem of what to do when it's raining outside. But even if you miss Roller Rumble night, be sure to sample a pint of pilsner next time you're at Silver Moon. It's a guaranteed win.

