



SPEAKERS in brief



CHRISTIAN BAUWERAERTS
Founder of Achouffe Brewery
(Achouffe, Belgium)

Christian Bauweraerts and his acolyte Pierre Gobron, founded Achouffe Brewery on August 27th, 1982. Very modest at the time, this small brewery has made its place and reached a very envious position in the brewing industry without ever indebteding itself. In 1992, Christian visited the Province of Quebec for the first time. His numerous trips to Quebec gave him the opportunity to witness the evolution of Quebec's brewing industry, to which the Mondial de la bière has certainly contributed a lot. As for the Achouffe brewery, it has well evolved over the years. Over 16,000 visitors make it to the brewery every year and its production has increased constantly. On September 7th, 2006 the production level reached 25,000 hectoliters and the brewery was sold to DUVEL-MOORTGAT. Nowadays, Christian has become an ambassador for Belgian beers in general and for DUVEL-MOORTGAT Brewery in particular.



PHILIPPE GAÏANI
Beer Cocktail Specialist
(Strasbourg, France)

From a very young age, Philippe Gaïani wanted to be a Chef... but realized that he was more attracted to the barman profession! He first started at the Hilton in Strasbourg and is now the person in charge of the Lounge-Bar at the Holiday Inn where he specialized in beer cocktails. Philippe writes columns on beer cocktails for Bière Magazine and regularly publishes articles on beer, alcohol and spirits.



IACOPO LENCI
Owner of Birrificio Brùton,
(Tuscany, Italy)

Iacopo Lenci was born in 1984 in the city of Lucca, Tuscany. Raised in the land of wines, he was exposed to Sangiovese wine at young age by his father, a wine maker. He grew up on the family farm and spent a lot of time in the vine yards of Maremma, in the South of Tuscany. His passion for beer started very early in life, at the moment when he discovered Belgian beers. He understood that the Italian industrial lagers he had always drunk, were not the only way to drink and consider beer, even in Italy... From then on and like any other beer fanatic, he started brewing his own beers in the family's garage. In 2004, he finally started thinking about brewing beer as a career, and in 2006, Iacopo abandoned his studies in cinema and founded Birrificio Brùton in the hills of Lucca's wonderful countryside! He immediately began to work on production and is the owner and producer of Brùton beers, working in synergy with Andrea Riccio, the head-brewer.



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STEVEN POLEWACYK

Managing Director of the Vermont Pub and Brewery
(VT, USA)

Steven Polewacyk is graduate of Keene State College, Keene, New Hampshire, USA. He was a self-employed database design computer consultant in NYC for 15 years before reuniting with Greg Noonan in Vermont as his business partner in the Brewing Industry. One of the progenitors of Proactive Management Systems, he is currently the Managing Director of the Vermont Pub and Brewery and lives in a bucolic setting in Williston, Vermont with his son Stashu, a composer.



CONRAD SEIDL

Writer and Beer Journalist
(Vienna, Austria)

Conrad Seidl was born in Vienna, Austria, where he lives as staff writer and political commentator for the daily newspaper Der Standard. For his beer writing he uses the brand name "Bierpapst" – his columns appear regularly in the gourmet magazine FALSTAFF and in the trade magazine Der Getränkefachgroßhandel. His career as a beer writer started with a guide to Austrian beer ("Hurra Bier!") in 1990. He has published more than 25 books on the subject of brewing and beer culture and contributed to Michael Jackson's "Eye Witness Guide to Beer", "Beer Hunter and Whisky Chaser". Conrad Seidl was a beer judge at the Brewing Industry International awards in 1996, 1998 and 2002, at the New Zealand Beer Awards in 2001, at several beer festivals in the US, in Europe and at the World Beer Cup 2008. He consequently built his brand "Bierpapst" working as a speaker on beer, brewing and marketing. He conducts tastings, beer-dinners and seminars for consumers as well as for marketers.



ERIC WALLACE

President and Co-Founder of Left Hand Brewery
(CO, USA)

Left Hand Brewing was founded by Jon Eric Wallace and Dick Doore on September 21st, 1993, and has been crafting a well-balanced portfolio of award-winning beers that are now available in 26 states and 7 countries. Eric Wallace is also the President and co-founder of Indian Peaks Brewing Company, parent company of Left Hand Brewing Company.

Eric grew up around the world as the son of an Air Force officer, and was exposed to good beer at a precocious age in Germany. Upon his return in 1993, he was inspired by the renaissance in craft brewing developing in the U.S. and, along with co-founder Dick Doore, decided to jump headfirst into the craft beer business. Eric is passionate about beer and food pairings – he's a supporting member of the Slow Food movement, and even his business card says "Beer is Food."



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MIRELLA AMATO

Beer Specialist, Writer and Judge.
(Ontario, Canada)

Specializing in Ontario and Quebec brews, Mirella has made the promotion of craft beer her full-time job. She shares her knowledge and enthusiasm through freelance work with a focus on public speaking and education, conducting guided beer tasting sessions and seminars. She is a regular contributor to TAPS magazine, the Great Lakes Brewing News and Bières et Plaisirs and can be heard on CBC Here and Now every second week. Mirella is a founding member of Cask! a board member of the Canadian Amateur Brewers' Association and a proud member of the Pink Boots Society. Mirella is certified CICERONE, BJCP, has judge in many competitions in Canada, USA, Europe and in notorious competitions like the World Beer Cup, Canadian Brewing Awards and the Ontario Brewing Awards. You can find out all about her work at: www.beerology.ca.



MARIO D'ÉER

Speaker, Author and Animator
(Ontario, Canada)

Mario D'Eer is passionate about beer tasting. He shares his passion with beer lovers through book writing, conferences, teaching how to taste beer and organizing several activities. Mario is Co-Founder of the Festibière de Chambly, Co-Founder of the Order of St. Arnoldus, as well as Founder of BièreMAG, of the Beerologist Certification Program and designer of the prestigious MBeer contest. He travels across Europe and North America in order to develop his knowledge on beer and to discover new flavors. He has written 14 books on beer and has sold over 55 000 copies of his books. He writes a weekly column for one of the most important French newspapers, le Journal de Montréal and speaks on a bi-monthly basis on Radio-Canada. With 20 years of professional experience related to beer, we can understand why he is frequently interviewed by the Quebec media.



TONY FORDER

Editor and CO-Publisher of Ale Street News
(New Jersey, USA)

A native of England, Tony Forder has lived in the U.S. for 30 years. As editor and co-founder of Ale Street News, America's largest circulation beer publication, he has been at the center of the craft brewing scene for 20 years.

Tony has led beer tours to many countries, especially Belgium. He has written many articles on all facets of the craft brewing industry and is a frequent speaker on the topic. Tony spent a decade in California where he was involved with the roots of craft beer before moving to the East Coast in 1990. Founding Ale Street News in 1992 with his brother-in-law, Tony was instrumental in educating the public about the new microbrewing revolution. His philosophy is that beer relates to all the finer things in life, and he enjoys interpreting beers with poetry and with his flute.



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GUY LEVESQUE

Speaker and teacher of École de biérogologie MBière (beer school) (Quebec)

Guy Levesque discovered beer culture in the 1980's, through a friend who offered him a homebrew. It became a passion and he began to make, research history, cook, experiment new beers, food pairing combinations.

In 1987, Guy was invited to share his passion as a beer writer, for the magazine "Ça brasse au Québec" and he has been giving workshops at the Mondial de la bière festival since 1998. Guy has continued to develop his professional side as beer expert by working for different beer events such as Flaveurs Bières et Caprices and for private tasting sessions. He also has been giving workshops on the history, the making, the tasting of beer and also beer and food pairings.

Guy founded in 2004 a beer enthusiast club called "Institut de la bière", for which he is still a member of the board of directors. He also teaches for the Mondial de la bière's "École de biérogologie MBière"(beer school). As an author, he co-wrote the book "Les Microbrasseries du Québec" and is the beer critic for 2010 and 2011 editions of the "Petit Debeur" guide.