

The Brewtastic Adventures of Local Beer Geeks

Chris and Merideth Canham-Nelson have visited more than 360 breweries and brew pubs worldwide. As founders of www.thebeergeek.com, which showcases tap-inspired travels, they have braved icy January winds to sample stout in Alaska. They've crossed whole countries and spent hours dissecting the talents of craft beer makers.

This good-natured Carmel Valley couple takes its beer seriously. They started touring breweries in the early 1990s, when Merideth worked at an Oakland pub. They then expanded their pint portfolio, sampling in other states and countries. A decade later, the pair launched



Chris and Merideth Canham-Nelson travel the world to learn about beer, and share their knowledge with a geekish passion.

Photo: Kelli Uggall

The Beer Geek website to chronicle their adventures and sell beer geek apparel.

Two years ago, the self-confessed "travel TV junkies" began planning a beer-themed series. They've since added regular blog posts and a "beergeekTV" component to the website. Their online beer travel show, "One Pint at a Time," spotlights brew festivals and destinations. The

pair also dubbed 2008 "The Year in Beer" and they're off on a tasting trip each month—including five flights to Europe.

A book on their journeys is in progress, and they still aspire to take their show to television. When they aren't traveling and toasting, Chris runs a web design business and Merideth is a licensed clinical social worker. Their favorite local beer haunt is

O' Factory Café in Sand City. Overseas, Munich and the city's celebrated Oktoberfest captivate them.

"We just love the feeling and atmosphere and beer culture and food," says Merideth.

They'll be there again this September, enjoying another round.

—Renee Brincks

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