



CALIFORNIA COUPLE COMPLETES THEIR AMAZING BEER ODYSSEY 12 Months, 15 Trips, and Many Memories

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A Carmel Valley, California, couple wrapped up an itinerary featuring 15 dream "Year in Beer" trips with a December 2008 journey to Belgium – and now, Chris Nelson and Merideth Canham-Nelson are looking forward to more tap-inspired travels in 2009 plus a planned book documenting their beer-focused adventures.

Together, the husband and wife team paid homage to tried and true beer meccas, attended lesser-known beer festivals and visited more than 90 breweries, all in one year. Along the way, the pair chronicled their travels with blogs and videos on their website, thebeergeek.com. Beer lovers and armchair travelers alike followed along as the couple washed down moose sausage with Alaskan home brew in January, pulled pints at the Great British Beer Festival in August and toasted it all at the Belgian Kerstbierfestival in December.

According to Canham-Nelson, the response to the blogs and videos was overwhelmingly positive. "Some people wrote to tell us that we inspired them to embark upon their own beer adventures, while others said they were happy to live vicariously through us," she says.

The last six months of The Year in Beer included the "where's where" of the beer world: Oregon, England, Germany, Colorado, San Diego and Belgium. Remarking on the second half of 2008, Nelson says, "Many beer geeks would like to get to the Oregon Brewers Festival, Great British Beer Festival, Oktoberfest and Great American Beer Festival in their lifetime. That was July through October for us."

A book about the couple's 12 months of beer travel experiences is currently in the works. Through chance meetings, unexpected happenings and misadventures, this pair created a lifetime of memories in just one short year. "Beer travel doesn't always go as smoothly as planned and that has made for some pretty funny stories," Canham-Nelson confesses. Most importantly, however, the couple can look back and fondly remember how they spent their 19th year of marriage.

It might seem hard to top such a dream year, but the pair is not ready to rest now.

"We're not going to repeat The Year in Beer, but we already have two trips to Europe on the 2009 schedule," says Nelson. "We're also looking at options for a coast-to-coast, back roads beer trip this year."

While they've already accrued a lifetime of memories, Chris Nelson and Merideth Canham-Nelson will continue looking for the next great beer experience.

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To learn more about beer travel, or to schedule an interview with Chris Nelson and Merideth Canham-Nelson, please call Chris Nelson at (831) 659-4973 or e-mail Chris at chris@thebeergeek.com.