



STORMCLOUD

BREWING COMPANY

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Stormcloud Brewing Company Earns Silver Medal at the 2020 Great American Beer Festival®

FRANKFORT, MI (October 28, 2020) - As the proverb goes, every cloud has a silver lining. That certainly rings true for Stormcloud Brewing Company after being awarded a Silver Medal at the 2020 [Great American Beer Festival](#) (GABF) competition, presented by the [Brewers Association](#).

The best beers in 91 beer categories covering 170 different beer styles were awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals during a virtual ceremony Friday, October 16, hosted on The Brewing Network.

With 106 total entries in the Belgian-Style Abbey Ale beer-style category, Stormcloud earned a Silver medal for its 228 Tripel, a traditional Belgian-style Tripel. The 228 Tripel is a complex ale with layers of light spice and stone-fruit aromas. The golden, light bodied beer is a true marriage of yeast derived esters and soft malt.

To brew 228 Tripel, Stormcloud brewers use 100% northern Michigan grown artisan Pilsner Malt from Empire Malting Company, German and French hops sourced locally, and a substantial dose of light Belgian candi sugars. Head brewer and co-owner Brian Confer says the process for brewing Stormcloud's traditional Belgian ales, including the 228 Tripel, underwent an unexpected upgrade this year.

"With the pandemic shut-down this spring, our brew team seized the opportunity, using Stormcloud's pilot system, to take a deep dive into the base ingredients and processes used to brew the traditional Belgian Ales in our portfolio," says Confer. "We made several key discoveries that led to reformulating how we brew these beers. So the pandemic did have a literal silver lining because the newly refined recipe for 228 earned us the silver medal."

Stormcloud's overall commitment to quality in brewing is evident throughout the company's nearly 13,000 square-foot brewing facility, which includes a state of the art brewing laboratory. Used daily to test beer, the lab enables Stormcloud's brew staff to ensure yeast is healthy, unwanted bacteria is kept out, and the beer is exposed to as little oxygen as possible. Stormcloud's lab is a key factor in producing high-quality, true to style brews.

Stormcloud has now earned two medals at the Great American Beer Festival, considered one of the most prestigious contests in the beer industry. In 2014, Stormcloud's Rainmaker Ale received a Bronze Medal in the Belgian-Style Blonde Ale or Pale Ale beer-style category.

Judges for the 34th edition of the celebrated beer competition this year evaluated 8,806 entries from 1,720 breweries from all 50 states plus Washington, D.C. Socially distanced judging took place in 35 sessions over 18 days with strict safety measures in place.

"This year's GABF competition may have looked a little different, but the beers entered into the competition were as impressive and innovative as ever," said Chris Swersey, competition manager, Great American Beer Festival. "This has arguably been one of the most challenging years breweries have ever faced, so we hope these awards serve as a symbol not only of brewing excellence but also the resiliency of the craft brewing community as a whole."

For more information on the GABF competition, including a complete 2020 winners list and photos, visit GreatAmericanBeerFestival.com.

About Stormcloud Brewing Company

Stormcloud Brewing Company opened June 2013 just steps from Lake Michigan in the coastal city of Frankfort, located in northwest lower Michigan. Specializing in Belgian-style brewing, Stormcloud was named the [Best New Brewery in Michigan](#) by MLive Media Group in August 2016. In June 2017, Stormcloud was named [Best Local Brew Pub or Tap Room](#) by the readers of Traverse Magazine. Stormcloud's handcrafted beer is distributed in more than 50 Michigan counties in both the Lower and Upper Peninsula. Stormcloud Brewing Company is a proud member of the [Michigan Brewers Guild](#), [Lakeshore Brewers Guild](#), and [Brewer's Association](#). Visit Stormcloud online at Stormcloudbrewing.com.

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Stormcloud Brewing Company

303 Main Street

366 Parkview Lane

Frankfort, MI