

Spinnakers launches lost stout

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VICTORIA -- From deep in the frigid waters of the Atlantic Ocean rises a legend of 15,000 bottles of stout lost when the Titanic sank there nearly 95 years ago.

That age old legend was uncrated recently at **Spinnaker's** Gastro Brewpub with the limited release of a ceremonial Titanic Stout in conjunction with the Royal B.C. Museum's exhibit: Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition, that opened April 14.

The stout has been partnered with two more craft beers; a salute to a famous Titanic legend - the Unsinkable Molly Brown Ale, and the ghostly shard that would be Titanic's undoing, a pale ale named Iceberg.

"These are both inspired by the legend of Titanic - and believe me, to a stout drinker, the loss of 15,000 bottles to the bottom of the sea is a lost treasure," said Publican Paul Hadfield. "We're doing this for fun, and as a part of community support for the project the museum is doing."

On hand to give the craft beer trio a first taste was John Zaller, Creative Director for Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition.

"There were thousands of bottles of beer on board the Titanic, so it's appropriate that **Spinnakers** has brewed three new beers to commemorate the 95th anniversary of the ship's sailing and sinking," said Zaller.

Throughout the run of the exhibit, **Spinnakers** will be the place to come and test the craft beers, and relive a bit of history as it might have been. Titanic Stout is an Imperial Stout that Hadfield describes as bigger, rounder, softer and less bitter than Guinness.

The nut-brown ale named after the Unsinkable Molly Brown, is quite dark thanks to roasted malts, yet lightly hopped, which offers a softer, rounder flavour. The third beer is a Pacific Northwest - style pale ale - Iceberg that which has a "bracing bite" to it.

Spinnakers, well known for its use of local ingredients in its high-standard fare, also produced a decadent array of dishes inspired by the sense of promise that the Titanic initially represented.

"We are doing a contemporary New World interpretation of what these people's aspirations might have been as they headed off to America - as opposed to simply trying to reproduce an oyster bisque for example," Hadfield says.

They'll also be making some of their famous hand-made chocolates to pair with the Titanic beers, for the duration of the exhibit.

Good news for beer and museum enthusiasts alike, there will be commemorative three-packs available for the exhibition's duration, with box ends designed by Andrew Lewis, and one of each type of beer included along with a **Spinnakers** pint glass.

Spinnakers will also be packaging a Titanic Stay in **Spinnakers** 1884 Heritage House, with packages starting at \$179 based on double occupancy.

Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition, which is running at the Royal BC Museum until October 14, is one of the most successful and enduring travelling exhibitions in the world. It features more than 280 artifacts recovered from Titanic's undersea resting place in a series of galleries that trace the life of the "unsinkable" ship - from its design and construction through to its discovery, recovery and conservation. As visitors climb the gangway, boarding passes in hand, they become immersed in the passenger experience.

Authentically recreated first- and third-class cabins and outdoor cafe are appointed with artifacts recovered from the shipwreck site 3,800 metres below the surface of the North Atlantic Ocean.

For more information and tickets, visit .