



## HOMEBREWING IS JUST A GREAT HOBBY

By Mark Suits

I have been brewing my own beer for almost 40 years. I started brewing when the commercial beer choice ranged from Molson Canadian to Coors Light so the bar was set pretty low on what I would consider a successful home brew. And yet I barely pulled it off. But I stuck with it and as my technique and knowledge improved, so did the quality of the beer kits and brewing equipment.

My evolution as a home brewer paralleled the change in the commercial beer landscape from from relatively bland big brewery beers to flavourful imports and craft beers. As the number and variety of available beer styles exploded on the commercial side the hobby expanded too with all the ingredients, equipment and expertise to produce almost any style of beer at home.

Having a hobby is good for your mental health, relieves stress, it's fun and is a great way to unleash your creativity and express yourself. And with homebrewing you end up with tasty beer. A newcomer can start small and simple, and if you enjoy it you can level up all the way to commercial quality success.

When you are the brewer, you are in charge. Do you want to try to replicate your favourite brew? You can do it. Want to experiment with additions of fruit, fragrant spices or exotic hops? You can do it. Southside Winning Wines Plus carries a variety of fruit flavourings, and aromatic spices plus we have over 40 different varieties of hops to boost your beer. Whether you are making beer from a kit or from scratch you can really do anything you want. And speaking of making beer from scratch (all-grain brewing), it's never been more accessible or affordable. All-in-one electric systems such as the Grainfather or Brewzilla have taken off in popularity. Add the availability of grain varieties, hops and a wide array of yeast styles and you can brew like a pro.

Whatever level you enjoy, homebrewing gives you a chance to have fun, create your own one-of-a-kind brews, offers you a chance to share things with friends and helps you save money on beer. It really is a great hobby.

Cheers,  
Mark

