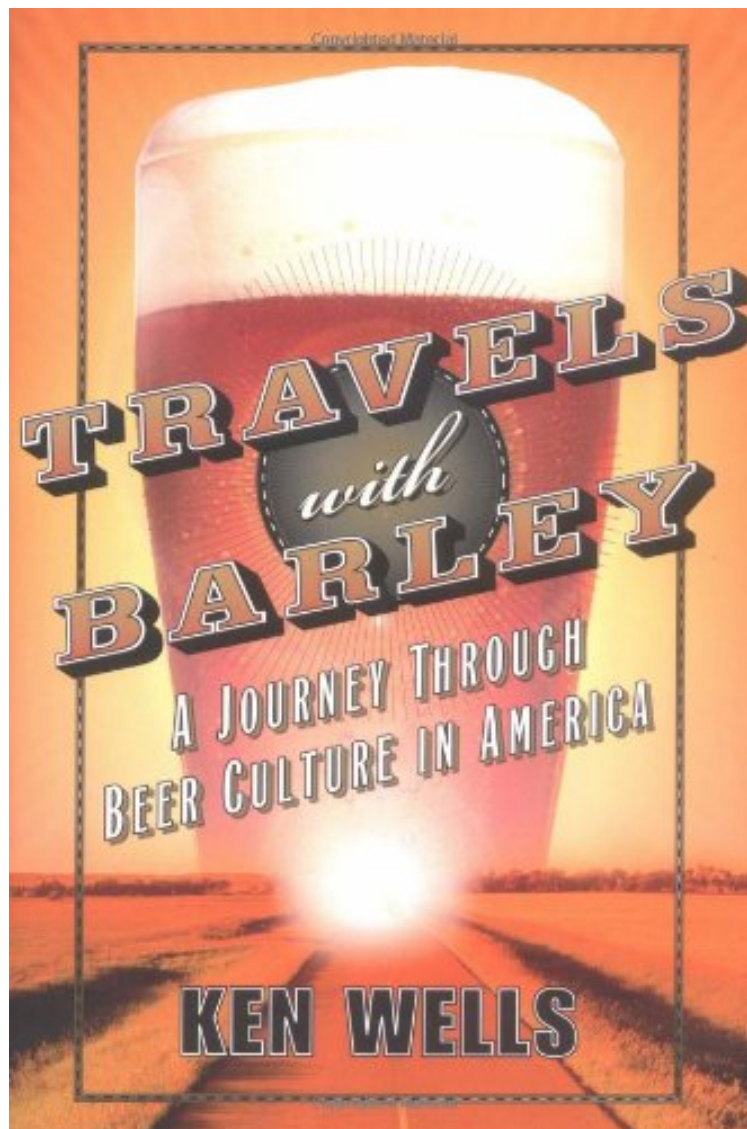


(Free and download) Travels with Barley: A Journey Through Beer Culture in America (Wall Street Journal Book)

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Ken Wells

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Ken Wells : Travels with Barley: A Journey Through Beer Culture in America (Wall Street Journal Book) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Travels with Barley: A Journey Through Beer Culture in America (Wall Street Journal Book):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. the writing is very good, arguably the strongest aspect of the bookBy

Leslie N. Patinoldquo;Travels with Barleyrdquo; is a generally entertaining read for aficionados of American beer culture. After author Ken Wells many years as a journalist, the writing is very good, arguably the strongest aspect of the book. Wells emphasizes his middle-class, somewhat blue-collar upbringing, offsetting it with references to his extensive education. (Example: Travels with Barley/Charley)He alternates between charting his adventures in search of the perfect beer joint and relating stories of Americansquo;s beer history. At times, I found the narration a bit too long and meandering. (Example: After reading about the Flora-Bama in the first chapter, I didnrsquo;t pick up the book for a couple of months.)A second shortcoming is inevitable with a book of this type: released in 2004, itsquo;s become outdated. Early on Wells writes that ldquo;Americans in 2002 (the latest statistics available) consumed 6.35 billion gallons of beer.rdqquo; A few pages later, he says craft brewers have 3.4 percent of the beer market. According to the Brewers Association's latest stats, by 2013, that number grew to 7.8 percent and continues at a vibrant pace. These days, itsquo;s not unusual for even a modest-sized craft brewery to produce an extremely hopped IPA, a sour beer, a cider and a lager or two in addition to the mandatory ales. As a result, todayrsquo;s craft beer enthusiasts are more educated and sophisticated than those of a dozen years ago, and the beer scene has evolved, contributing to the dated feel of the book.Giving "Travels with Barley" a break for the passage of time, it still provides some good historical perspective and interesting anecdotes.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy StevenA little dated at this point, but still a "must-read" for any beer lover!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Phyllis AbramA very interesting book for beer geeks.

Do beer yeast rustlers really exist? Who patented the Beer Goddess? How can you tell a Beer Geek from a Beer Nazi? Where exactly is Beervana? Does Big Beer hate Little Beer?Ken Wells, a novelist, Pulitzer Prize finalist, and longtime Wall Street Journal writer, answers these questions and more by bringing a keen eye and prodigious reportage to the people and passions that have propelled beer into America's favorite alcoholic beverage and the beer industry into a \$75 billion commercial juggernaut, not to mention a potent force in American culture."Travels with Barley "is a lively, literate tour through the precincts of the beer makers, sellers, drinkers, and thinkers who collectively drive the mighty River of Beer onward. The heart of the book is a journey along the Mississippi River, from Minnesota to Louisiana, in a quixotic search for the Perfect Beer Joint -- a journey that turns out to be the perfect pretext for viewing America through the prism of a beer glass. Along the river, you'll visit the beer bar once owned by the brewer Al Capone, glide by The World's Largest Six Pack, and check into Elvis Presley's Heartbreak Hotel to plumb the surprisingly controversial question of whether Elvis actually drank beer. But the trip also includes numerous detours up quirky tributaries, among them: a visit to an Extreme Beer maker in Delaware with ambitions to make 50-proof brew, a look at the murky world of beer yeast rustlers in California, and a journey to the portals of ultimate beer power at the Anheuser-Busch plant in St. Louis, where making the grade as a Clydesdale draft horse is harder than you might imagine. Entertaining, enlightening, and written with Wells's trademark verve, "Travels with Barley" is a perfect gift -- not just for America's 84 million beer enthusiasts, but for all discerning readers of flavorful nonfiction.

From Publishers WeeklyThoreau said, "The tavern will compare favorably with the church." Following this premise rather closely, longtime Wall Street Journal writer and novelist Wells (Junior's Leg) searches for his preferred house of worship: the "perfect beer joint." Setting out to follow the Mississippi River, Wells writes, "I would begin in Minnesota among folk who, geographically speaking, are practically Canadians and by reputation descended from good beer-drinking Swedes and Germans. I would slide down soon enough into the Great Beer Belly of America, for, by lore at least, Midwesterners are presumed to be the mightiest of U.S. beer drinkers." Full of profundities ("One thing you can say about lagers: the good ones don't make you work very hard to like them"), the book also lends historical, scientific and cultural insights into the \$75 billion industrydash;from the likes of beer behemoths like Budweiser to newfangled Extreme Beer, which has bottle values comparable to fine Bordeaux. Along the way, Wells encounters quirky characters, and the pages he devotes to describing brewers, bar proprietors, bartenders and plain ol' beer drinkers prove he's more interested in beer people (84 million Americans drink beer) than the industry itself. Wells's storytelling abilities complement his journalist's eye for stats and facts, making this a humorous, lively and informational tour. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistThis account of journeys through the soft beer belly of America exudes that expansive happiness that springs from a guy who is truly enjoying his bottle of brew. Wells, a Wall Street Journal reporter, has crisscrossed the U.S., visiting breweries and bars to find out just what makes beer the nation's leading adult beverage. In the wake of the "lager wars" that drove so many midsize breweries to extinction in the late twentieth century, Wells finds newly prospering microbreweries. He visits the deceptively down-market Flora-Bama Lounge on the Gulf Coast to find out how it maintains its record consumption levels. He travels the length of the Mississippi to assess the heartland's appetite for brewskis. Wells delves into the history of the giant breweries such as Anheuser-Busch with its trademark Clydesdale draft horses and Miller with its phenomenally successful campaign to encourage that quaffing of "light" beer. As one would expect from a reporter of his background, Wells focuses his eye less flatteringly on the economic, social, and political role of beer, whose powerful lobbyists jealously guard industry prerogatives. Mark

Knoblauch Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved "I highly recommend this (burrrip) book." -- Dave Barry "Ken Wells is the engaging Everyman of beer..." -- Julie Johnson Bradford, Editor, All About Beer magazine "Travels With Barley is a joy." -- Michael Lewis, author of Moneyball and Liar's Poker "Travels with Barley is a keen elucidation of beer and the passions that surround it." -- Michael Jackson, The Beer Hunter Wells is a "worthy explicator of beer's whys and wherefores," sniffing out tales from "the mahogany ridge." -- Kirkus s, September 2004