

Spain: Europe's new craft beer capital

Welcome to the brew boom.

NO longer are microbreweries exclusively for hipsters with beards and tattoos.

In Spain, craft beer is growing faster than anywhere else in Europe, with the industry employing around 257,000 people according to the Spanish agency for food and safety.

Gourmet beer is going mainstream with the number of companies in Spain increasing by 1,600% between 2008 and 2015, from 21 microbreweries to 361.

Local manufacturers using traditional methods to make their ale.

Catalunya has the highest concentration of the breweries.

Spain is ranked at 11th out of all 47 European countries for its beer

With Spain being such a hotbed of culinary creativity, it was only a matter of time before the craft brewing scene began to follow suit. And sure enough, it has (unsurprisingly Barcelona has proved to be a major hub of the beer boom, with the Barcelona Beer Festival having grown impressively in just a few short years). Across the country it's becoming easier and easier to come across truly exceptional craft offerings. Given Spain's reputation for creativity and appreciation for life's finer things, expect the upward trend to continue, quickly.

The great beer boom! UK Government says new brewery has opened in Britain every other day in past two years

By Lee Boyce for Thisismoney.co.uk

- Britain has become 'brewing powerhouse' government says



- Beer and pubs sector now responsible for 869,000 jobs
- But despite brewing revolution, number of pubs is down 20k in 30 years

Britain has become a 'brewing powerhouse' according to the Government after figures showed a new brewery has opened up every other day in the past two years.

All parts of the country are enjoying a 'beer boom' as independent brewers continue to jump on the back of the 'craft beer revolution.'

The trend is boosting the economy, with the beer and pubs sector now responsible for 869,000 jobs, the Government says.

Marcus Jones, community pubs minister, said: 'Today's figures show Britain is back on the map as a global brewing powerhouse with three breweries opening up every week.'

'We gave the world the IPA and the Great British pint has been revered ever since. This brewing boom means we are not only creating some of the world's best beer that we all enjoy in our local pub and at home but also thousands of jobs and a multibillion-pound boost to the economy.'

'There is an increasing confidence in the beer and pubs sector with pubs diversifying, community ownership of public houses starting to take off and a booming brewing industry.'

'We are determined to build on this momentum and our strategy of lower taxes, less regulation and a growing economy is the best way to support this thriving and diverse sector.'



The minister said there had never been a better time to be a beer drinker, with a world class variety of beers brewed in Britain.

Mike Benner, of the Society of Independent Brewers, said: 'This is an incredibly exciting time for British craft brewing. The number of breweries is soaring leading to more jobs across the UK and more choice for consumers.

'With such an exciting range of different colours, strengths, styles and flavours, in draught, bottle or can format now available, I'm sure there is a beer out there to suit all palates.'

The report was published ahead of Camra's Great British Beer Festival at London's Olympia this week.

Craft beers have become more readily available in pubs and bars up and down Britain as drinkers look to experience new flavours, varieties and brands.

Brewing confidence has been partly built up by relatively new brands which have become successful, including Aberdeen-based Brewdog which saw pre-tax profits of £3.7million last year and London-based Meantime which was sold to global giant SABMiller earlier in the year.

With increasing numbers of online tutorials, relatively low start-up costs and sales growing in supermarkets, pubs and other retailers, more small-scale novice brewers are creating beers in an attempt to emulate some of the success.

But despite more brewers starting up, the number of pubs has been in decline in recent decades.

According to data from the British Beer and Pub Association, there were 67,800 pubs in 1982 compared to 48,000 in 2013.

