



Media Release

Cryogenic hops, Japanese cult brewers and an Aussie takeover: Beervana 2026 tickets on sale

Wellington, 3 June 2026 - From beers brewed with cryogenically frozen hops to cult breweries flying in from Japan and Australia, Beervana 2026 is shaping up to be one of the festival's biggest celebrations of brewing creativity yet.

Tickets for New Zealand's ultimate celebration of good beer [go on sale today](#), with Wellington's Hnry Stadium once again set to transform into what fans affectionately call "the hoppiest place on earth" this August 21 and 22.

This year's festival will bring together some of New Zealand's biggest breweries, a strong Australian contingent, and first-time international brewers, reinforcing Beervana's growing reputation as a trans-Tasman meeting point for beer culture. Festival Director Ryan McArthur says Beervana has long been a place where breweries come to experiment, collaborate and push the boundaries of what beer can be.

"There's been an Aussie connection to Beervana for most of the festival's existence, but this year feels particularly exciting," he says.

"We're seeing even more interest from Australian breweries and beer fans wanting to make the trip to Wellington. Beervana has always been a place where brewers come to experiment, collaborate and connect, and that trans-Tasman energy will be huge this year."

To celebrate the growing trans-Tasman connection, Beervana is also searching for Australia's Biggest Beer Fan, with one winner set to score the ultimate pilgrimage to Wellington this August, with hundreds of Aussies already vying for the title.

Returning breweries include Panhead Custom Ales, Emerson's and Garage Project, while Canyon Brewing, Searchlight Brewing Company, Big Mountain Mead and Neck of The Woods will make their Beervana debuts. Joining them from across the ditch are Sydney breweries One Drop Brewing Co. and Slow Lane Brewing, alongside Melbourne's Sobremesa Fermentary & Blendery. Japan's [Yellow Monkey Brewing](#) will also pour at Beervana for the first time.

Located in Nakagawa, north-west of Yokohama, Yellow Monkey Brewing was founded on a simple philosophy: beer should bring people together. Founder Hiroki Komada previously led the Japanese arm of the Swiss sports brand On, where community building played a central role in the brand's growth. That same thinking now shapes Yellow Monkey Brewing, whose brewpub has become a gathering place for locals, runners and craft beer fans, alongside a growing reputation for modern beer styles

"Their focus on community, connection and great beer is exactly what Beervana celebrates, so we're thrilled to welcome them to Wellington," says McArthur.

The festival will also mark a major milestone for Wellington breweries Double Vision Brewing and Wellington's Choice Bros, with both celebrating their 10th birthdays this year.

Among Double Vision's experimental pours this year is beer brewed with cryogenically frozen hops - a process that intensifies hop aroma and flavour, particularly in hazy beers and IPAs



“Beervana has been a huge part of our journey over the last decade,” says Warren Drahota, Double Vision co-founder.

“We started out sharing a stand as the new faces, and now we’ve got a double stand with 12 taps pouring across the weekend. The thing that’s never changed is the warm welcome from the Beervana crowd - people come here genuinely excited to discover something new.

“This year, we’re experimenting with cryogenically frozen hops, and the process does something incredible to the flavour. When you take a sip, it’s like biting straight into tropical fruit,” he says.

Beervana has built a reputation for the one-off beers and immersive experiences breweries create exclusively for the festival, attracting visitors from across New Zealand and around the world. Last year, the event injected more than \$3 million into Wellington’s economy over the festival weekend alone. McArthur says that success reflects Beervana’s evolution from a beer festival into a major cultural and tourism event.

“It’s about creativity, community and discovery. You’ve got world-class brewing sitting alongside incredible food, immersive experience, and musical and theatrical artists and people coming together from all over New Zealand and Australia,” he says.

“You don’t need to be a beer expert, in fact, it’s best NOT to be, to have an incredible time at Beervana; you just need to be curious.”

Beervana 2026 takes place at Wellington’s Hnry Stadium on 21 and 22 August 2026. Tickets are on sale now at [Beervana.co.nz](https://beervana.co.nz)

About Beervana

Beervana is New Zealand’s ultimate celebration of good beer. This two-day festival at Wellington’s Hnry Stadium is back for 2026 across 21 and 22 August 2026, with tickets on sale from 3 June 2026. Beervana exists to celebrate and promote New Zealand’s good beer sector and to encourage people to support the local brewing industry. It is a unique festival that focuses on beer, is inclusive, safe, and a whole lot of fun. Fans know to expect the unexpected at Beervana. Every year, Beervana draws beer lovers from across the country - and the globe - showing that even in challenging times, great beer still brings people together. Beervana is brought to you by the [Wellington Culinary Events Trust](#), a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting Wellington’s local hospitality and national brewing industries.

Beervana 2026 is proudly supported by the New Zealand Government’s Events Boost Fund.

For more information

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