

## Paulaner brew is tasty

By: Tony Kiss

**Sept. 28, 2016** - Around the Upstate, craft brewing tradition is still fairly young. In Germany, brewing goes back centuries, and many brewers take great pride at how long they've been making beers.

Among them is Paulaner, the Munich brewery that has its beers at this weekend's NOMA Oktoberfest on Main Street in downtown Greenville.

Paulaner beers are generally recognized as some of the best in the world. Their Oktoberfest marzen is rich and malty, perfect to enjoy on its own or with a brat or some other German treat. You can find the beer in bottles and on draft, and while Paulaner makes it year-round, it is most readily stocked during the late summer and early fall seasons. This is particular true of sales in the U.S.

The tradition of Oktoberfest dates to the 1810 wedding of Bavaria's King Ludwig I to Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen, which was celebrated with a grand party. Paulaner, which dates to 1634, has been making its famous Oktoberfest marzen brew since 1810. The brewery is one of six allowed to serve at the famous Munich Oktoberfest which wraps up this weekend. Paulaner's traveling bier garden tap truck is only making a handful of U.S. stops this year, Greenville being one of them.

The ancient Bavarian Purity Act of 1516 decrees that beer must only contain water, yeast, grain and hops. Perhaps that is a big reason that Paulaner Oktoberfest is so special - no pumpkin, cranberry or other unusual flavors will ever be found in this brew. The recipe is unchanged since its first brew and it's unlikely that another Oktoberfest would ever be the same since Paulaner requires a precise formula using Hallertau hops, unique water from an aquifer near Munich and the brewery's touch, said Steve Hauser, president of Paulaner's U.S. division.

The beer has a shelf life of about a year but after shipping by boat from German and arrival in a U.S. warehouse then distribution to stores, "it only has seven to eight months in it" before the flavor's will fade, Hauser said.

While Paulaner's Oktoberfest marzen is among its most famous beers, the brewery turns out a full line of fine brews including an Oktoberfest wiesn, hefe weizen, a radler (a combination of hefe and lemonade), Munich lager and Salvator strong double bock, It's worth your time to try them all,

### Local Oktoberfest

If you want an Upstate-made marzen brew, several local breweries make them and turn out fine examples of the style. Swamp Rabbit's draft only Oktoberfest is available year-round. Thomas Creek's Oktoberfest is a seasonal sold on draft and in bottles. And Brewery 85 has Leon's Lederhosten marzen.

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