

# Stark Raving (Root Beer) Blog!

It's stark! It's raving! It's blogging! And it probably doesn't make any sense... Now with rooty tooty sugary beverages! But it still probably doesn't make any sense....

THE STARK RAVING (ROOT BEER) BLOG, ESQ.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2010

And that's *Mr. Stark Raving Blog* to you, sirl!



Win

Schultze Rock renders your argument invalid...

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Virgil's

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*The Pooj's Happy Norwegian counterpart makes a new friend.*  
(Somewhere in Pasadena, August 2010)

I've been planning on writing a blurb about Virgil's for a while, but just hadn't gotten around to getting a Virgil's yet. As luck would have it, I was served Virgil's at a friend's housewarming party earlier this fall, and was thus reintroduced to Virgil sooner than expected. Honestly I wasn't really expecting to like it, since I actually didn't like it last time I had it. That was a couple years ago, when I apparently liked milder root beers, since I found Virgil's to be too root-y at the time – like chewing on tree bark. This time around, I actually liked it a lot more than I expected to – they say (whoever *they* may be) tastes change every 7 years, so maybe Virgil's was simply caught on the wrong side of my taste change last pass? For science's sake, I decided we needed a second sampling in, a more controlled environment...

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*The Happy Norwegian's Pooj counterpart makes a new friend.*  
(76 Station, Beverly Hills; September 2010)

Ah, you gotta love Beverly Hills – even the gas stations sell gourmet root beer. This was convenient, since Virgil's is usually sold in multi-packs and mini-kegs at my local beverage vendor, and since I wasn't entirely sure how true my feeling about Virgil's would be, I didn't want to risk having a lot of extra around (though a mini-keg would have been fun...). Thank goodness for high-end convenience stores then! I also got me some Boylan Black Cherry and Swiss chocolates there to round out the *Fancy-Pants AMPM* experience.

Virgil's originally hails from England – which doesn't exactly have a sterling reputation for foodstuffs, but is at least well known for boiling plant materials for beverages. Anise is the dominant flavor; so dominant that the root beer actually tastes like black licorice. The addition of nutmeg works well with the anise, and blended with a healthy dose of wintergreen creates a good fall/winter-flavored beverage. To offset the spices, there are actually two sources of sweetness: regular sugar and caramelized unrefined sugar. My guess is that the caramelized sugar is what gives Virgil its rich, somewhat smoky flavor and helps to smooth the whole thing out.

Yes, I like Virgil's a lot more now than I did a couple years ago. It's a very high quality beverage, crafted with care. As to whether I would drink it again: absolutely I will, but not as much and not as frequently as I would other root beers – it has such a distinctive flavor to it that I would wait to be in the mood for it specifically. That being the case, Virgil's gets a 3.5.

Posted by Win at 6:28 PM   
Labels: [3.5](#), [Root Beer](#), [Virgil's](#)

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DR. HORRIBLE --  
SHOW THE MAN  
SOME LOVE



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