

18th WFP: A Decade Is Not Enough!

Everyone loves celebrating birthdays, so why not celebrate twice? Especially if it's a 10th anniversary. The first big party was the 17th spring edition of the Warsaw Beer Festival. Now it's time for an autumn encore. Wait! WFP doesn't do encores, except maybe at the beer stalls ("the same again, please!"). This fall, the 18th edition of the festival will once again surprise you at Warsaw's Legia Stadium, making you feel like you're soaring to the heavens—or at least gazing at them.

After a decade of being in the game, in a market where trendy events and hyped-up venues come and go, WFP's consistent presence in great form proves one thing: WFP is a showcase of the capital city. It's the most important beer event in Poland and one of the best such festivals in Europe. And these aren't just empty words. With each edition, more guests from all over the world attend WFP. Why? Because the organizers make it a testing ground as much as a trend-setting experience. And they are not afraid to face a challenge.

Let's Jump Into the Future/Past!

A birthday is not only a party but often a moment for reflection, especially when it's a milestone. Thus the theme of WFP18 is "Ale Historia!" ("What a Story!"), under which selected festival beers (there are over 1,300 in total!) are divided into three categories: "Heritage. What a Tradition!", "Here and Now. What an Experiment!", and "A Hundred Years From Now. What a Direction!". In short: beer stories will be brewed according to the rules of different times—past (honoring tradition), present (with a flair for experiences), and future (appreciating the boldness to explore new things). Each chosen beer will come with a short story to read or listen to in audio format, and festival-goers with the festival glass will get those beers with 1 PLN discount. Breweries participating include Browar Bałtów, Browar Bury from Jaworzno, Browar ReCraft, Browar Markowy, Browar Sady, and Browar Świętosław Dębicki, which recently debuted at the Warsaw Beer Festival.

Let's Meet

But the festival's experiments aren't limited to beer. They also extend to the side events surrounding it, based on the idea that it's not just about WHAT you drink but WHO you drink it with. Over the past 10 years, the festival has nurtured a community, which, according to the

organizers, is just as essential to their success as the carefully selected breweries. That's why they take great care of it. – "For some time now, we've been hearing that many people come not only to taste the beers (and the fantastic food) but also to meet someone new. We decided to respond to this need," says Michał Lassota, one of the main organizers of the festival, responsible for special projects at WFP. This is how the idea for speed friending and speed dating was born. The rules for these activities are simple: participants show up at a designated time (Thursday, October 17th, 4:30 PM) in a specific place (workshop rooms on the 1st floor of Legia Stadium) and go through rounds of mini-conversations, meeting new people. Usually, for such events, you don't bring anything with you, but at WFP, it's worth bringing a festival glass (preferably full). You can immediately test your compatibility in tastes and preferences with the person you've just met. Importantly: while relationships are valuable, participation in both events is free. You just need to fill out a registration form on the festival's website. – "And let's be clear, we're not out-of-touch romantics making things up," says Lassota. "At least a dozen couples have met at WFP, and not only are they still together, but some have even gotten married," he adds.

Let's Fly High

The truth is, WFP's organizers are romantics. And above all, they are incorrigible idealists who raise the bar with each new edition. Even when that bar seems impossibly high, they somehow manage to clear it. And the flight metaphor isn't accidental. At WFP18, on Saturday, a fleet of F9U racing drones, reaching speeds of up to 200 km/h in less than two seconds, will fly over the pitch of Legia Stadium.

It will be an adrenaline-pumping event. For the first time in the festival's history, participants will be able to watch the live finals of the annual Drone Racing Poland Cup. What does this mean? The same as always at WFP: the best of the best and a thrilling competition. Polish and international pilots will compete for the title of Drone Racing Poland League Champion for the 2024 season. – "It will be a showcase not only of advanced technology but also of incredible skill and, most importantly, superhuman reflexes, which are necessary to navigate the special racing track on the Legia Stadium pitch at speeds of up to 160 km/h," says Paweł Leszczyński, the creator and main organizer of WFP.

The qualifications, eliminations, and finals in the "Chase the Ace" format were organized by experts from Team FailSafe. Spectators can watch the race thanks to Browar Bałtów, which not only ensured the proper setup of the finals but also sponsored prizes for the pilots. The brewery

also arranges the festival stage on the stadium's pitch for this edition of WFP.

Let's Return to What We Know Well

Seeing Legia Stadium's pitch is one thing. Watching a good match there is another. But being on the pitch and watching a race in the sky? That's something no one, not even the regular WFP attendees, could have imagined. Exactly. Those who know the festival map of attractions by heart and can list the most "staple" features of each edition can rest assured that their favorite highlights won't be missing this time either. On Friday, a music stage will rise on the pitch, featuring the glitzbeatz collective (micemerve, grymasik, and DJ Myszka), with guest performances by London-based Drinks on Me and Southby. The continuous expansion of side events is made possible by Browar Bałtów, Browar Sady, and Browar Bury, who are not only patrons of the 18th edition of WFP but also promoters of Polish craft beer. Keep them in mind when choosing your beer.

Throughout the three-day festival, the Parostacja sauna will be in full swing, offering relaxation and health rituals with aromatherapy, scrubs, and wood branches, all with a hint of hop aroma. There will also be lectures, guided tours, and tastings (full schedules and tickets are available on the festival's website). And of course, there will be sports! On Saturday, October 19th, there will be Yoga on the Pitch (in two versions: traditional and beer yoga) and a charity group run called "Good Direction: Love – Watch Out – Get Checked!" – "As always, we assure you: you don't need to be in top shape to participate in our sports activities. We hope our run will be a great opportunity to get started. That's why the distance is only 2 km—something everyone can do, even if they usually just run to catch a bus or tram. And by the way, you don't even have to run. You can walk or jog the distance. Style doesn't matter, only the goal. And, of course, having fun," encourages Paweł Leszczyński. The goal of the run, co-organized with the Love-Watch Out Foundation, is to promote a healthy lifestyle and cancer prevention (you can sign up for the run via a link on the festival's website).

When planning your festival activities, especially the sports ones, keep in mind one thing: while both sports and alcohol are fun, they absolutely shouldn't be combined. – "For both the yoga and the run, you need to be sober. The same applies strictly to the sauna. We recommend enjoying a beer AFTER the activity, especially after the run, as it helps prevent muscle soreness," advises Leszczyński. And what about beer yoga? – "Non-alcoholic beers from Browar Maryszstadt will be available, as the festival's beer portfolio is constantly growing," adds the organizer.

Let's Help

The festival stage (actually, stages, because for the 10th anniversary, there will be also a stage on the pitch) will be buzzing with activity. On the main stage, you can listen to engaging lectures, not only about beer. There will even be a talk about... bees (!). And don't miss the meetings with rescue dogs from the Search and Rescue Group of OSP Marki. – "For those concerned about the well-being of the puppies, rest assured: we love pets too, and we would never do anything that would cause them discomfort. For the rescue dogs, being at an event like WFP is part of their training—a chance to get used to large crowds. And for us, it's a unique opportunity to meet these talented dogs," Lassota explains. It looks like everyone wins at this meeting. Anyone interested in speed friending with the rescue dogs should mark October 19th at 3:45 PM in their calendars. That same day, the traditional Sztos Auction—an auction of festival treasures—will take place on the main stage at 6:15 PM, with proceeds going to support the OD-DO Association.

Let's Celebrate Here and Now

The 10th anniversary coincides with the 18th edition of the festival. Over the past decade, this festival has made Warsaw a craft beer capital, bringing international recognition to Polish breweries. Festival-goers have enjoyed a series of unforgettable moments, from the exotic flavors of coconut porters to barrel-aged beers that have been aged for years. There's no doubt that the organizers will continue to set new trends and ideas for years to come, keeping the spirit of innovation alive. Let's celebrate not only this milestone but also look forward to the future of craft beer in Poland and beyond!

This fall, the 18th Warsaw Beer Festival invites everyone to an unforgettable experience, filled with cheer, creativity, and, of course, great beer. Tickets are on sale now—come and be a part of the history in the making!

Warszawski Festiwal Piwa [program](#)

17-19 października 2024

Stadion Legii, ul. Łazienkowska 3

Bilety na [eventim.pl](#)

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