

Boom Island Brewing earning a name in the craft brew industry

Written by Shaina Brassard, West Broadway Business and Area Coalition
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North Minneapolis really does have it all – wonderful people, beautiful parks, a thriving arts community, dozens of great restaurants and now, a brewery.

And not just any brewery. Boom Island Brewing, which set up shop on North 2nd Street at the end of 2011, has quickly become one of the most talked about breweries in the Twin Cities. Beer lovers, foodies and the community at large have been captivated by owners Quixia and Kevin Welch's charming story and impressive command of the Belgian beer tradition.

Kevin Welch, originally from the American South, and Quixia Welch, hailing from Sichuan Province, China, are both professional French horn players. They are world travelers and have made their home together in Minneapolis for more than a decade in order to be close to the metro area's classical music scene. Kevin Welch's interest in beer, and especially Belgian beer, is hardly new.

"Belgian beer is something I fell in love with right when I started brewing beer about 13 years ago," he explains. Kevin Welch said the couple had planned to make a business of brewing as a retirement project, but the economic downturn beginning in 2008, "made us decide to consider it sooner."

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