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Alton offers tastings

“We bought the company just last year,” stated new owner of Alton Distillery, Pietro Bortolotti.

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY AUTUMN SCHANIIL

Previously known as the Catskill Distilling Company, Alton, according to Bortolotti, means “near water,” aptly named for the region in which the business is located. Directly across from the infamous Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, the distillery is set back from the road on a beautiful piece of land with streams, creeks, and ponds all throughout, right in the middle of the Catskills - abundant with lakes and rivers.

After receiving their licenses at the end of last year, Alton Distillery was able to continue production activities earlier this year, mainly distilling whiskey, with a small production of vodka. Special factors like pure spring water, quality of the grains, small copper stills, and aging in White American oak casks contribute to each whiskey’s distinctive character and taste.

“We have been busy renovating,” Bortolotti said, “some new equipment, updates, and outside renovations. My goal in the near future is to open up the restaurant again and create a hub for things like art installations, events, and even culinary arts.”

Although the distillery isn’t quite ready for a grand opening just yet, the Tasting Room remains open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday where you can try their NY Straight Wheat Whiskey, their Straight Bourbon Whiskey, the Straight Rye Whiskey and more.

A room with tall ceilings, a large bar, cozy chairs, and a large glass wall so you can peek into the distillery where everything happens, it’s a place where great conversation is made and surprising connections are made.

For more information you can write to info@altondistillery.com, call 845.583.3141 or just stop by the Tasting Room at 2037 NY-17B, Bethel, NY.



Top: The Alton Distillery tasting room is open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Above: The tasting room’s Erin DeLaurencio pours a tasting of Fearless: Straight Wheat Whiskey.

At right: The distillery is behind a glass wall inside the tasting room, where visitors can see the distillers and stills.

Good Libations

‘A Look at the Region’s Spirit, Beer and Wine Offerings’

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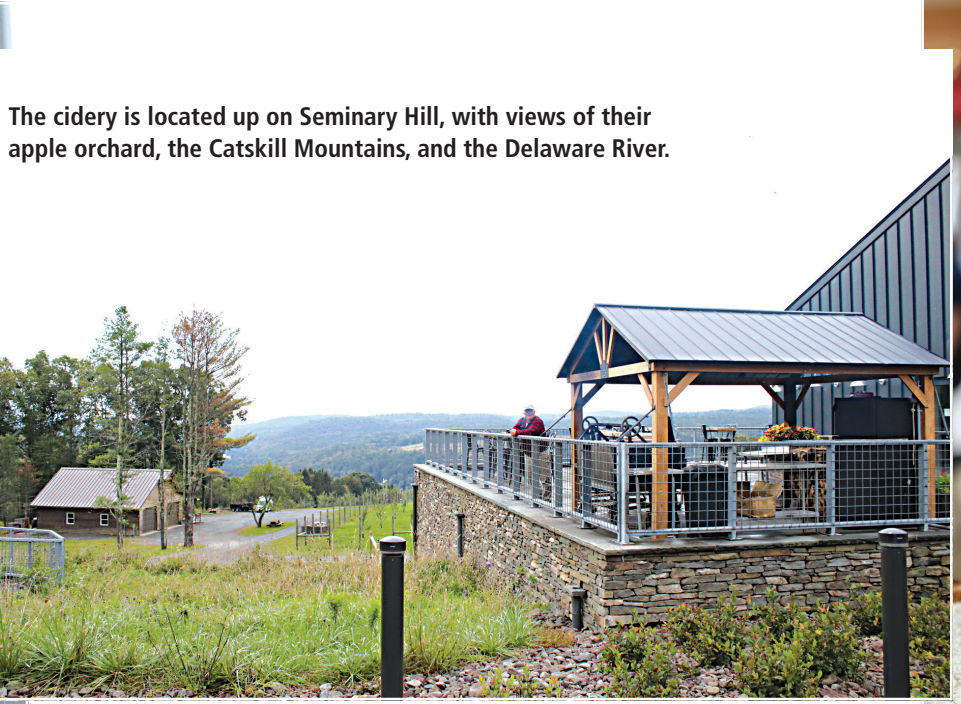
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On weekends the tasting room is usually buzzing with visitors and locals alike.



Seminary Hill Cidery's Susan's Semi-Dry batch.



The cidery is located up on Seminary Hill, with views of their apple orchard, the Catskill Mountains, and the Delaware River.



Sakura Tomatoes, Grilled corn, and a slice of delicious sourdough bread.

Bringing cider heritage back to Sullivan County

STORY AND PHOTOS BY AUTUMN SCHANIL

It all began with a desire to reimagine the way family lived on this land for generations, and it started by planting apple trees.

Seminary Hill Orchard and Cidery's Founder and CEO, Doug Doetsch, has roots in Callicoon that go back five generations. Generations of small farmers who planted apple trees so they could make their own cider, who lived with and from the land hunting, fishing, raising livestock, growing and harvesting, canning, and pickling year round. During the summers they would host visitors, feeding them "farm to table" before that phrase became a fashion.

"Doug had the idea that he wanted to bring back family land, to bring back its heritage," stated Director of Orchards and Facilities, Bill Hess, "and that began with planting, and planting

Crab apples are used to add tartness to the cider.



turned into an orchard."

From there, the Cidery was born.

The hope and vision was to bring the cider heritage back to Sullivan County as well as creating a sustainable form of agriculture business that fits into a larger puzzle of various organic farms that are making a comeback across the region.

The Cidery, in order to grow holistically and create harmony with the environment and the soil, uses companion plants like bee balm and yarrow to protect the trees from pests, as well as various flowers that attract pollinators to create a thriving habitat.

The heritage of cider goes back to its trees, and if the overall ecology of the orchard is in balance, that is reflected in the cider.

Made from a blend of over sixty varieties of apples and pears, all of Seminary Hill Cidery's cider is pressed and bottled on site, and when you visit the Cidery's tasting room you can choose to have a Full Tasting or a Flight. Some of their ciders include the Cackling Hen, the Delaware Dry, or Susan's Semi-Dry, among others. The Tasting Room and Restaurant also has lovely snacks, appetizers, entrees, and desserts.

The Cidery hosts private events and weddings, and now has accommodations in homage to the "Catskills of old" when boarding houses and hospitality brought people from all over right here to our mountains.

For more information on Tasting Room & Restaurant Hours, to book a stay or event, you can visit www.seminaryhill.co, write to info@seminaryh.



The tasting room flight includes a 2.5 oz pour of five of their ciders.

Bridge and Tunnel Brewery sees bright future in Liberty

STORY AND PHOTO BY MATT SHORTALL

The Bridge and Tunnel Brewery is making its way up from Queens with a large taproom planned to open in Liberty.

It's been a busy time for Brew Master and Founder Rich Castagna, who splits his time between building the brewery in Liberty, running the tap room in Queens, being with his family and having another full-time job in New Jersey.

Bridge and Tunnel celebrated its 10-year anniversary recently. From their humble beginnings as a nanobrewery inside of a one-car garage in Maspeth, Queens, Bridge and Tunnel expanded with a tap room in Ridgewood where Castagna was born and raised.

Castagna and his family have traveled to Sullivan County for years to go camping. He said he was struck by Liberty as the next location to expand their business.

"I've always seen that the town has a lot of potential. It's got old bones,"

Castagna said. "I've seen many neighborhoods in my area - in Brooklyn and Queens - that have very similar parallels. It just takes a couple of businesses that step in and it starts hitting its potential again."

Castagna said he was drawn to the building on Lake Street, which was formerly the Killian Transfer Company.

It's a labor of love for Castagna and he's put in extensive renovations into the building. His vision is to offer a family-friendly and dog-friendly environment where people from all walks of life can come and feel welcome.

"It has to be about the people," he said.

Castagna says Bridge and Tunnel Brewery offers 16 different varieties. He showed off the 20-line tap system inside their Liberty building.

"We throw a wide net. If anything, I'm always wishing I had more lines," Castagna said. "We're going to have



Rich Castagna, brew master and founder of Bridge and Tunnel brewery, looks to open a new location in Liberty.

beer, cider and kombucha. We started making seltzer this year and it took off. We're working on a non-alcoholic beer as well."

Castagna said they currently make two different styles of cider, but if they start producing it in Liberty they're sure to offer more.

A new stage inside the building will not only host live music, but any kind of events, fundraisers or performances.

Bridge and Tunnel has experience with fundraising. Castagna said they host a "Dogtoberfest" celebration in Queens each year where they raise money to benefit a local animal shelter. He said it's a tradition they could continue in Sullivan County.

Coming out of a pandemic where many restaurants and bars closed for good, opening a business today contin-

ues to be difficult with the increasing costs of building and production materials. Castagna is optimistic about the future and the value of what Bridge and Tunnel has to offer.

Castagna said they hope to open in October. Most of the renovations are complete and he says the remaining work includes cleanup and a little bit of painting. Castagna has done most of the work on his own. He says anyone interested in helping to push everything over the finish line can join him on a community volunteer day, followed by a barbecue to show his appreciation.

"That's part of the way you bring people together," he said.

Anyone interested can contact Castagna at rich@bridgeandtunnel-brewery.com

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The second-ever Big Sip is returning to the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts October 8 and 9 - get your tickets today!

The Big Sip to return to Bethel

BY DEREK KIRK

BETHEL – Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is welcoming the Big Sip for the second-time ever!

The event runs two days, October 8 and 9, with general gates opening at 1pm and closing at 5pm. VIP tickets get noon entry.

A general ticket includes a commemorative tasting glass, live music on the Festival Stage, and access to the food court and shops from local craft, artisan, and specialty food vendors. General Admission tickets are \$50 on Saturday, and \$45 on Sunday.

Also, taking the stage on Saturday is Mike DelGuidice & Big Shot and Laura Stevenson, and on Sunday, Bethel Woods welcomes the musical groups

Ripe and The Sea The Sea.

VIP tickets give guests a little extra peace, love, and wine, with early entry to the venue, access to a private lounge sponsored by Makers Mark, a non-public dining experience with exclusive wines and spirits, and complimentary admission to the Museum at Bethel Woods. VIP tickets are \$90 on Saturday, and \$85 on Sunday.

Designated Driver tickets are also available at a lower price.

“Not only does the festival offer an eclectic portfolio of wine and spirits, but also boasts incredible craft/specialty food vendors, live music from nationally touring artists, a wine glass paint and sip, and more,” said Patrick Miller, Operations & Events Manager at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts.

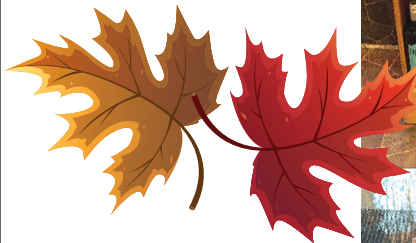


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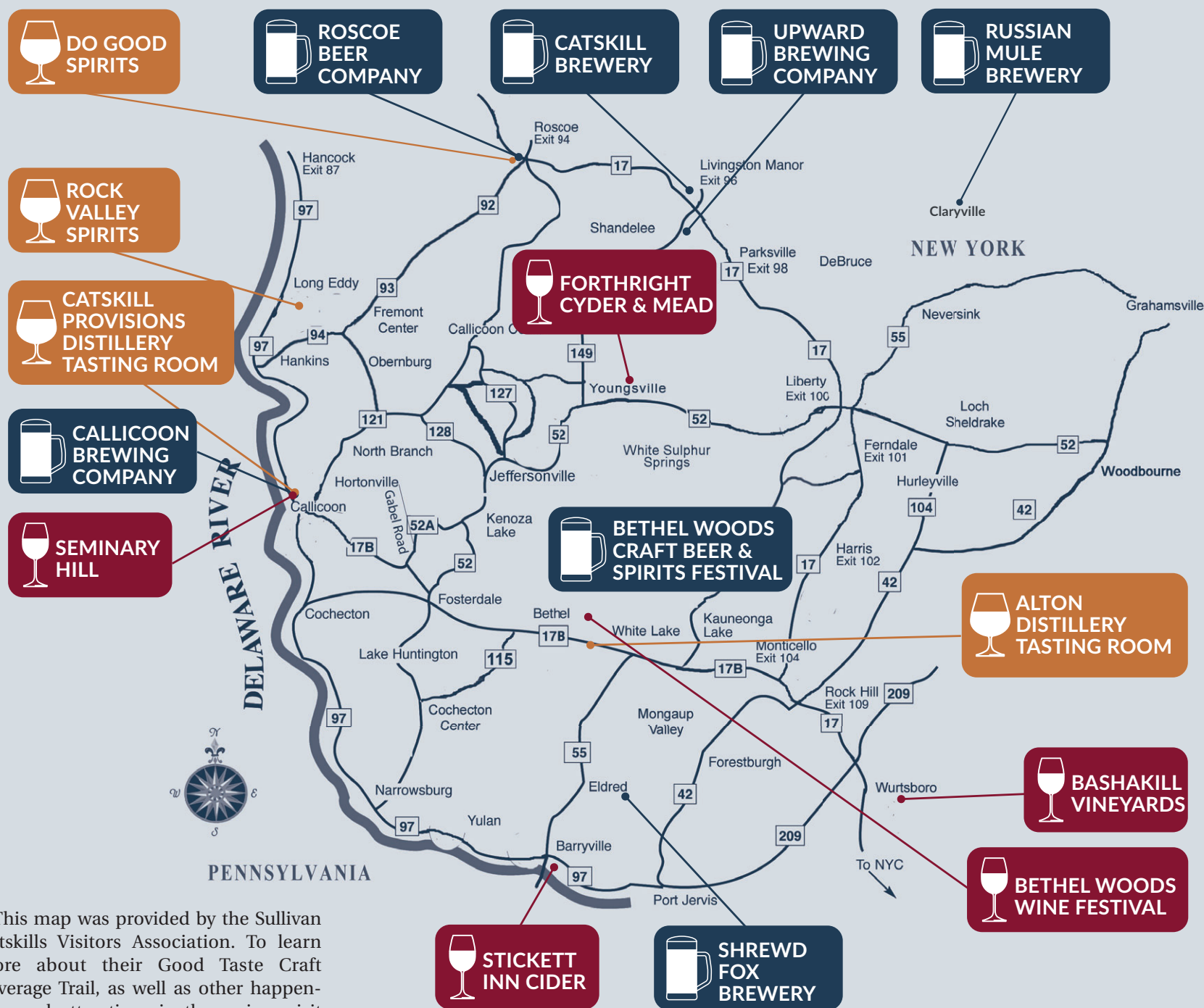
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GOOD TASTE CRAFT BEVERAGE TRAIL



This map was provided by the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association. To learn more about their Good Taste Craft Beverage Trail, as well as other happenings and attractions in the region, visit sullivancatskills.com.

*Please note: Markers are just for point of reference and may not be the exact location of the site(s).

Only at OKTOBERFEST!

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DEREK KIRK

Prost! Happy Oktoberfest – the season of friends, music, and most of all, beer!

The Bavarian-style beer buffet known as Oktoberfest originally was held as a horse race in 1810 to celebrate the marriage between Prince Regent Ludwig of Bavaria and Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen. The original idea to have a special celebration came from Andreas Michael Dall’Armi, a member of the Bavarian National Guard.

On October 12, 1810, the two royals were wed, however the now-traditional consumption of mass amounts of beer was yet to be seen in the celebration. This feature of the modern-day Oktoberfest made its first appearance in the late 19th century when breweries of the area set up tents with musicians in place of their usual smaller beer stalls.

Now, Oktoberfest is one of the world’s largest folk festivals, drawing around six million visitors annually

to the Theresienwiese fairgrounds in Munich, Germany.

Many local breweries, bars, and restaurants celebrated the hoppy holiday over the past few weeks, each bringing a bit of their own taste to

the table in the spirit of this globally renowned holiday.

Roscoe Brewing Company

Trout-town’s own Roscoe Beer Company celebrated the holiday like Ba-

varian royalty on September 24 with their eighth annual Oktoberfest, complete with horse carriage rides, vendors on-site, mega-sized beer mugs,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15G



Join up at the Second District Brew Farm in Milanville, PA, on October 15 at noon for their Hoptoberfest celebrations!

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See what's on tap at Catskill Brewery

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY ANTHONY MORGANO

The Catskill Brewery, established in 2014, has been a major stopping point off of Route 17 for almost a decade. They feature six core beers that include Nightshine, Darbee's Irresistible, Devil's Path, Ball Lightning Freak Tractor and Grass Wagon.

They also have 17 Special Release beers that are rotational throughout the year.

Their website, catskillbrewery.com, has a ton of information about the different drinks that they offer, a whole section dedicated to their sustainable practices, and an events page that allows you to see their upcoming events.

The Brewery's next big event is Oktoberfest 2022, which they are currently gearing up for. It will be on October 1 and 2, and will begin at 5 p.m.

They are also doing weekly trivia



on Thursday nights, there is a Livingston Manor Half Marathon, the Apple Pie Palooza put on by WJFF will be hosted at the Catskill

Brewery as well.

They also have a food truck out front that features different restaurants that come in and take-

over from time to time, as well as live music performances in the tent next to the main building.

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ONLY AT OKTOBERFEST



Joining the chorus of other local breweries in celebration of Oktoberfest was the Roscoe Beer Company with commemorative stein glasses.

FROM PAGE 13G

live music by the bands the Midnight Callers and Far Beyond Gone, and much more.

Visitors enjoyed field games in the Biergarten, seemingly-endless craft and locally made beer, and the grand old feeling that only Oktoberfest celebrations can bring. Prost!

Cochecton Pump House

The chance to celebrate this age-old tradition has not yet left the area for the season!

For the weekend of September 30 to October 2, the Cochecton Pump House is turning into the 'Pump Hous' with its first ever Oktoberfest celebration.

The Cochecton Pump House is putting it on in part with Gasko and Meyer Distributors of Lake Huntington.

On Friday, they are open from 4-10 pm, followed by both Saturday and Sunday from 11-7 pm. The event is free entry. Look for live music by the band The Four26! Sunday will feature the band 7he 7eam.

Bring an appetite for Garlic Cheese Curds, Mexican Corn Dogs or the Schnitzel Sandwiches and other special menu items for the holiday!

Wallenpaupack Brewing Company

Joining the area in jubilation is Wallenpaupack Brewing Company with a ticketed Beer Dinner on October 2 at 5:30 pm. Tickets for seats are \$65, and are running low. So speed up with the band's upbeat tempo and get yours today!

The ticket includes a "Welcome Beer" on the house, a brewery tour at 5:30, a five course beer pairing alongside a German inspired meal, a commemorative glass souvenir, and an anniversary toast to close out the night's festivities in Bavarian fashion.

In addition to the events, the brewery is running specials on their Mixed Oktoberfest Four Packs until October 2, so if you miss out on the Beer Dinner, have some beer with dinner at home with friends and family!

Second District Brew Farm

Don't put your mugs away just yet! The celebrations carry on through mid-October at Second District Brew Farm in Milanville, PA for their Hoptoberfest!

Join the brew crew up at the farm on Saturday, October 15 at noon for a fun-filled fall afternoon drinking original beers and enjoying craft foods.

Look forward to further information on this event on their website, www.seconddistrictbrewfarm.com/menu-events/



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