

Slottskällans Bryggeri

Uppsala, Sweden

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Uppsala, some 70 kilometres north of Stockholm, is home to Sweden's oldest university. Founded in 1477, both Carl Linnaeus, the botanist and father of taxonomy, and Anders Celsius, the astronomer who constructed the most widely used thermometer, taught here. It is still very much a university town and retains many beautiful old buildings the most impressive of which is its cathedral, Scandinavia's largest religious building.

A more recent establishment came into being in 1998, the Slottskällans Bryggeri. The brewery was initially the idea of Hans Finell who, while working as an economist Scandinavian Airlines, visited the States in the mid 1990s and was impressed by the growth of microbreweries in the San Francisco Bay area. He was introduced by a mutual friend to Jonas Anderson, who worked in sales and marketing for Pripps, the largest brewing company in Sweden, and in the autumn of 1997 acquired an industrial unit south of the town centre.

The brewing plant, German designed and made in Slovenia, had been ordered by a Canadian company. However, after it had been completed they decided that

their requirements had changed and so no longer needed the equipment. Therefore, the Slottskällans Bryggeri acquired a ready-made brewery which arrived on four trucks in Uppsala on New Year's Day 1998. Since then the brewery has expanded, increasing from six to eleven fermenters.

By May of 1998, with brewer Urban Nillson also on board, the first two beers were released, Premiere and Black. Despite initial success the brewery ran into difficulty in 2003 and filed for bankruptcy in the September. Fortunately a buyer was soon found, Jan-Eric Svensson, who officially took over the running of the business on the 1st January 2004. Since then the brewery has enjoyed a great deal of success, their eleven beers winning a number of awards. Both top and bottom fermented beers are brewed including five lagers and two seasonal brews. Most of the beer is sold within a 100 kilometre radius of the brewery with just a small amount going to export, primarily to Finland. Over 80% of production is bottled and two of the beers are bottle conditioned. All are well worth seeking out.



