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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
KONA BREWING BARLEY WINE TAKES THIRD AT COUNTRY'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS EVENTS**

Kailua-Kona, Hawaii's Big Island — Kona Brewing Company's Old Blowhole Barley Wine recently medaled at two of the most prestigious barley wine competitions in the country. In January, Old Blowhole Barley Wine was awarded third place at the Great Alaska Beer & Barley Wine Festival in Anchorage, Alaska, selected in the top-three from 35 barley wines submitted from all over the country. Then, one month later, Old Blowhole won third place again at the Toronado Barley Wine Festival in San Francisco, Calif., beating out 54 other barley wines for the honor.

"Barley wines typically are brewed for cold-weather consumption. The robust flavor and strength of the beer are warming, soothing and comforting," said Kona Brewing Company's director of brewery operations Rich Tucciarone. "Our beer competed against some of the finest in the nation from cold-weather places well-known for their barley wines... and came up a warm-weather winner!"

Old Blowhole Barley Wine is tawny brown in color and has a rich and warming flavor with intense malt sweetness at the beginning and a dry, hoppy finish. Because of its strong alcohol content and complex flavors, the beer often is cellared similar to a fine wine. The Old Blowhole Barley Wine that won at the Great Alaska Beer & Barley Wine Festival was brewed in 2003. The Toronado Barley Wine Festival winner was brewed in 2002.

The latest batch of Old Blowhole Barley Wine recently was tapped up and will be served while supplies last only at Kona Brewing Company's Brewery & Pub on Hawaii's Big Island and Koko Marina Pub on Oahu. It was brewed in August 2004 and has been maturing ever since.

Kona Brewing Company was founded in 1994 and packaged its first batch of beer in February 1995. Since that first year of operation, the Kailua-Kona brewery has produced 1.55 million gallons — or approximately 12.4 million pints — of beer. The beer is distributed throughout the Hawaiian Islands, in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington and Japan. For information call 808-334-BREW or visit [www.KonaBrewingCo.com](http://www.KonaBrewingCo.com).

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