

Who is 12 Gates?

If you're a craft beer drinker, you probably remember your first encounter with American microbrews. Whether a tongue-scouring IPA, or bread-yet light Belgian wit, that initial taste of craft beer is a revelation in a glass.

Our brewery started as an idea shared by two buddies who have been drinking together since the mid-80s. In an area that has long been overrun by fizzy yellow lagers, these guys wanted to spread their love of quality, hop-forward beers. Convinced that, "Beer can be better," they set about building their dream into a solid reality. Eventually, the two craft beer enthusiasts expanded to eight, as they enlisted a group of like-minded souls to partner with.

The name 12 Gates is a reference to a 15th-century alchemical text that mentions twelve gates, or steps, in the process of creating a philosopher's stone—the holy grail of alchemy. One of those gates is Fermentation. Like the arcane practice of alchemy, brewing unique and delicious beers is part science, part art, and a little bit of that nearly-indefinable, 'something else'.

Having formed the company, our intrepid group of founders embarked on an epic quest to find just the right brewers to help their vision of fine, handcrafted beer become drinkable fact. The search took a while, but the 12 Gates owners eventually found a team of experienced brewers with well-developed palates and a knack for blending tradition with innovation; the perfect combination for tasty beers that are anything but ordinary.

After years of planning, the 12 Gates crew were ready to share our passion with the world. On December 12, 2015, the brewery opened its doors. We launched four beers in our taproom, and at twelve other Buffalo area bars, where the brews were well-received.

Beer is about people, and here at 12 Gates, we aim to provide a comfortable, unique and enjoyable drinking experience to long-time connoisseurs, as well as those new to the craft beer scene. We're also a production brewery, with a growing distribution network in Buffalo and beyond. We believe that collaboration makes for a stronger craft beer community, and you'll always find other local brews featured alongside house brews in our taproom.

We love hop-forward beers, and are proud of our IPAs, which showcase a variety of hops from the world's finest hop-growing regions. Recognizing that variety is the spice of life, we also produce style-respecting, malt-forward libations, such as our coffee porter and Belgian witbier.

For decades, the Buffalo/Western New York beer scene has been dominated by low-quality macro brews. Along with our fellow Western New York breweries, 12 Gates is helping to change that. Whether it means sourcing hops from across the world, or scouring the country for talented brewers, we're committed to providing our region with unique, hop-forward beers of the highest quality.