

NASHVILLE SCENE

by Jim Ridley
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Taste Test Showdown: He'Brew Origin Pomegranate Ale

Product: He'Brew Origin Pomegranate Ale **Available:** Wild Oats, Village Market, Midtown Beverages and wherever fine Jewish beers are sold (full list [here](#)) Brewed by the Schmaltz Brewing Company of San Francisco and New York, this libation arrived yesterday in a plain cardboard box, packed in bubble wrap (thanks!) and resting at a temperature somewhere between magma and the inside of T-Rac's costume head in mid-August. The idea here is to combine the great taste of pomegranates—that trendy fruit whose health properties presumably offset a flavor like homegrown Robitussin—with the sense-dulling snore-in-the-recliner wonders of beer. Our esteemed tasters—a.k.a. underpaid luses who'd drink shoe polish if we were handing it out free—gathered at the *Scene* editorial lounge (a.k.a. the filing cabinet) for a taste test. The results? After the jump.

1. Opening of the cap PJ: Smells good. CF: Smells like...beer. PJ: Nice description, food critic. CF: Well, there are notes of coffee and chocolate.

2. Sampling JR: (gags, makes sour persimmon face) PJ: Very hoppy. Not too bubbly. IB: The pomegranate gets lost. Nice color, though. SH: There are citrusy notes. You get the hops right away, really sharp, then it mellows out. RW: I like the soft finish. JS: Yeah, but does it taste "Jewy?" You know, does it taste funny in a self-deprecating way? JP: It's a little neurotic, sure.

3. The verdict BM: It has a really sour, bitter aftertaste. It's what you'd drink listening to Rammstein. TM: Grody-core. PJ: I would drink a pint, say "not bad," and probably not order it again. JR: (still making sour persimmon face) JH: Not bad. It's got a bite. But to me, all beer tastes like carbonated pee.