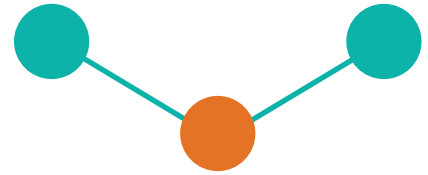




## Brewery Showcase | Stoup Brewing (Seattle, WA)

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PorchDrinking.com  
By: Hannah Carlson



At just after noon, it's the quintessential Seattle day. It's grey, misty, and – if we are being honest – a bit dreary. The city is just waking up. In most places.

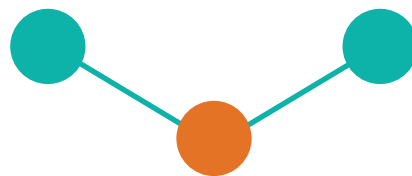
Stoup Brewing isn't one of those places.

There are already groups of people claiming tables and seats around the bar at Stoup, which is located in the hip and lively neighborhood of Ballard. One man walks in with his wife and approaches the woman behind the bar saying it's their first time in the place without their dog. The bartender smiles and laughs back.

"Oh no! Are you lonely?" She asks.

The woman behind the bar? Lara Zahaba – one of the three owners of the 2-year-old brewery. Zahaba, along with brewers Brad Benson and Robyn Schumacher, have created a curious, collaborative and delicious environment for beer enthusiasts in the Emerald City. But the story of Stoup starts as far away from Seattle as you can get – in Hoboken, New Jersey.





Zahaba, who is married to Benson, had been living in Hoboken with a career in wine when Benson, with newfound free time, began brewing.

“Brad had been a lover of craft beer since we met,” Zahaba explains.

Benson, who had been an environmental chemist, started brewing commercially on the East Coast. Beer had grown from a passion into a career.

The pair moved back to Seattle in 2003, where their love of the craft continued to grow. Nine years later, the couple hit a turning point.

“Three years ago, now, we asked ourselves why we weren’t a part of the industry,” Zahaba says. This question would start it all.

Around this time, in April 2013, Zahaba and Benson met Schumacher, who happens to be the first female Certified Cicerone in the state of Washington, through mutual friends. Not long after, in October 2013, the three had established their roles – Zahaba as the marketing and public relations head, Benson as the head brewer and founder, and Schumacher as brewer and manager of the taproom – and Stoup’s doors were opened.

