# WA brewer's 'world-class' ale wows show judges

**STEPHANIE PAINTER**

Next time you sit back and enjoy a chilled glass or three of Margaret River's latest award-winning beer, spare a thought for the hundreds of hours of emotional and physical effort that went into making it.

Colonial Brewing Company head brewer Mal Secourable was thrilled that his Kolsch ale got top honours at this year's Cryer Malt Perth Royal Beer Show on Thursday night, including best ale draught, best commercial beer of the show and the Premier's trophy for best WA beer of the show.

Mr Secourable said the road to success involved countless hours of labour and contemplating mathematical and chemical equations.

"A lot of blokes out there would think being a brewer is the perfect job but in fact it's 85 to 90 per cent cleaning," he said.

"It's actually hard work and the only joy is in the design process and then working something through over time and seeing what you're trying to do achieved."

Mr Secourable has been redesigning the company's Kolsch, an ale native to the German city of Cologne, since he joined the microbrewery a year ago.

The result is a user-friendly beer that pleases the average drinker while providing delicate, subtle flavours for beer aficionados.

"People would see it as being quite lager-like in that it is a very clean, fresh, lightly coloured beer," he said.

"It's got a very refreshing, almost lemony sort of palate."

He said teamwork, the help of assistant brewer Joel Nash and understanding the history of the beer were the keys to success — but there was no perfect beer and he would continue to make improvements. Kolsch is available at the company's microbrewery, The Royal bar in East Perth and The Malt Lounge in Dunsborough.

Chief judge Brendan Varis said Kolsch was world class and WA drinkers should be grateful beer of that quality was available locally.



I'll drink to that: Colonial Brewing Company head brewer Mal Secourable with his winning Kolsch ale.    Picture: Barry Baker