

## Wine versus craft beer: Castlemaine to host the decider

By Glazee Johnstone June 25, 2013, 1 a.m.



Public INN chef Rohan Hehir (center) presents team beer Ben Leonard, left, and team wine Hayden Winch. Picture: Liam Lynch

A BATTLE for beverage supremacy is taking place at Castlemaine's Public INN Friday night.

Two teams, one composed of craft beer experts and the other of wine connoisseurs, will each match a beverage with a set meal cooked by Public INN head chef Rohan Hehir.

The 40 guests will determine whether it is the beer or wine that best accompanies the food, with the winner of the most courses declared the overall victor.

Wine team member and Public INN owner Hayden Winch said it was a challenge for the teams because they weren't allowed to try the French-inspired five-course menu in advance.

"The combinations of ingredients are easy to understand, so we knocked a few ideas around and worked on a range of wines we think will be the best match," he said.

Mr Winch said the popularity of the beer-versus-wine concept could be due to the rising interest in craft beer.

"Beer with flavour is becoming far more popular with the wider consumer.

"People are no longer just matching their wine with food, but beer as well."

Mr Winch said there would definitely be another event.

"This is just the first round.

"When beer loses tomorrow, they'll want to have a rematch."

Tickets are \$95 per person, inclusive of menu and beverages.

Bookings can be made by contacting the venue on 5472 3568.

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