

《以色列科学家复活5000年前的古代啤酒，还喝了》

Israeli researchers have unveiled a "breakthrough" beer made from ancient yeast up to 5,000 years old.

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Researchers from the Antiquities Authority and three Israeli universities extracted six strains of the yeast from old pottery discovered in the Holy Land.

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It is believed to be similar to beverages enjoyed by the Pharaohs of ancient Egypt.

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The team said it hoped to make the drink available in shops one day.

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"I remember that when we first brought out the beer we sat around the table and drank... and I said either we'll be good or we'll all be dead in five minutes," said Aren Maeir, an archaeologist with Bar-Ilan University. "We lived to tell the story".

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In the region's past, beer was a basic commodity - like bread - enjoyed by the entire population, regardless of status or age. Since there was always a risk of contamination with water, fermented beer and wine were considered much safer to drink.

[illegible]

The beers were usually made from a mix of grains and water, baked and left to ferment in the sun. Fruit concentrates may also have been added for flavour.

[illegible]

Ronen Hazan and Michael Klutstein, two biologists at Hebrew University, came up with the idea to create this latest batch using antique yeast.

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With the help of beer expert Itai Gutman, the team used modern techniques to create a drink similar to wheat beer, with 6% alcohol content, and a mead with 14% strength.

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Mr Gutman previously recreated a beer used a genetically modified strain of wheat dating from 10,000 years ago. However researchers say this is the first time alcohol has been created from ancient yeast.

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"The greatest wonder here is that the yeast colonies survived within the vessel for thousands of years - just waiting to be excavated and grown," Dr Hazan told reporters.

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The team says it hopes to brew more beer using ancient techniques instead, and is looking for investors to explore commercial production.

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"Aside from the gimmick of drinking beer from the time of King Pharaoh, this research is extremely important to the field of experimental archaeology," said Dr Hazan.

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"By the way, the beer isn't bad."

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