

THE FOOD ISSUE: BARBECUE, TEQUILA, AND MORE!

THE PREMIER MAGAZINE OF THE WEST

# COWBOYS & INDIANS

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## BEST OF THE WEST

15 TRAILBLAZERS OF  
WESTERN CUISINE

**BILL  
PAXTON**

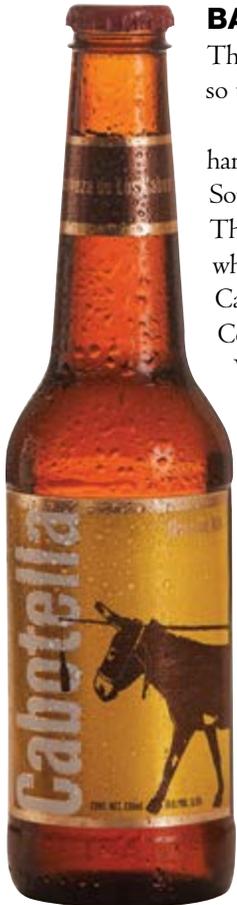
Leads The Revolution  
In *Texas Rising*



### BENCHMARK BOOTS

The beloved Texas-based retailer Pinto Ranch has teamed up with Old Gringo to better suit its cowboy customers. In December, Benchmark by Old Gringo debuted as a new collection of premier boots only for men and only at Pinto Ranch. “Traditionally, we’ve carried a large assortment of Old Gringo boots for ladies and only select styles for men,” says Mike Burchett, the store’s merchandise manager. “Now we’re able to offer high-quality exotic men’s boots under the well-known brand.”

Featuring smooth cow leathers, full-quill ostrich, lizard skins, and caiman crocodile, the sleek new Benchmark collection consists of 19 different styles of cowboy boots and round-toe ropers (\$545–\$1,495). [www.pintoranch.com](http://www.pintoranch.com)



### BAJA BREW

The Mexican craft beer scene is thriving—so much so that it’s headed north of the border.

At present, intrepid beer aficionados can find a handful of Mexican craft brews in California and the Southwest. Among the best of them is Cabotella. The flagship ale from the Baja Brewing Company, which is situated at the southern tip of the Baja California Peninsula, is actually the product of a Colorado native with a passion for Mexican beers.

When Jordan Gardenhire moved in 2004 from the Rocky Mountains to the beachy shores of Los Cabos, Mexico, he instantly fell in love with his new home and, even more so, with the regional drafts. Two years later, he founded his own brewery. Then came Cabotella.

Labeled an American blonde ale, it’s similar in profile to lagers like Corona, Tecate, and Dos Equis. It’s golden in color and light in body, with a hint of lemony sweetness and a modestly bitter finish that doesn’t sacrifice the thirst-quenching reputation of Mexican *cervezas*, making it a worthwhile craft alternative. Especially when you’re in need of soothing refreshment while digging into a basket of *carne asada* street tacos. [www.cabotella.com](http://www.cabotella.com)



### THE SHERIDAN IN STEEL

Leather and metal artist Robb Gray draws his inspiration from early Western craftsmen, designing each of his artisan accessories in the traditional Sheridan style made popular by saddlemakers in the 1700s. But Gray, a trained leather carver himself, makes the classic cowboy style his own by depicting the ornate flowers and vines not only in leather but also silver and steel. Using engraving tools specially designed for this purpose, Gray achieves a surprising element of visual dimensionality not present in typical metal engraving with bright-cut and single-point scrolls. This 8-inch double-edged tang knife features a stainless steel blade and camel-bone handle. Paired with a leather sheath inset with textured stingray leather, which attaches to your belt, this artisan dagger is the only accessory you’ll need (\$1,200). [www.graycloud-designs.com](http://www.graycloud-designs.com)