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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 10, 2020

‘Fleur de Mac,’ Official Beer of the Mackinac Parks: 125 Celebration, to be Tapped Saturday

MACKINAW CITY, MICH. — Mackinac State Historic Parks and Bière de Mac Brew Works in Mackinaw City are excited to announce the launch of the official beer of the Mackinac Parks: 125 Celebration: *Fleur de Mac*, which will be available starting Saturday, July 11, exclusively at the Bière de Mac tap room in Mackinaw City.

The State of Michigan acquired a treasure when federal troops left Fort Mackinac in 1895, allowing for the creation of Mackinac Island State Park, Michigan’s first state park and one of the first in the nation. 14 years later, Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City was put under the care of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission. For more than two decades the Mackinac Island State Park Commission provided the road map on how to successfully care for and operate the only state parks in Michigan, providing the template for later parks in the state.

As such, 2020 marks the 125th anniversary of the creation of Mackinac State Historic Parks, a celebration filled with events, celebrations, collectibles, and an official beer: *Fleur de Mac*, a Blonde Bière de Garde, created by Bière de Mac Brew Works in honor of the anniversary.

“We were very excited to have Biere de Mac agree to help us celebrate our anniversary in this unique manner,” said Steve Brisson, Mackinac State Historic Parks Deputy Director. “It’s a great way to

toast the many staff and patrons who have worked to preserve our parks and historic sites over that last 125 years.”

Fleur de Mac is a classic northern French seasonal old-world style of beer that was generally brewed in the fall and cellared over the winter months due to colder temperatures. With the advances of modern science and technology the weather was no longer necessary to cellar at lagering temperatures but to be true to style these beers are typically released in the early spring after a long winter in the cellar. The Covid-19 pandemic pushed back the timeline for release, but the brewers at Bière de Mac and Mackinac State Historic Parks staff agree it tastes delicious fresh. Fleur de Mac clocks in at 8.8% ABV and 45 IBUs.

“Using yeast from Bastogne, our rendition of a Blonde Bière de Garde explodes with floral notes on the nose coupled with hints of estery and phenolic spice. With medium body and mouthfeel our *Fleur de Mac* has a complex grain bill that lends itself to crackers and biscuit malt characteristics,” said Danny Ranville, Head Brewer/Daily Operations for Bière de Mac. “It features an extremely long and dry finish we find complementary and appropriate to represent the many years Fort Michilimackinac has stood on our shoreline overlooking the Straits of Mackinac. Cheers to 125 years!”

Fleur de Mac will be available starting at noon on Saturday, July 11. Quantity is limited, and it’s only available at the tap room in Mackinaw City. After the initial launch the brewers at Bière de Mac plan on making additional batches, and some limited merchandise, such as stickers and posters, will be available.

See the attached media for the logo for the beer. A downloadable version of this release can be found here. For more information call (906) 847-3328 (Mackinac State Historic Parks) or (231) 427-7007 (Bière de Mac).

Bière de Mac, located at 14277 Mackinaw Hwy in Mackinaw City, just south of town, opened in 2017. They feature a rotating tap list that includes its famous Blueberry Wheat, and specialize in eclectic upscale comfort food.

Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan's Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, the Biddle House, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Historic Downtown Mackinac, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks' rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or on the web at

www.mackinacparks.com.

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