

## De Molen Amerikaans

*'Amerikaans is a light amber coloured bitter, with an American touch.'*

English bitters are the quintessential session beer - with flavour. Characterised by a mild malt flavour and soft bitterness from Czech hops, they are made for drinking in the pub environment; and drinking a few.

The American touch comes in the form of dry hopping with US hops Columbus and Amarillo, adding a fruity and floral aroma, with light citrus and grassy flavours.

The beer has been renamed Licht & Lustig, with the brewery wanting to keep the naming trend consistent through their range.

So this is the last Amerikaans label we'll see. But we'll have the beer back, with its new label, on our next container.

**Style: American Pale Ale-ish**  
**Country: The Netherlands**  
**Brewer: Brouwerij De Molen**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 4.5%**



## Brussels Calling

Brasserie De La Senne became only Brussels second brewery (Cantillon being the existing brewery of course), when they opened the doors to their new facility in 2010.

The brewery generally favours lower alcohol beers, with a more dominant hop presence. Though they do make beers in most styles.

As proud Brussels natives, the De La Senne boys brew Brussels Calling once a year in December. It is their tip of the hat to the city they love, and to celebrate the opening of their brewery. The beer is released in February the following year, and I thought we'd missed out on this. But fortunately for us all, I managed to source some.

It seems a very uncomplicated beer, but full and delicious. A very clean malt backbone offers a little sweetness early, which is quickly joined by a peppery hop bitterness. The beer is quite dry, with a smooth mouthfeel.

**Style: Belgian Pale Ale**  
**Country: Belgium**  
**Brewer: Brasserie De La Senne**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.5%**



## White Pony WTF IPA – Batch 2

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We featured an earlier version of this beer that was Batch 1. In true 'craft brewer' style, Rob has had another crack at this beer, with a few tweaks and using the hops that are readily available – something that will happen more frequently as certain hop styles

The differences are slight. The first was brewed using Sorachi Ace and Palisade hops. Batch 2 uses Columbus, Simcoe, Amarillo and Centennial. I think the nose on the second batch is bigger and fruitier than the first.

The other change was the brewery he used, changing from 'tGaverhopke to Millevertus. The second is a very small beer that I've enjoyed a few beers from over the years. Makes me think to get some beer from them for future packs.

Back to the WTF – the big hops are there in the taste, though maybe not as strongly as the aroma. There is a dank and slightly earthy minerality to the lingering bitterness. The finish is dry and prickly.

Personally, I prefer Batch 2 to the original. If you were a member back in May 15, we'd be interested which you prefer.

**Style: Belgian IPA**  
**Country: Italy**  
**Brewer: White Pony Microbirrificio**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 7.0%**

### Rodenbach Grand Cru

Our usual 'sour beer alert' goes out for this one. But for all those heathens who are not (yet) sour fans, I do urge you to try this one.

Rodenbach is famous for their sweet and sour Flemish Red. But this one is the big brother, and not because it is just more sour.

The beer begins as a brown ale of around 5% ABV, which is then 'ripened' in oak barrels for a period of around 2 years. It is this time in the oak 'foeders' that the beer picks up the vinuous and vinegar characteristics.

The Grand Cru is a mix of 67% aged beer and 33% young beer. There is a malty Madeira-like sweetness, while the sharp vinegar sourness competes. They take turns dominating, in a dynamic flavour profile which also has with lots of wood and esters adding to the complexity.

The late Michael Jackson (beer hunter) once referred to this beer as the 'Burgundy of Belgium', and a 'World Classic'.

**Style: Flemish Red Ale**  
**Country: Belgium**  
**Brewer: Brouwerij Rodenbach NV (Palm Breweries)**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.0%**



### Gordon's Finest Scotch Ale

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Palm has a tagline for this beer: *'the original scotch for more than a century'*. It's a beer that is fairly easy to find, and a very distinctive style in the beer portfolio of the Belgian bars.

The Gordon's label was started when British brewmaster John Martin settled in Belgium in 1909. Since that time three generations of Martin's have presided over the business.

This beer has been brewed since 1924, and has found a niche in Belgium, as well as a good following in the US.

It is a malt bomb. Lots of chewy, sweet malt giving caramel, ripe apricot, roasted malt and a little hop bitterness late on. A sticky mouthfeel and a little alcohol warmth complete the story.

**Style: Scotch Ale/Wee Heavy**  
**Country: Belgium**  
**Brewer: John Martin's (Palm Breweries)**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 8.5%**



### Kees! American Barley Wine

A Barley Wine is a treat for the malt lovers, offering a big, thick, sticky malt body. A traditional English style would have low hop bitterness. Often a beer for the sweet-tooth, they are a perfect dessert beer to sit on and sip at the end of the night.

As seems to happen, the US takes a traditional style and adds a US touch. That is, US hops. So the American style Barley Wine is a big malty body with a fruitier and punchier edge to the hop character.

Kees! American style Barley Wine uses Cascade and Citra hop.

The result is a dark reddish-brown beer with a dense body. The aroma is full of bready malts and over-ripe fruits. The taste is full of caramel malts, dark dried fruits, a touch of citrus and earthy bitterness.

The finish is long and semi-sweet. It is a beer that will evolve as it warms up, so one to sip and savour.

**Style: Barley Wine**  
**Country: The Netherlands**  
**Brewer: Brouwerij Kees**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 11.5%**



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