

## Saison de Pipaix

This is the first beer we've featured from La Brasserie à Vapeur – their very traditional Wallonian style Saison de Pipaix.

The brewery is situated in the little village of Pipaix, in Hainaut province, in the south of Belgium nearing the French border.

The unique feature of this brewery is that it is one of only a handful of working steam breweries. It is like going back in time to see how these beers are made.

They brew on the last Saturday of the month, and the brewery is open to visitors for this brew day. If you ever find yourself in Belgium at the right time, it is worth a diversion to see this brewery in action.

The beer is a saison, quite malty and dry which is traditional for the Wallonian region of Belgium. There isn't a lot of funk to this beer, more a spicy character of ginger and black pepper. The malt body provides a little sweetness, matched against a solid hop bitterness.



**Style: Saison**  
**Country: Belgium**  
**Brewer: Brasserie a Vapeur**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.0%**



## De Molen Hamer & Sikkeler

We've featured several of the De Molen Pale Ales and IPA's, but as the cooler weather closes in its time to feature some of their dark beers.

In the brewery's own marketing material they describe this beer as “a very special brew compared to our normal ways. Unlike almost all our beers this is brewed completely according to the traditional way”. No smoked malts, crazy ingredients, barrel-aging or dry-hopping. Just a good solid traditional style porter – “the way it was supposed to be once!”

The romantic history of the Porter will describe it as a blend of beer styles, which became popular sustenance to the street porters of London. The uglier truth is that the beer was a mix of the leftovers, and was all the common labourers could afford. Either way, the style endured.

Made with chocolate and dark crystal malts, this porter offers a smooth rich mouthfeel, with flavours of chocolate, dark fruit, coffee and a woody hint. It finishes with a soft, but sustained roasted bitterness.

**Style: Porter**  
**Country: The Netherlands**  
**Brewer: Brouwerij De Molen**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.2%**

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## Redchurch Bethnal Pale

Our first UK brewery is one that is close to our hearts. The Redchurch Brewery resides in a railway arch, near Bethnal Green Station in the heart of London's East End.

Having lived in Bethnal Green for several years, we know this area well. Unfortunately for us Redchurch only started in 2011 – we left in 2009. The affinity remained and a visit to the tap room on a return trip to London confirmed what we'd been told – they make great beer!

Their small core range consists of Pale Ales, an IPA and a couple of stouts. They are also getting into both sour and wild ales, producing some great experimental brews on occasion.

The first beer to share has to be the Bethnal Pale Ale. An American style Pale Ale with English malts and American hops. It has a bold fruity aroma from all the late addition and dry-hopping.

Peach and grapefruit plus a little caramel malt provide a sweetness, which is balanced by citric and grassy hop bitterness. The finish is long, dry and refreshingly bitter.

**Style: Pale Ale**  
**Country: England**  
**Brewer: The Redchurch Brewery**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.5%**



## Delirium Argentum

The Delirium beers from Brouwerij Huyghe would have to be one of the most iconic of all the Belgian beers. The pink pachyderms adorning the blue label and white bottle have been a feature of any well-stocked Belgian beer fridge for many years.

In fact the Delirium label celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary back in 2014. To celebrate, the brewers at Huyghe decided to make a special beer – as you do when you're a world renowned brewery.

It was something of a surprise that the beer they chose to celebrate with was an IPA. Although given the high proportion of Belgian beer that goes to the US, and therefore the influence American importers have on the breweries, maybe there were a few suggestions from abroad. I just thought it may be something a little more traditionally Belgian.

Nevertheless, Delirium's Argentum is a very solid Belgian IPA. It has something of the Delirium Tremens about the taste, with earthy Belgian hop flavours which are subtle but there.

**Style: Belgian IPA**  
**Country: Belgium**  
**Brewer: Brouwerij Huyghe**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 7.0%**



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## Affligem Tripel

The Affligem brewery has a long and interesting history. Recognised as an official Abbey brewery, the abbey credits its establishment to 6 knights way back in 1074 (hence the embossing on the bottles).

Through the centuries, various wars have seen the Affligem Abbey Brewery close its doors no fewer than 5 times. The last time was in 1941 during the Second World War. It was only in 1956 that a commercial deal was signed to pass the brewing secrets of Affligem Abbey to a commercial brewery.

The Affligem beers have seen several further changes of ownership of its brewery, with the last being in 2010 when it became part of the Alken-Maes portfolio. Interestingly though, the Affligem Abbey still has commercial ownership of the Affligem brand.

The beer is a classic Belgian Tripel style. Typical Belgian yeast aromas and a glowing dark golden body identify this as Belgium's quintessential beer.

It has a light malt body, with inviting sweetness of tropical fruits, giving way to a peppery spice and strong and dry, bitter finish. And the beer hides its alcohol all too well!

**Style:** Tripel  
**Country:** Belgium  
**Brewer:** Affligem  
**Alcohol Content (ABV):** 9.0%



## White Pony Death Is Life

Little Italian microbrewery White Pony continues to show their love of brewing big, bold flavoursome beers - and whacky beer names - with this Strong Scotch Ale.

As usual for this brewery, this beer isn't exactly to style. Made using crystal and roasted malts, with American hops. And as it is brewed in a small Belgian brewery, there is a Belgian yeast twist.

This beer has a big caramel malt body, with roasted malt, brown sugar, dark fruit, toffee and hints of coffee. There is a low level of hop bitterness; just enough to balance the malt which is the hero of this beer.

Despite the dominant malt body, the beer is not cloying, finishing quite dry with a warming aftertaste.

**Style:** Scotch Ale  
**Country:** Italy (brewed in Belgium)  
**Brewer:** White Pony MicroBirificio  
**Alcohol Content (ABV):** 11.0%

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