

Alvinne Mad Tom

You may have tried the Alvinne Mad Tom from a couple of years ago, when it had a different (pinkish) label and was much more of a bitter beer than this second version is. It is a slightly strange concept to radically change the recipe of a beer, and retain the original name, but we've come to learn that the Alvinne boys aren't exactly conformists.

This second version of Mad Tom is classified as a session IPA; a point which is made very obviously on the label.

It is a little beer of 4% but is full of character, principally from Alvinne's house yeast Morpheus. The aroma is full of the Morpheus character, and the simple nature of the beer seemingly highlights the funky, earthy, spicy and slightly sour attributes of this amazing signature yeast.

The beer is hopped with Cascade and Chinook, then more Cascade for dry-hopping. While they play second-fiddle to the dominant yeast character, the beer is quite bitter with a little fruity hint and finishes very dry.

Style: Session IPA

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brouwerij Alvinne

Alcohol Content (ABV): 4.0% (1.04 Std Drinks)



Dochter van de Korenaar Noblesse Extra-Ordinaire

This beer is a bigger, dry-hopped version of the Noblesse Belgian Pale Ale, which we had in one of our first beer club packs over three years ago.

The extra hopping pushes this beer more toward Belgian IPA territory, but it stops some way short of the mark. Which means once again we are describing a Dochter beer that sits between styles.

It pours a slightly hazy orange-gold colour, with an inviting tropical fruit aroma, with caramel malt and a little spicy Belgian yeast.

A semi-sweet malt body greets the palette, with fruity notes of lemon citrus, apricot and pine. It is a nice balance of the fruity caramel malt body versus fresh hop bitterness.

The beer finishes dry and slightly spicy, with a really smooth mouthfeel and very little hint of the bigger ABV.

Style: Belgian IPA

Country: Belgium

Brewer: De Dochter van de Korenaar

Alcohol Content (ABV): 7.0% (1.82 Std Drinks)

Join our monthly beer club online at: www.beercollector.com.au/monthly_six_packs

72 different beers over the year, tasting notes and exclusive member offers

Ask about a private tasting event

Leffe Royale (Cascade)

Even the big boys have to create and innovate in this fast-moving beer market now, and Leffe Royale is the recent attempt by AB-InBev to change things up with its iconic Leffe label.

The original Leffe Royale was a bigger, tastier version of the Leffe Blond. It later was highlighted as part of a single hop series, and this beer is the second in that series.

Cascade IPA is very much a traditional style Belgian IPA. Heavy on the malt body, with restrained use of hops. We could be slightly disingenuous and suggest that the relatively low-level of hops is the result of commercial financial decisions, but it really seems to be aimed at a specific market.

It has a sweet caramel malt body, with a fruity hint and the Leffe house yeast character. The hopping and dry-hopping with Cascade lends a fresh and light citrus bite.

Put any 'mega-brew' bias aside, and enjoy this for what it is – not a punchy hop-bomb, but an interesting variant on a classic Belgian beer.

Style: Belgian IPA
Country: Belgium
Brewer: Abbaye De Leffe (AB-InBev)
Alcohol Content (ABV): 7.5% (1.95 Std Drinks)



Partizan Porter

The second beer from Andy at Partizan Brewing is a quintessentially English offering, and one that has had several iterations.

The Partizan Porter is a beer that has been a staple of the core range since Andy began brewing in his railway arch in Bermondsey late in 2012. And in true artisan style, the beer has had more than a few different versions.

It is something we come to love from some of our small producers, and makes a lot of sense when you consider the processes and technology the microbrewers use versus the high-tech, capital intensive operations of the mega-brewers.

The important thing is the end product, and we've never been disappointed with any of the porters we've had from Partizan.

This one comes in at 5.1%, and is full of lovely roasted malts and hints of chocolate both in aroma and taste. The beer is well carbonated, and dries out nicely with a pleasant lingering roasted bitterness.

Style: Porter
Country: England
Brewer: Partizan Brewing
Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.1% (1.33 Std Drinks)

Join our monthly beer club online at: www.beercollector.com.au/monthly_six_packs

72 different beers over the year, tasting notes and exclusive member offers
Ask about a private tasting event

Delirium Tremens

After a conversation with one of our local beer club members, it emerged that we've never had Delirium Tremens in our packs. We have had the Nocturnum, the festive Noel, and the celebratory Argentum. But not the beer where the legendary pink elephants started.

The brewery was founded by Leon Huyghe in 1906, but there had been an operating brewery on the site since 1654. So there is a fair bit of heritage to this brewery.

It wasn't until December 26th 1988 that the Delirium label was introduced to the world. The Tremens was a blonde tripel, utilizing three different yeasts in a tripel fermentation process.

The beer immediately gathered a strong international fan base. Ten years later it was acclaimed as the 'Best Beer in the World' at the 1998 World Beer Championships in Chicago.

But it wasn't always plain sailing. When it was first exported to the US, it was recalled from shelves, falling foul of the legislation banning products which 'encouraged excess drinking'. For a while, they renamed the beer 'Mateen Tripel' just for the US!

Tasting notes: it's delicious! Go on, see for yourself.



Style: Tripel
Country: Belgium
Brewer: Brouwerij Huyghe
Alcohol Content (ABV): 8.5% (2.21 Std Drinks)

Barbe Noire

Brouwerij Verhaeghe is undoubtedly much better known for its Flemish sour ales such as Duchesse De Bourgogne. But they also have the 'Barbe' label in their portfolio.

Belgian brewers are great lovers of brewing tradition, and many beer names are references to long-lost brewing operations. The Barbe label is a nod to the old medieval brewery Barbe D'Or in the nearby town of Leige. Though the name also affectionately translates as 'Black Beard'.

There are several different beers in the Barbe range, with this being the Belgian Export Stout which has been brewed since 2011.

It pours a deep black colour with a fluffy white foam. Presented in its correct class, it really is an attractive beer. A lovely roast malt bitterness is balanced by a chocolate and dark fruit sweetness. There is more than a hint of coffee, an earthy hop bitterness, a slightly sour edge and a smooth creamy mouthfeel.

Style: Export Stout
Country: Belgium
Brewer: Brouwerij Verhaeghe
Alcohol Content (ABV): 9.0% (2.34 Std Drinks)



ELGIAN
MILY
REWERS

Join our monthly beer club online at: www.beercollector.com.au/monthly_six_packs

72 different beers over the year, tasting notes and exclusive member offers

Ask about a private tasting event