

## Ganstaller Commandarin

This is the newest addition to the Ganstaller range, from creative brewer Andreas and his daughter, Daniele.

Germany has the second most craft breweries per capita (16 per million population), with an average annual consumption of 104.1 litres per year. And the area of Franconia in Bavaria has the highest density of any city in the world, with four breweries for only 1,352 people!

So if this Franconian brewery wants to introduce a new beer – and a lager at that – it needs a point of difference.

Commandarin is an unfiltered pale lager, dry hopped with a combination of Comet & Mandarina Bavaria hops.

The aroma gives up the nature of the hops, with a fruity nose of lemon, mandarin, peach and stone fruit.

The beer has a light grainy body with a little caramel malt sweetness, coupled with a citrus and flowery character that is not as obvious as in the aroma. It finishes reasonably dry given the initial taste, with a pleasant lingering bitterness.



**Style:** Lager

**Country:** Germany

**Brewer:** Ganstaller Brau

**Alcohol Content (ABV):** 5.3% (1.38 Std Drinks)

## Brew By Numbers 01/25 Saison – Styrian Goldings & EKG

This is the first saison we've featured from our favourite London brewery, Brew By Numbers. And you'll see from the numbering convention used in their beer names that saison was the very first style produced by the guys.

They are unashamed fans of Belgian styles, finding reason to undertake many research trips to Belgium. And I think it shows in the nature of their take on some classic Belgian styles.

The beer has a very solid saison character, with strong Belgian yeast phenolics with a wild funky background. A light, crisp and clean malt base allow the more subtle elements to show through.

The hop variants come into play as well, with lemon citrus and grassy hop notes mixed with prickly spice. The beer is super dry, with the hop and spice character lingering pleasantly. Really simple but delicious beer.

**More Belgian Styles:** BBNo only brew one tripel per year, and last years was a crackingly good beer. Tripel 14/03 using Ella hops from Oz. We were looking forward to including this in a monthly pack – but sold too much of it wholesale, and didn't have enough left! If you're a fan of Belgian Tripels, this one is really good, we'll make the last bottles available on our website.

**Style:** Saison

**Country:** England

**Brewer:** Brew By Numbers

**Alcohol Content (ABV):** 5.5% (1.43 Std Drinks)



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## De Molen Dag & Dauw (2017)

'Day & Dew' is a beer De Molen make only once a year, during April so it is ready for the European spring and summer months (or weeks if it's a bad year!)

For what is essentially a fairly uncommercial brewery (if you can say that of Ratebeer's 6<sup>th</sup> Best Brewery in the World for 2016!), they do make a marketing effort for this beer with special tap decals, posters and table talkers aplenty. They are proud of this beer, and rightly so.

It is a really well balanced IPA featuring a fruity combination of American hops – Chinook for bittering and then dry-hopped with Amarillo, Cascade, Simcoe and Columbus. And then fresh Bergamot citrus fruit is added at the end of fermentation.

The result is a spicy tropical fruit cocktail of peach, grapefruit, orange and pine, with a strong bergamot flavour (what gives Earl Grey tea its distinctive flavour), that adds a very slight tart/sour note to the mix.

We were going to include this last month, but if anything it tasted a little sharp and fresh. We think it tastes absolutely perfect now.

**Style:** IPA  
**Country:** The Netherlands  
**Brewer:** Brouwerij De Molen  
**Alcohol Content (ABV):** 7.1% (1.85 Std Drinks)



## Floreffe Prima Melior

Floreffe is another beer label for the 6<sup>th</sup> generation family Brasserie Lefebvre. It is a quite well-known label, though the beers more commonly found in bars are the classic styles of witbier, blond and tripel.

The Prima Melior (which translates as something like 'ahead of the very best') is much less commonly found. We'll bundle it into that catch-all Belgian category for dark beers of Belgian Strong Dark Ale.

Star Anise and orange peel are added to the brew, and it is the aniseed that comes through strongly in the aroma, along with Belgian yeast, dark dried stone fruit, chocolate and spice.

The flavour is a similar concoction of licorice and chocolate, plums and raisins, tartness from over-ripe berries, caramel and a slightly medicinal spice character. While there are lots of sweet notes, it somehow maintains a balance with the hops.

Above all else, it is really smooth and easy drinking for the 8% ABV.

**Style:** Belgian Strong Dark Ale  
**Country:** Belgium  
**Brewer:** Brasserie Lefebvre  
**Alcohol Content (ABV):** 8.0% (2.08 Std Drinks)



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## Wolf Carte Blanche

Another new, small Belgian brewery to add to our sampling list. In 2008, brewer Peter Van der Borgh was joined by three friends, and they formed the Lupus Brewery. The name was later changed to Wolf Brewery.

Starting with borrowed time at other breweries, they soon moved into their own premises with their own equipment; complete with tasting room and café. Though they still brew some of their beers in the nearby Het Anker brewery (which is famed for the Gouden Carolus range of beers).

The Carte Blanche is one of the newest addition to their range, introduced in 2014, and it was our favourite.

It has a lovely full malt body, sweet up front with both fruit and grain. The spicy yeast character then kicks in, along with a good hop bitterness from the five different hops used in this beer.

Really interesting, and a little unexpected – the flavours seems to complete on the tongue, without any one aspect winning out in full. It took a couple of tastes to get used to this one, but it was intriguing. Medium-high carbonation adds to the sensation, with a dry bitter finish.

**Style: Belgian Strong Blonde Ale**  
**Country: Belgium**  
**Brewer: Brouwerij Wolf**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 8.5% (2.21 Std Drinks)**



## Bush de Noel 2016



We featured the 2015 Bush Noel last year, and it was a favourite. And while we try not to repeat beers without reason, the fact that this beer is a vintage seems a good enough reason to include the current version.

It is a beer made of only malt, hops candy sugar and water. And of course the very distinctive Dubuisson house yeast. Unusually for a Christmas beer, there is no spicing or any other adjunct added to this beer.

This beer is also dry-hopped, with hop flowers added to the tanks in which the beer rests after fermentation. The result is something akin to a hoppy barley wine. A big thick body, full of caramel malt and over-ripe stone fruits with a nice hoppy bite to balance things out.

We enjoyed having this beer again, and if you had this in our pack last year, we hope you enjoy it again. We won't put another version in any future packs, but we do get this for wholesale each year. So if you are a fan, let us know and we can put some in the 'Extra Beers' shop page on our website.

**Style: Kerstbier (Christmas Beer)**  
**Country: Belgium**  
**Brewer: Brasserie Dubuisson**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 12.0% (3.13 Std Drinks)**

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