

## Beau Monde

We always enjoy a new creation from the good 'Dochter', and one of his newest is Beau Monde. A dry-hopped saison with bitter orange added.

The pour reveals a lovely orange, hazy body and gives up the tell-tale farmhouse aromas of funk and spice.

Taste is fruity early on, apricot and white grape, with strong citrus from the bitter orange, and a nice grainy malt body. The bitterness slowly wraps around the tongue and asserts itself, aided by the prickly spicing from the yeast and a high carbonation.

The beer dries out really quickly, so that slightly sweet malt body balances beautifully the bitter orange citrus, spicy farmhouse yeast and the hop bitterness.

Part way through this beer, it made me think of Orval. It's a very different beer, but it can't be a bad thing to pique such a memory. And it is 6.2% ABV as well!

**Style: Dry-Hopped Saison**  
**Country: Belgium**  
**Brewer: De Dochter van de Korenaar**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.2% (1.61 Std Drinks)**



## De Molen Roest & Rogge



If you ever find yourself in The Netherlands in September, google De Molen's famous beer festival Borefts. Each year they hand select breweries to invite to their festival that runs for two days at the brewery.

Of course De Molen make many new beers just for the festival, and this beer is just that. Made for last years festival we managed to get our hands on a few cartons of this beer, just for our beer club.

The name translates to 'Rust and Rye', which is one of the less-obscurely-named De Molen beers. A rusty copper colour, and a good dose of rye in the malt bill.

At first it seems a perfectly drinkable beer without any one attribute jumping out. A decent aroma, a little malt sweetness balanced by some bitterness and spiciness.

But as the beer progresses it seems to build. The body gets a little thicker with a fruity, slightly jammy sweetness. Then a building dry rye spice cuts through to leave a pleasant lingering bitterness.

**Style: Red Ale**  
**Country: The Netherlands**  
**Brewer: Brouwerij De Molen**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.6% (1.72 Std Drinks)**

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## Watou Tripel

Those familiar with the St Bernardus brewery will no doubt have sampled the St Bernardus Tripel, which really is one of Belgium's best tripels. So why then do St Bernardus have a second tripel? Before the brewery, this site was a cheese factory. This business was sold to the Belgomilk dairy company. First brewed in 1998, this beer was created in collaboration with Belgomilk, and intended for the French market. But as often happens, the beer was well received, and found its way into the regular portfolio.

It is a somewhat different beer to the St Bernardus Tripel. Lighter in appearance, it is also 0.5% lighter in alcohol.

The aroma is full of bready yeast, bubblegum, banana and a little spice. This carries through in the flavour with a light malty body. Fruit flavours are more tropical than citrus, like apricot and peach with a hint of mango.

The spicing is quite light for a tripel, and while the beer finishes dry there isn't really the characteristic yeast prickle in the aftertaste.

It all makes for a super-easy drinking beer, with more subtle characteristics than the standard tripel, though very enjoyable. That's why they have two tripels then!

**Style: Belgian Tripel**

**Country: Belgium**

**Brewer: Brouwerij St Bernardus**

**Alcohol Content (ABV): 7.5% (1.95 Std Drinks)**



## Brew By Numbers 03/03 Porter

Brew By Numbers create lots of different beers, both in terms of different styles and different versions of those styles. Their clever number/naming system is perfect for a group of such creatives.

So we come to expect regular new varieties of traditional styles, which is great, both as an importer and a consumer. But sometimes they go back to a good old original.

The 03/03 version of the BBNo Porter is just that – the Traditional version. Brewed to a recipe dating back to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, recreating a staple of London's beer culture at the time.

And a delicious treat it is. It pours thick and black, with notes of chocolate, coffee, burned toast and a hint of smoke.

The flavour captures the lovely toasted and roasted malt, both milk and dark chocolate, those hints of coffee, raisins and other dark stone fruits and then this hint of grassy hops comes and goes. Lovely jubbly!

**Style: Porter**

**Country: England**

**Brewer: Brew By Numbers**

**Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.6% (1.72 Std Drinks)**



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## Troubadour Magma Special Edition 2016

Troubadour Magma is the flagship beer for Brouwerij de Musketieres. It is a delicious beer that combines the body of a Belgian tripel with the hopping of a US West Coast IPA, using an obscene amount of Simcoe hop.

If you haven't had the pleasure, you really should – we'll make Magma available on the 'Extra Beers' page this month).

Each year the boys get a little creative and swap one element of the recipe around. In the past they've used different hops or yeast, but 2016 was the first time they've changed the malt bill.

Maris Otter is a premium malt, popular amongst home brewers and commercial breweries crafting premium ales.

This version of Magma seems to have a lighter, crisper body. It makes for a dangerously easy drinking Belgian IPA with a lovely tropical fruit character and bitterness balanced perfectly to the premium malt backbone.

**Style: Belgian IPA**  
**Country: Belgium**  
**Brewer: Brouwerij de Musketieres**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 9.0% (2.34 Std Drinks)**



## Struise Sint Amatus 12 Vintage 2013

Its been a while since we've had a Struise beer in our packs, so high time we rectify that. And the wait has been well and truly worth it with this beauty.

The beer owes its name to a Benedictine Monk (of course) by the name of St Aimé, who defended the less-fortunate from the ruling tyrants. Belgium only has one parish to patron St Amatus, and it happens to be in Oostvleteren. Also home of the Struise 'schoolhouse' brewery.

And interestingly, the artwork is by Carlo Grootaert, who is one of the owners of Struise. Anyone who has visited Struise will know Carlo as the genial host, plying you with tasty samples from their 30-tap tasting room system.

But back to the beer.

It's a beautiful dark Belgian quadrupel, which has been aged for 3 years in Woodforde Reserve Bourbon barrels.

Rich and smooth, there is chocolate and dark stone fruit, caramel malt and caramelised sugars, a little nuttiness, then finding a little bitterness and more dark chocolate. The barrel aging gives an additional sweetness and lots of length to the aftertaste, with just a hint of sweet boozy liqueur.

**Style: Quadrupel**  
**Country: Belgium**  
**Brewer: De Struise Brouwers**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 11.0% (2.86 Std Drinks)**



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