

Kaapse Tess

This is a great beer to tempt wine lovers into trying a beer.

'Tess' is a little farmhouse ale, which has been fermented on Pinot Grigio white wine barrels, and made using Hallertau Blanc hops which also have characteristics of white wine.

It pours a hazy golden colour, with the farmhouse yeast giving enough of a funky aroma to be certain of the style. There is also a solid orange citrus and white grape character to the aroma.

The orange citrus and white grape follow through in the flavour, combining for a fruity, zesty hit that is pretty sharp early on, that settles quickly. A little higher carbonation would probably add to a spritzier mouthfeel.

The beer finishes quite dry, with a little tart aftertaste.

Style: White Wine Saison

Country: Netherlands

Brewer: Kaapse Brouwers

Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.0% (1.30 Std Drinks)



Stad & Land

(City & Country)

beer/bière

11.4° Plato | www.brouwerijdemolen.nl | EBC 32 25 EBU

ingredients: water, barley malts (pils, crystal, caramel, chocolate), bitter hops (premiant, saaz), dry hop (mount hood), top fermenting yeast.



drink at 7°C

category 1

unpasteurized



8 717624 424892 | 52% alc./vol 33cl/330ml

Red Ale - ish

De Molen Stad & Land

The first time I tasted red ales was during a trip through Western Canada quite a few years ago. I remember really enjoying the balance of the rich malty body with nice hop bitterness. It seemed to provide the best of both worlds in one mouthful.

When I saw De Molen had made a Red Ale, I had to order some to put into one of our beer club packs. It is the first one I'd seen from them in several years of ordering their beer.

Stad & Land pours quite a clear amber colour, and the fruity aroma is immediately evident. Grapefruit, apricot and pine meld with a somewhat grassy, herbal character.

Fruit sweetness supplements the caramel malt body to give a slight marmalade touch to the flavour. The hopping gives a nice level of sustained bitterness, with an earthy and woody flavour.

The beer dries out on the finish, making it very moreish. A lovely beer for a summer afternoon refreshment.

Style: Red Ale

Country: Netherlands

Brewer: Brouwerij De Molen

Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.2% (1.35 Std Drinks)

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White Pony Atheist

!Here's another beer from White Pony that is a little hard to place in a style basket. Put for the purpose of format, we'll call it an hoppy wheat ale. (And in typical White Pony style, it's a double strength version).

This beer is made with two different wheat malts, and lots of US 'C'-hops in the form of Columbus, Cascade and Centennial.

The pour reveals a slightly hazy golden body, with an interesting aroma of bready malt mixed with orange and lemon citrus and a grassy herbal note.

Even with the use of wheat malt, there is a reasonable heavy malt body to this beer that initially seems to be the dominant feature. But a few more sips and the hops seem to assert themselves more.

The beer finishes with quite a solid lingering bitterness, and that earthy, herbal note more common with English IPA's.

Style: Hoppy Wheat Ale

Country: Italo-Belgian

Brewer: White Pony Microbirrificio

Alcohol Content (ABV): 7.3% (1.90 Std Drinks)



Postel Tripel

Another beer from the Postel label, one of the 18 certified 'Abbey Breweries' of Belgium, which is ultimately owned by brewing giant Heineken.

It is a good example of a big multinational purchasing a successful beer label, and doing very little to change things, rather leaving things alone to keep operating as they were before.

We could just about copy the notes from many of the previous tripels we've featured, as this is a classic Belgian Tripel style.

A typical Belgian yeast aroma, even if not as strong as some other beers, giving off banana, bubblegum, apricot, bready malt and gentle spice.

They all come through in the flavour, probably more strongly than the aroma suggests. Sweet fruit and malt first, joined by the spiciness of the Belgian yeast and a level of bitterness from the hops.

It isn't going to displace Westmalle Tripel or Tripel Karmeliet as the style leaders, but is a good example of a stock-standard Tripel.

Style: Belgian Tripel

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brouwerij Affligem (Heineken)

Alcohol Content (ABV): 9.0% (2.34 Std Drinks)



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Duvel Tripel Hop 2017 Citra

There is a good story behind the introduction of the Duvel Tripel Hop beers, which you can read in the notes on previous vintages.

Last year, after six different hop variants, Duvel re-brewed each iteration and produced a tasting pack with which they asked consumers to blind taste and vote for their favourite version.

Deservedly so (IMHO) the winner was the Citra hop variant, which was originally produced in 2012. With the public vote, this is now the permanent specialty hop version of the Tripel Hop.

The third hop is added during the boil, as well as solely used for dry-hopping, and this really takes the classic Duvel to another level.

The Citra gives that lovely tropical fruit aroma and flavour. Grapefruit, sour lemon, bitter orange light up your tastebuds. A high level of carbonation and some prickly yeast spiciness make for such a crisp, light-bodied, easy drinking beer that completely belies the 9.5% ABV. So enjoy....and beware!



Style: Belgian IPA
Country: Belgium
Brewer: Brouwerij Duvel-Moortgat
Alcohol Content (ABV): 9.5% (2.47 Std Drinks)

Struise Tsjeeses Reserva 2014 Bourbon Barrel-Aged

Tsjeeses is pronounced as something in between 'cheeses' and 'Jesus' – the cheeky play on words, and slightly risqué characature is very much intended. It is Struise's much-loved winter seasonal offering. A few years back, it started life as a much lighter-coloured beer, but over the years has been getting progressively more amber in colour.

The base beer is a lovely strong blond/amber ale, with cane sugar and spiced add to the mix. And then the lucky batches are aged in either bourbon or port barrels for a good soaking. So this is the 2014 Bourbon barrel version.

As mentioned, the beer pours a dark blonde to amber colour, giving an inviting aroma of caramel malt, dried stone fruits, banana and a good dose of bourbon.

The flavour reveals much the same in the heavy malt, slightly sticky body. There is sweetness of caramel and brown sugar, lots of fruit flavours from figs and dates, to dried apricot and peach. A slight woody character sits in behind the sweet, warming bourbon notes.

This is a sipper, allow it to warm up a little and it will evolve of time. A suitably cheery offering to welcome in the festive season; and a suitably fine beer to close out our beer club for 2017. Merry Christmas!!

Style: Kerstbier (Christmas Beer)
Country: Belgium
Brewer: De Struise Brouwers
Alcohol Content (ABV): 10.0% (2.60 Std Drinks)



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