

De Molen Rimbaud & Satie

Named after two proponents of the arts from the early 19th Century – Arthur Rimbaud (a poet) and Eric Satie (a composer) – this beer is a nod to the unconventional, anti-establishment Bohemians of the time.

This beer is at heart a pilsner, but in true De Molen style, it really does not adhere to the style guidelines. For a start the beer is slightly cloudy straw colour, rather than the clear, golden liquid that so fascinated beer drinkers when pilsners first found favour.

Then there is the Cascade dry-hopping which imparts a lovely fruity aspect to both the aroma and the flavour. It does compliment the crisp malt body and solid hop bitterness well, but is certainly not to style.

But let's rejoice in De Molen's non-confirmism, and enjoy this beer for what it is. A crisp, refreshing, balanced and flavoursome beer.

Or as De Molen call it – their Craft Bohemian Lager-ish!

Style: Pilsner
Country: Netherlands
Brewer: Brouwerij De Molen
Alcohol Content (ABV): 4.2% (1.09 Std Drinks)



Belgoo Luppo Extra

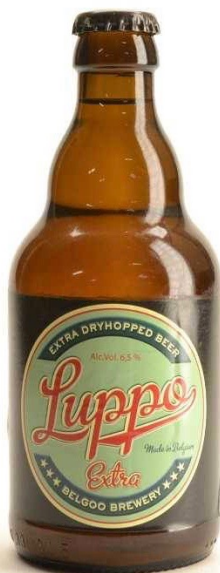
I first tried a Belgoo beer many years ago, in my favourite bar in Ghent, The Trollkeller. Fresh from success in some recent international beer awards gathering, chatting to the barman he advised that this new brewery's beer were pretty good. So in the name of research I indeed tried a few.

Fast forward to late last year, and the beers popped up on my radar again. I'd remembered this beer (although it was spelt 'Luppoo' back then), and found that these beers are now produced in a small brewery in Sint-Pieters Leeuw, which is just to the south-west of Brussels.

I guess I'd call this beer a dry-hopped Belgian Pale Ale, though it could be squeezed into a couple of different style boxes. It is brewed with barley and oats (though I would never have picked up the oats just from tasting) and five different types of hops.

The hopping regime changes from batch to batch, but each time I've tried this beer it has been grassy, a little floral and earthy, not really fruity but with a sustained bitterness that prickles the gums after the beer has gone. A simple beer, but tasty and refreshing.

Style: Belgian Pale Ale
Country: Belgium
Brewer: Belgoo Beer
Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.5% (1.69 Std Drinks)



Alvinne Undressed Foederbier

For the benefit of our members who have yet to fully embrace the joys of sour beers, here is your customary sour beer alert!

For those who delight in the eye-squinting and mouth-puckering nature of sours, you'll be containing excited anticipation. Undressed Foederbier is a rustic old style brown ale. Brewed as a normal beer, it picks up the sourness from the time spent in the foeder (a very large 600 litre oak barrel previously used to aged wine).

This beer is 'undressed' in the sense it is taken straight from the foeder and put into package. There is no blending or adding of any other ingredients. The beer pours really quite still, and whatever head you can agitate from your pour settles quickly.

Slightly sweet on the nose with the tell-tale lactic acidity and wooden barrel notes. This follows through in the taste, where early red fruits and sweet malts give way to a solid sour acidity. Black currants, plums, cherries, wood, vinegar, chocolate and a little spice make for a strong combination of flavours. Very little hop bitterness but a lingering tart finish that just itches your gums a little; encouraging the next sip.



Style: Flanders Oud Bruin
Country: Belgium
Brewer: Brouwerij Alvinne
Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.9% (1.80 Std Drinks)

Kaapse Jordy

Inspired by the Babylone beer from Brussels Beer Project, the innovative and experimental Kaapse Brouwers also turned their hand to producing a beer from unsold bread.

Collaborating with the nearby Jordy's Bakery. This beer replaces 30% of the malt bill with unsold sourdough bread from the bakery. In all 270 kilos of bread was used to produce a 5,000 litre batch of beer. The beer was released last year at the annual Beer Festival of the Cape Brewers.

With the growing number of bread beers being produced, we may need to create a specialty category, but for now we'll nominally class this beer as a Belgian Style Strong Blonde Ale.

It pours pretty still, and is a good bit darker than a blonde ale. Naturally it has quite a grainy malt body, though with some extra sweetness in there making the body a little heavier. Slightly fruity and with a little spice, it finishes with a moderate bitterness and a little sticky sweetness. An interesting experiment!

Style: Tripel
Country: Belgium
Brewer: Belgoo Beer
Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.5% (1.69 Std Drinks)



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Adriaen Brouwer Winter Wood 2018

We have featured many beers from old family breweries over the years, but Brouwerij Roman claims to be the oldest of Belgium's traditional family breweries. With a history dating back to 1545, it is now under the stewardship of the 14th generation of the family.

It is always interesting to see such an established, traditional brewery moving with the changing tastes and demands of the world's beer lovers. Back in 2016, Roman produced its first version of this Winter Wood beer, and it sold out in 2 weeks.

So we were quick to claim some of this 2018 version to feature in our beer packs. This beer uses old whiskey barrels to impart the barrel aged character to this strong dark ale.

Lots of dark malts, caramel, dried fruits, a little earthy spice with the wood notes and a gentle alcohol warmth. It's like a big Belgian dubbel with the oak and whiskey character added.

Style: Strong Dark Ale
Country: Belgium
Brewer: Brouwerij Roman
Alcohol Content (ABV): 10.0% (2.60 Std Drinks)



Struise Pannepot Special Reserva 2014

Pannepot is one of our favourite Belgian beers, the spiced strong dark ale that is the base beer for so many of De Struise's barrel-aged creations.

Like this beer, where Pannepot has been matured in Margaux and St Estephe Bordeaux barriques for four years. Laid down in 2014, it was decided to unleash this beauty into bottles in 2018.

Pouring this beer reveals aromas of over-ripe red stone fruits with a little vanilla and sherry. In the taste is a dark red, dried fruit bowl of plums, raisins, figs, prunes, blackcurrants, the rich sweetness of dark fortified wine with a background hint of wooden barrel tannins.

It really is a rich and complex beer that you'll taste different things each time you take a sip. Make sure you allow this reach a decent temperature of at least 10-12 degrees so the flavours open up fully.

With very little hop bitterness, the lingering aftertaste is still full of sweet malts, fruits and barrel character, but manages to finish dry with very little hint of the alcohol; just as all good big beers seem to do.

Style: Strong Dark Ale
Country: Belgium
Brewer: De Struise Brouwers
Alcohol Content (ABV): 10.0% (2.60 Std Drinks)



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