

## De Ranke Simplex

This is a relatively new beer that was added to the De Ranke portfolio a couple of years ago. It was the first new edition they'd made for several years, so they don't change up their offerings all that often.

It is no doubt a sign of the growing trend of lower alcohol, more sessionable beers – with flavour.

The beer was made in the fashion of an old style pilsner. A refreshing Belgian style ale, unfiltered, unpasteurised and slightly cloudy. It has a really grainy malt body. There isn't so much a sweetness to the initial taste, rather more a doughy character.

There is a good dose of old world hops, giving a grassy, floral and slightly spicy note. As the beer progresses the hops really do assert themselves leading to a lingering bitter finish which is also quite dry.

I always enjoy when a Belgian brewery makes a beer based on older styles, and the common theme appears to be this dry, assertive bitterness; whether the style is a pilsner or a tripel. Seems the Belgians have been fans of heavily hopped beers for quite some time.



**Style: Belgian Ale**  
**Country: Belgium**  
**Brewer: Brouwerij De Ranke**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 4.5% (1.17 Std Drinks)**

## Hedonis Suzanne

Hedonis Ambachtsbier is a small gypsy brewing firm started by two young Belgian brewers back in 2015. They had a work history of brewing for other Belgian breweries, so were versed in the traditions of Belgian brewing. But as young brewers they wanted to experiment outside of the box.

Their beers are a combination of both elements, which make them interesting and a little different.

This is their saison, where they choose to use spelt grain. It is a commonly held belief that the original brewers – the Sumerians – would have used spelt grain for their early brews. Spelt is an ancient grain, and contains much lower levels of gluten than barley or wheat. It is also meant to impart a nuttiness to the brew.

Hallertau Blanc hops are used for dry hopping to then give this beer a more modern twist. White grapes, lemon citrus, white pepper and a grassy character lift the flavour. The body is quite light and crisp with a good yeasty farmhouse funk. The beer finishes really dry, with a light peppery prickle.

**Style: Saison**  
**Country: Belgium**  
**Brewer: Hedonis Ambachtsbier**  
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.0% (1.30 Std Drinks)**



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## Moose on the Loose

We received our first delivery from Uiltje brewery last month, and we featured the Fizzy Bubblech in the March 19 beer club pack. If it didn't contravene our self-imposed rules, I would have put this beer in last month's pack as well. But we had to wait till now to include this beer for you as well.

Just like the first Uiltje beer, this beer comes in a 440ml can which is the fashion for the limited edition or one off beers. Which is just as well, as it means a little more of this delicious beer to enjoy.

The Moose on the Loose is a 6% north east style hazy IPA. It is full of tropical and stone fruit flavours thanks to the use of the Idaho #7 hops packed into each can. Passionfruit, mango, pineapple, grapefruit citrus, piney resin and a grassy note all compete for attention.

It doesn't have a big body, so it feels quite light in the mouth but balanced with the very moderate hop bitterness. The finish is reasonable dry with more of a tart bitterness that invites the next sip.



**Style:** NEIPA

**Country:** The Netherlands

**Brewer:** Brouwerij het Uiltje

**Alcohol Content (ABV):** 6.0% (2.08 Std Drinks)

## De La Senne Bruxellensis

This beer from Brasserie De La Senne was first created back in 2016, firstly as a very small limited release. But its popularity immediately saw a call for more, and it is now a semi-regular feature in the brewery portfolio.

The two brewers behind De La Senne are very proud Brusselsers, with most of their beers having some association to Brussels. So it seemed only a matter of time before they thought to make a beer which features yeast native to the city of Brussels.

'Bruxellensis' is a Belgian Pale Ale fermented 100% with a Brussels *Brettanomyces* yeast, aged for four months in the bottle before release.

It has a slightly sour aroma, with a bready malt body and a little fruity sweetness. But the beer is all about the yeast. Lots of funk and wild character, filled with hints of pineapple, apricot and citrus with a touch of leather as well.

The beer finishes really dry with a firm lingering bitterness. A real thirst quencher with enough complexity in the wild yeast to keep things interesting.

**Style:** Belgian Pale Ale

**Country:** Belgium

**Brewer:** Brasserie De La Senne

**Alcohol Content (ABV):** 6.5% (1.69 Std Drinks)



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## La Debauche Clever Girl

We've just received a bunch of new beers from our 'Debauchery' brewers from Angouleme in France.

We've quickly become accustomed to their adventurous nature, pushing the boundaries in terms of combinations of ingredients and melding of styles. And this beer is one of those unique creations.

The 'Clever Girl' (reference to the female raptor in Jurassic Park) is a milkshake lager with popcorn and pineapple.

A heavy malt body, rich and sweet, quite fruity early on giving up the pineapple early. The beer remains pretty thick even with some hop bitterness creeping in. There is a caramel malt sweetness at the finish, which I'll attribute to the popcorn; only for the fact I know it is there.

The alcohol provides a gentle warmth to the aftertaste, which remains full and always on the sweeter side.

Who ever said lagers were boring?!!!

**Style: Lager**

**Country: France**

**Brewer: Brasserie La Debauche**

**Alcohol Content (ABV): 8.0% (2.08 Std Drinks)**



## Grumpy & Smiley



The brewers at De Molen are very active in doing collaborations, though most of the collab's see the other brewers coming to visit De Molen. But this beer involved a rare trip away for our De Molen friends – a journey to Bad Flash Beers in the outer suburbs of Prague in the Czech Republic.

They are a small brewery who also operate a couple of craft beer bars, import beers into the Czech Republic from the US, the UK and other parts of Europe as well as distributing beers from other small Czech breweries to the domestic wholesale market. To say they are quite involved in the craft beer scene in the Czech Republic is an understatement!

The beer style chosen was a Baltic Porter, with added liquorice (a treat that was stated in The Netherlands). It has a big, robust, smooth body more akin to an Imperial Stout than a porter. Flavours of chocolate, roasted coffee, sweet malts, rum and raisin and of course liquorice.

A great beer style well suited to the cooler climates of the Baltic States and Eastern Europe, but I reckon it goes OK here as well!

**Style: Baltic Porter**

**Country: Czech Republic**

**Brewer: Bad Flash Beers**

**Alcohol Content (ABV): 9.5% (2.47 Std Drinks)**

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