

De Molen Tekst & Uitleg

This beer was an interesting offering from De Molen. They are always very open about their beers, giving lots of details and background into the how's and why's of all their creations. But this one was a little different, with simple notes explaining that there is a long story about this beer which they won't go into; but they are very happy with the end result.

Little wonder then that the name translates to 'explain in detail'!

For a little beer, there are lots of ingredients used. And the beer falls somewhere between a pale ale and a saison/farmhouse ale. I'm going to lean on the pale ale side of the fence for now. Though it might change as the beer gets a little older.

There are a lot of hops mentioned on the ingredients list, with two bittering hops, three late hop additions and dry-hopping with Amarillo. For all that the beer isn't overly bitter. A little early fruit sweetness hints at orange citrus, peach, grapefruit as well as a grassy, herbal note.

The light malt body and soft carbonation make for a more subdued mouthfeel than you might expect, with a little funky saison character from the Belle Saison yeast.



Style: Pale Ale

Country: The Netherlands

Brewer: Brouwerij De Molen

Alcohol Content (ABV): 4.6% (1.20 Std Drinks)

Uiltje Bird of Prey

The team at Uiltje pride themselves on their hop-driven beers, and this beer is the workhorse of their portfolio. Bird of Prey is the flagship IPA, so we'd best try it now that we've sampled the two special edition brews in our past couple of packs.

It is a really sessionable 5.8%, and is designed to be very 'drinkable', which to some might seem an obvious concept. But it is easier said than done, especially with the amount of good beer available to us now.

But this beer is definitely one which you could happily enjoy another of – finding enough interesting aspects to the beer without anything truly standing out as memorable or unique.

Three different malts create a lovely malt backbone supporting the generous doses of Simcoe, Chinook, Mosaic and Glacier (new one to me!) hops. Biscuity malt with a touch of caramel meld with a fruitbowl of apricot, peach, melon, grapefruit, orange citrus and a hint of pine.

Could you go for another??

Style: IPA

Country: The Netherlands

Brewer: Brouwerij het Uiltje

Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.8% (1.51 Std Drinks)



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Jandrain-Jandrenouille IV Saison

Brasserie de Jandrain-Jandrenouille is a small brewery founded in 2007 by two university graduates who had a passion for brewing. The brewery is a truly rustic example of a traditional Wallonian farmhouse brewery, housed as it is in rural buildings dating as far back as the 14th-century.

This was the first beer produced by the brewery, and is called 'IV' to represent the four basic ingredients in beer, while the saison style represents the traditional style of beer brewed in this region in days gone by.

The beer has only a mild aroma of biscuit malt and just a hint of the saison yeast characters. There is a mild sweetness early giving way to a moderate bitterness. As the beer warms the yeast character becomes more pronounced with a very earthy and herbal, spicy hop note, a little citrus and just a slight hint of something tart.

A very traditional beer, mild on the saison funk, finishing dry with a lingering bitterness.



Style: Saison
Country: Belgium
Brewer: Brasserie de Jandrain-Jandrenouille
Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.5% (1.69 Std Drinks)

La Debauche Cherry Leader

Another beer from our recent drop from La Debauche in France, and the good news is that most of these recently-arrived beers tend to the more adventurous end of the beer spectrum. And this particular beer certainly is!

So who's had an imperial cherry sour before? Strap in as you are about to do just that.

It pours a lovely deep pinkish-red colour, with loads of red fruit aromas. The Morello cherries are the hero of the beer, but throw off a mix of fruit flavours like plum and blackcurrant, as well as the cherry and hint of almond.

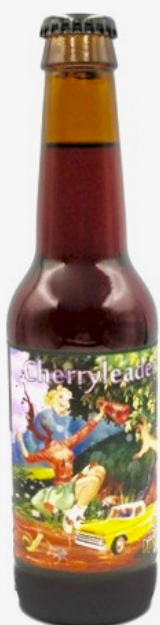
The beer is much more tart than sour, there really isn't such a high level of acidity and what is there is balanced by the heavier body. The level of alcohol gives the whole thing some 'umph', without getting out of balance. And we do not know where that whole 10% ABV is hidden.

Famous for their amazing label art, designed by tattooists and comic illustrators – don't be scared by the image on this bottle. I guarantee it will not blow your head off!

Style: Imperial Cherry Sour
Country: France
Brewer: Brasserie La Debauche
Alcohol Content (ABV): 10.0% (2.60 Std Drinks)

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La Pirata Black Block

This is the second time we've featured a beer from La Pirata (The Pirates), from the town of Suria in the Catalonia region less than an hours drive out of Barcelona. Since setting up their own brewery in late 2015, they have firmly established themselves as one of Spain's best small breweries.

And this beer – Black Block – is one of the favourites having won many awards for this beer.

As you pour the beer, the dark viscous body and heavy aroma will tell you that this is an imperial stout. And the nicely tanned foam is one of my tells for a sign of a complex, tasty imperial stout.

The big roasty malt body presents flavours of bitter dark chocolate, burnt toast, molasses, caramel with hints of coffee and licorice. While the flavours are intense, it doesn't get too sweet – balanced out with the bitterness of the roasted malts and some hop bite.

The mouthfeel is really smooth and full, with just a gentle warmth covering the high ABV of this beer. This is one to sit on, allowing it to warm up and evolve as you sip and savour.



Style: Imperial Stout

Country: Spain

Brewer: Cervesa La Pirata

Alcohol Content (ABV): 11.2% (2.92 Std Drinks)

De Moersleutel Motorolie Wedzone Sliwki



The Motorolie (Motor Oil) is well known to fans of De Moersleutel beers, and here it has been pimped by the addition of smoked plums. (Wedzone Sliwki is Polish for smoked plums – I have no reason why some Polish language has crept on to the label!)

At its base, the beer is a big, thick and viscous Russian Imperial Stout, but the smoked plums give it an extra dimension. There is smoke in both the aroma and the flavour; let it warm for this to come out to its fullest. It is quite a delicate smokiness – the smell of Havana cigars before they are lit, or even like the wooden box they come in.

It is a very pleasant accompaniment to the assortment of flavours present in the base beer. Lots of rich roasted malts, dark chocolate, raisins, prunes and figs, hints of coffee and licorice and a faint leathery character.

The alcohol is present (it has to be at that level) but it isn't too boozy, with the warmth adding to the long rich and slightly bitter aftertaste.

Style: Russian Imperial Stout

Country: The Netherlands

Brewer: Brouwerij De Moersleutel

Alcohol Content (ABV): 12.0% (3.55 Std Drinks)

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