

De Koninck

De Koninck is part of the fabric of the city of Antwerp. The De Koninck brewery has been operating in Antwerp since 1833, though it was sold in 2010 to Brouwerij Duvel-Moortgat but still operates independently. This beer was first introduced in 1913, and is the official beer of the city.

The distinctive glass (or more technically the shape of the glass) for this beer is known as a 'bolleke', though the locals will just order a bolleke at the bar knowing it will be filled with De Koninck.

Stylistically this beer is a Speciale Belge. Although the label shows the annogram 'A.P.A.', its just a play on words, with the label showing 'Antwaarpse Pale Ale'.

The beer pours a clear, copper colour with a foamy white head that will last to the very last sip – if you pour the beer correctly!

There is caramel malt, a little fruitness, banana and then a sustained bitterness that really dries the beer out, leaving you ready for the next mouthful. Take yourself on a trip to Antwerp, at least for the time it takes to enjoy this beer.



Style: Speciale Belge

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brouwerij De Koninck (Brouwerij Duvel-Moortgat)

Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.2% (1.03 Std Drinks)

Uiltje-Moor Beer Co American Beauty

Another collaborative brew from Uiltje, this time with their friends Moor Beer Co; an English brewery based in Bristol that has been operating since 2007.

The beer owes its creation to a birthday celebration. Beer Temple is a bar in Amsterdam that focusses on American and US-style beers. They asked their friends at Uiltje to brew a special beer to celebrate their 5th birthday. And this is what they came up with, back in 2014. (The bar has recently celebrated their 10th birthday in September this year, and Uiltje made a Big Fat 10 beer!)

Of course the beer is a West Coast US style double IPA. And in keeping with the 5th birthday theme, it features 5 big American Hops. Simcoe, Chinook, Citra, Amarillo and Columbus hops were the lupulin weapons of choice.

The flavour offers orange, grapefruit, pineapple peach and pine notes to compliment the slightly caramel malty body, which stays dry and bitter and is dangerously smooth drinking.

The beer was so popular it became the house beer of Bier Temple Bar (as well as another couple of bars in The Netherlands), so is a regular in the portfolio.

Style: Double IPA

Country: Netherlands

Brewer: Brouwerij het Uiltje/Moor Beer Co collab

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



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La Debauche Black Ale India Stout

We've had a few beers from La Debauche in the past, and they don't really seem to specialise in any particular style. Rather, we've had beers across a really broad range of styles, and they have all been very good beers.

So here we have a dark beer from their range – a black IPA. This style seemed to have its moment of fame a few years back, but has quickly disappeared from all but a few brewery portfolios. A big shame really as I think it's a great style of beer.

As far as black IPAs go, this is quite a 'stouty' one. There is a good dose of roasted malt in the body, giving flavours of dark chocolate, coffee and a hint of liquorice. There is also a little fruity character in the background, suggesting some citrus and dark berries.

The body has an inviting sweetness early on, which kind of gives way first to a roasty malt bitterness becoming more of a hop bitterness as the beer progresses. Although it has a sweetness in the mouth, it finishes reasonably dry with a lingering bitterness.

Style: Black IPA
Country: France
Brewer: Brasserie La Debauche
Alcohol Content (ABV): 8.0% (2.08 Std Drinks)



Mokke Ros

This is the third beer in the Mokke trilogy. The brewers refer to this beer as an amber ale, with the 'Ros' hinting at it bring red in colour.

It is quite an interesting beer, and one that I found a little hard to categorise (which I need to do for the different fields on our website!)

In the end, I reckon I'm going to call it a red tripel style.

It does indeed pour a reddish amber colour, with an aroma consisting of citrus and light stonefruit, some sweetness from the malt and some typical Belgian yeast character.

The flavour is initially sweet. Some caramel malt as well as the Belgian candi sugar rocks that are used in the brew. There is also a little fruity sweetness like apricots a some orange citrus. Hopped with Saaz and Magnum, there is a solid bitterness to the beer.

Style: Tripel (Red)
Country: Belgium
Brewer: Mokke Bier
Alcohol Content (ABV): 8.0% (2.08 Std Drinks)



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Uiltje F*ck! The Christmas Tree Is On Fire

We've all been enjoying the hoppy beer offerings from the team at Uiltje, but this beer shows they have more in their locker than just hops. They also make many bigger, darker, stronger beers.

And what better example at this time of year than their brilliantly-named Christmas beer – 'F*ck! De Kerstboom Staat in de Fik'!

The beer is an oatmeal imperial stout with the addition of Jamaican coffee beans and orange peel. And it is delicious (even for a non-coffee drinker).

The Imperial Stout has a lovely body to it, with the addition of the oats creating a real creamy fullness to the mouthfeel. There is a lot of flavour with heaps of dark chocolate and dark roasted malts giving a real roasty but smooth tasty body with just the slightest bitterness.

The coffee is also there though really not much stronger than you get in a normal imperial stout without coffee added. And after a couple of tastes you can detect the orange citrus lurking in the background. As the beer warms it opens up giving the full flavours which linger long in the aftertaste.



Style: Imperial Stout

Country: Netherlands

Brewer: Brouwerij Het Uiltje

Alcohol Content (ABV): 10.0% (2.60 Std Drinks)

De Molen #3000

We needed a big beer to finish our beer club packs for 2019, so we've picked this significant offering from De Molen. Back in January 2018, De Molen brewed their 3,000th batch of beer. They wanted to make something interesting and memorable so opted for this black Barley Wine of 15%.

Style: Barley Wine

Country: Netherlands

Brewer: Brouwerij De Molen

Alcohol Content (ABV): 15.0% (3.91 Std Drinks)



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