

Barossa Valley Brewing Passionfruit & Mango Gose

We'll kick things off this month with a fresh little Aussie beer from our mates at Barossa Valley Brewing. Last year they did a couple of collabs with Ben Miller (From Ben) and Jay Cook (Bucket Boys), creating a couple of really tasty gose.

They recently brewed a new batch of each variant, so we had a tough choice as to which one to choose. The raspberry and guava version is much more tart and sour, while the passionfruit and mango is smoother, fruitier and more juicy.

Gose is a traditional German beer style attributed to the town of Goslar in eastern Germany. The malt bill is made up of 50-60% malted wheat, with a dry earthiness from the use of ground coriander seed, a hit of lactic acid and salt. The addition of fruit flavours adds to the drinkability.

This beer has 200kg of mango and 100kg of passionfruit in the batch. The mango gives a fruit creaminess to the beer, and subdues lactic sourness. The passionfruit provides a little tartness, but also that inviting summer fruit aroma. Slightly salty, it is really refreshing and a great beer to enjoy on a sunny afternoon.



Style: Gose

Country: Australia

Brewer: Barossa Valley Brewing

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

Dusty Miner



Our container is late (thanks to Corona!) and we had a spot in this 6-pack to fill. Why not help one of our local brewers who has seen his business seriously affected by the closure of our hospitality venues.

Stuart Duff (aka The Dusty Miner) has his small brewery in Aberglasslyn, near Maitland in the Hunter Valley. He is the definition of a craft brewer, punching out his range of beers from the small 300 litre nano brewing system. He spent Mother's Day bottling his beers (not sure if his wife Cath helped him or not!)

We chose his 3 Daughters Red Ale (an ode to his three red-haired daughters) to add to our packs. Stu describes this as a cross between an Irish and American Red Ale. Ireland is the spiritual home of the red ale, with kilned malts giving the beer its red hue. America's version is a little hoppier (you may have guessed that), but by no means a red IPA.

This beer uses three New Zealand malts for the chewy malt body, Australian Topaz and Vic secret plus American Liberty hops.

The malt is the hero of the beer, all caramel and toffee with enough hop bitterness to balance things out and provide a drying, lingering bite to the finish.

Style: Red Ale

Country: Australia

Brewer: Dusty Miner Craft Brewery

Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.6% (1.46 Std Drinks)

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Kees Top Of The Morning

Those of you familiar with the creations of Kees Bubberman should be learning that few of his beers are straightforward. If there is some way to put a twist, or add something interesting to a beer, chances are he will do it. As is the case with this beer.

Kees calls it his Oatmeal Breakfast Coffee Stout. The beer has a backbone of a pretty traditional stout. Roasted malt and toasted bread mingle with the coffee in the aroma, as this beer pours a dark brown, almost black colour, with a generous creamy off white head.

As a non-coffee drinker, I was expecting the coffee to be the most notable character. But I was surprised that the beer tastes initially quite sweet and certainly smooth and creamy (thanks to the oats).

Caramel, toffee, slightly burnt toast, and a moderate coffee hit mix on the palate. That early inviting sweetness disappears as the toasty and roasty notes develop, finishing pleasantly dry. Still not sure I'd want it for breakfast though!



Style: Stout (Coffee)

Country: Netherlands

Brewer: Brouwerij Kees

Alcohol Content (ABV): 8.6% (2.24 Std Drinks)

Kees Double IPA (Simcoe & Amarillo DDH)

We are breaking our 6-pack rules with the inclusion of a second Kees beer, but our container is (very) late and we needed some hops in the pack. Hopefully you will all forgive us this contravention.

Back in December 2018 we first introduced Kees' new double IPA, which at that time featured Mosaic, Simcoe and Loral hops. It replaced the Double Rye IPA, which was one of my favourite Kees beers at the time.

In this second variant on the Double IPA we have a beer that has been double dry hopped with Simcoe & Amarillo.

There is still rye in the malt bill, and that gives the light caramel malt body a little spicy zing. The aroma is typically tropical with floral notes, citrus and grapefruit as well as passionfruit.

It is quite a full bodied beer, with a good weight to the mouthfeel and a certain warmth from the big ABV.

Style: Double IPA

Country: Netherlands

Brewer: Brouwerij Kees

Alcohol Content (ABV): 8.9% (2.32 Std Drinks)



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Uiltje Most Wonder Time For A Beer

This is something a little different from Uiltje. We did have plans to keep this for (Christmas in) July, but we've sold most of it wholesale already, so it was now or never for the beer packs.

We got this just before Christmas 2019, and this was the beer our girls left out for Santa on Christmas night. Good choice it was too (apparently!)

It is described as a Scottish Gruit Ale, though included in the ingredients is East Kent Golding hops. In my books, a gruit uses herbs and spices instead of hops. But I think technically it can include beers that use herbs and spices for bittering, regardless of whether hops are also used.

Either way this is a really good beer. It surprised me how smooth and rich it was. Four different barley malts plus flaked oats make up the malt bill. Caramel, chocolate, prunes, dark fruits and more provide a rich body.

Apparently the herbs and spices are hand-foraged from Scotland, but without disclosure take your pick as to what is in there. Flavours of licorice, clove, nutmeg maybe and a peppery spice. It was a beer I really enjoyed and something a little different.



Style: Scottish Gruit Ale

Country: Netherlands

Brewer: Brouwerij het Uiltje

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

De Molen Smooth & Sassy BA

We've kept this little barrel aged treat from De Molen to finish off this month's beer packs. Smooth & Sassy is a special one-off barley wine which has been aged to perfection in bourbon barrels.

This is a beer the De Molen team were particularly happy with, and as soon as I see a bourbon barrel aged barley wine I get a little excited. What is not to love about that combination?!

The flavour indications given by the brewers were as follows:

'Sweet and soft. Some nutty and wood flavours combined with vanilla from the bourbon barrel caramel from the malts'.

And that is exactly what we got. A luxuriously soft malt bomb, with the sweetness of caramel malt, raisins, dried fruit, honey plus the soothing hint of vanilla. In behind that sweetness is the nutty, slightly woody character.

These are the beers we truly love from De Molen – those one offs that have a unique character, despite being *another* BA barley wine. Sit back and savour this one, as all the bottles are now gone.

Style: Barley Wine

Country: Netherlands

Brewer: Brouwerij De Molen

Alcohol Content (ABV): 10.9% (2.84 Std Drinks)



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