

Dochter van de Korenaar Revanche

Its been a while since we've had a beer from De Dochter Van De Korenaar – one of the most gloriously-named Belgian breweries we know. For those new to this brewery, the name translates as 'Daughter of the Ear of Corn', which is a medieval reference to the grains being used to produce beer.

This is a new beer for the brewery which was first offered at the end of January 2020. The label describes this beer as a triple dry-hopped American India Pale Ale.

My first taste of this beer wasn't really what I was expecting!

There is a solid fruity aroma from the hops, but also a really strong malt body. And it is this malt that stands out (to me at least) in the taste.

It is more like an old school English IPA, with a hint of Belgian yeast. The breadly malt backbone gives off flavours of caramel, 'tea and coffee' biscuits and a slight earthy minerality. There is a strong Belgian yeast character as well, adding a fruity spiciness to things. A sustained bitterness takes control at the back end of the beer, and lingers long in the aftertaste.



Style: India Pale Ale

Country: Belgium

Brewer: De Dochter Van De Korenaar

Alcohol Content (ABV): 7.0% (1.82 Std Drinks)



Saison Dupont Cuvée Dry Hopping

Saison Dupont is one of the world's iconic beers, held out as a perfect example of its style and a beer that many brewers aim to imitate (with varying degrees of success!)

Not content to sit on their farmhouse laurels, Dupont started a tradition of pimping their flagship beer. The concept dates back to 2010, when they produced a dry-hopped version of their saison. It became an annual tradition, and one which many beer lovers look forward to.

The beer we have is the 2019 vintage, and features Styrian Wolf – a hop from Slovenia which is said to add a fruity character to the beer, presenting as passionfruit and pine resin.

At its heart, the beer is the rock solid farmhouse ale. The dry hopping adds in a little fruity hit of sweetness early on but that gives way to a dry, grainy, earthy body with a little prickly spiciness and that pervading rustic funk from the Dupont yeast.

So much flavour for a relatively small-bodied beer, it unfolds and develops with each sip. A great variant on their classic beer.

Style: Saison

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brasserie Dupont

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

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Grimbergen Blonde

The Grimbergen label is one most visitors to Belgium will remember from their travels. It is widely available, with a good showing in most supermarkets let alone bars.

Grimbergen is one of the many 'abbey beers' having ties to a Norbertine monastery that was built in 1128. Over the centuries through times of war and unrest, the abbey was and rebuilt several times. This gives rise to the phoenix motif, as well as the mantra which translates as 'burned but not destroyed'.

Now owned by the Carlsberg Group, it is brewed in several European countries, with the Heineken Group maintaining rights to label in Belgium.

This beer is a classic Belgian Blonde Ale, with that very distinctive Belgian yeast aroma of banana, bubblegum, citrus and clove. It carries through into the flavour which has an early sweetness of bready malt and citrus and other yellow fruits.

A fairly soft mouthfeel and overtly fruity body makes for an easy drinking beer. Probably lacking some hop bitterness on the finish to balance out the sweetness and dry the finish somewhat.

Style: Belgian Blonde

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brouwerij Alken-Maes (Carlsberg & Heineken)

Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.7% (1.74 Std Drinks)



Tripel LeFort

Brasserie LeFort is a name from Belgium's early 20th-century brewing history. It was a small brewery located in the city of Kortrijk, in the south of West Flanders, right down near the French border.

It was the city brewery from 1854 to 1911, at which time the owner of the brewery died. The brewery passed to his eldest daughter, who had recently married Omer Vander Ghinste; the owner of a small brewery in Bellegem. So it was at this time all brewing activities were moved to the Bellegem brewery, significantly increasing its activity.

In 2016 this beer was created, and immediately found recognition by way of awards. The most significant of which were being awarded a gold medal at the World Beer Awards 2018, just after being named World's Best Tripel at the 2018 Beer World Cup.

It's a very good tripel, quite fruity with a biscuit malt body. A solid hop bitterness develops, with a spicy, lingering bitterness.

Style: Tripel

Country: Belgium



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Brewer: Brouwerij Omer Vander Ghinste
Alcohol Content (ABV): 8.8% (2.29 Std Drinks)

Kees Enough Is Never Enough

Kees is probably our most creative brewer, as we never really know what to expect from him each time we order his beer. This beer has just arrived on our latest container so we might as well get some straight into our beer packs.

Described as a triple dry-hopped double IPA, this 2020 edition features Chinook hops. And only Chinook hops. I quite like these single hop beers as it gives us a good opportunity to identify the different aroma and flavour characteristics of individual hops.

Chinook is described as having a 'pine-like spicy bouquet with robust flavours of grapefruit'. I reckon that applies to this beer.

It has a very big malt body, so lots of sweet caramel malts up front. The hops are juicy and resinous, almost a little sticky on the tongue and a bit chewy in the mouth. For all those hops the bitterness is quite low. Some have described this beer as a NEIPA, but I don't really think it is.



Style: Imperial IPA
Country: Netherlands
Brewer: Brouwerij Kees
Alcohol Content (ABV): 10.2% (2.66 Std Drinks)

De Molen Noble & Nuts

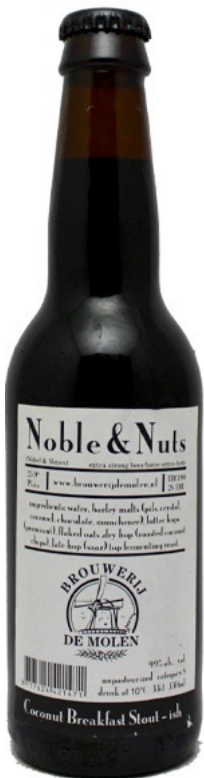
Another De Molen, another Imperial Stout. But in true De Molen style, this is something a little different.

Uniquely labelled as a 'Coconut Breakfast Stout-ish', this beer features 5 different barley malts as well as flaked oats. It is then finished with hand toasted coconut flakes which are as a dry hop. It's the oats that define this as a breakfast stout, as there isn't any coffee used, and the roasted malt character is far more dark chocolate than coffee.

Those coconut flakes are prominent in the aroma, along with the dark chocolate malts. It hints at this being a very sweet beer, but it isn't as much as the nose suggests. Some dried fruit flavours mix with cocoa and bitter dark chocolate, but there is enough roasted malt astringency and bitterness to balance things out with the beer finishing reasonably dry.

To liken it to a Bounty Bar is a little too much, but it is firmly in the pastry stout/dessert beer genre. As with so many of these dark beers, allow it to warm for a while after taking it from the fridge and you'll get a lot more of those flavours opening up as you enjoy this beer.

Style: Imperial Stout
Country: Netherlands
Brewer: Brouwerij De Molen
Alcohol Content (ABV): 9.9% (2.58 Std Drinks)



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