

De La Senne Zenne Pils

Brasserie De La Senne is known for producing lower ABV (at least for a Belgian brewery), with a tendency to use a good dose of old school hops. And this beer fits that description to a tee.

Described by the brewery as a craft lager, it is unfiltered and unpasteurised, meaning it is slightly hazy (it's not a NEIPA - settle down all you hazy bois!) and very tasty.

This was a style brewer Yvan De Baets was longing to brew for quite some time, but it was only after the brewery expansion that he finally realised that aim. He describes this beer as the hardest to brew, given any imperfection will stand out in the taste. As he says, 'the beer is totally naked!'

He needn't have worried, as this beer is delicious. Stylistically, it is an old style unfiltered Pilsner, using noble hops from Germany. A nice grainy malt body with some early sweetness, somewhat grassy and herbal with a little more bitterness than maybe is traditional, but we'd expect that from De La Senne. And it adds to the drinkability.



Style: Pilsner

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brasserie De La Senne

Alcohol Content (ABV): 4.9% (1.28 Std Drinks)

Atrium Twister

Atrium are the newest Belgian brewery to join our wholesale portfolio, though we only got to include one beer from them in the last few beer packs. That's largely due to the fact wholesale orders cleaned us out of their beers, so I've made sure to get extra this time.

This is one of their newest beers, and their first foray into canning.

Twister is described as an Hazy IPA, and includes Mosaic, Citra, Amarillo and Sabro hops.

Pouring reveals a quite hazy, thick looking cloudy orange body. It looks like a NEIPA, though the aroma is more subdued than you might imagine given the lineup of hops. But there are the typical fruity notes.

Maybe a bit less of the tropical fruit in the initial taste, and nowhere near as sweet as the appearance and aroma might suggest. There is a light grainy malt body and a good level of bitterness. As it warms, I get more of the fruitiness from those hops but bitterness remains in the aftertaste.

A tasty beer, and something a little different than I expected.

Style: (Hazy) IPA

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brasserie Atrium

Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.3% (1.64 Std Drinks)



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Bevog Tak Pale Ale

Brauhaus Bevog is the newest brewery to our wholesale portfolio. Ostensibly an Austrian brewery, the truth is that founder Vasja Golar is Slovenian. He wanted to set up his brewery in Slovenia, but found this process difficult.

The solution was to go 2kms over the border into Austria where the process was made much easier. But the staff are Slovenian, they all travel across the border each day. The biggest market for their beer is also in Slovenia, so if you prefer feel over physical fact, you can consider it your first craft brewery from Slovenia.

The beer is a simple, but tasty pale ale. I must admit, I don't often order a pale ale at the bar anymore (not that I've been to a bar often over the last few months!) I seem to pass them over for a bigger, theoretically tastier IPA if I'm only having a couple.

It was nice to sit down to enjoy this pale ale. There is a really pleasant floral, fruity aroma, that is more pronounced than in the taste. The simplicity of the biscuity malt body with just a hint of sweetness, 4 different hops add a grassy and floral aspect and there is a sustained bitterness that aids a crisp drinkability to this beer.



Style: American Pale Ale

Country: Austria

Brewer: Brauhaus Bevog

Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.5% (1.43 Std Drinks)

St Feuillien Brune



St Feuillien is one of the many Abbey Ales of Belgium, meaning the brewing is no longer done by the monks at the monastery, but a licence fee or royalty is paid back to the monastery by the brewery.

This brewery is a staple of the Belgian beer scene, never too hard to find with good representation in bars and readily available in the supermarkets. For this reason, such beers are sometimes passed over for others that are more obscure, more artisanal. It is good to cast aside the preconceptions and enjoy the beer for what it is.

All of the St Feuillien beers are really well made examples of the classic Belgian styles. Of course the hero of this beer is the malt, with the typical Belgian yeast taking up the supporting role.

Caramel malts, dried dark fruits, brown sugar, nutty, herbal, licorice and spices. Lots of flavour, wrapped up in a smooth, way-too-easy to drink liquid for the ABV that leaves you warm and satisfied.

Style: Dubbel

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brasserie St Feuillien/Friart

Alcohol Content (ABV): 8.5% (2.21 Std Drinks)

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Petrus Tripel

It had been a good while since I'd enjoyed a Petrus Tripel. Gone is the jolly monk on the label, replaced by clean, block colours defining the different styles. I prefer the rustic feel of the previous labels, but more important is what is in the bottle.

Satisfyingly, the beer is the same tasty Belgian Tripel I did remember.

Belgian yeast is the first assault on the senses. Lots of banana and vanilla, somewhat fruity and a little spicy. This pretty much follows through in the taste, with the addition of a sweet malt backbone.

For me personally it is a little on the sweeter side for a triple, maybe lacking some of that prickly spicy finish you'd get on say a Westmalle. But the bitterness is there to dry things out.

These flavours find favour with many who try it. This is the workhorse of the Petrus range, and for good reason this is a very drinkable beer.

Style: Tripel
Country: Belgium
Brewer: Brouwerij De Brabandere
Alcohol Content (ABV): 7.5% (1.95 Std Drinks)



Struise Rio Reserva 2012

To say we've been sitting on this beer for a while is an understatement. Honestly, I can't remember when it was that we bought this first (we've bought the same vintage in twice), but I'd say 2017 is a good bet.

Don't panic though, there isn't much that will harm this beer; even a few years.

It was first brewed as a collaboration between the Struise boys (Urbain & Carlo), and brewmaster Ryohie Sugawara from Japanese brewery Rio Brewing Co, but has been redone a few times now. This beer is the 2012 vintage.

The beer started its life as a dark blond quadrupel, which was then put into Tour Baladoz St Emilion oak barrels then transferred to Kentucky Bourbon barrels. In total this beer was aged for 4 years!

It is lush, and rich and oh so delicious. A reasonably heavy body holds a sweet malt backbone, with more than a hint of barrel wood and the sweet bourbon and vanilla notes. The taste just lasts, and is so easy to enjoy. Struise are the Belgian masters of barrel aging dark beers.

Style: Quadrupel
Country: Belgium
Brewer: De Struise Brouwers
Alcohol Content (ABV): 10.5% (2.73 Std. Drinks)



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