

### 13 Delta Craft Lager

A craft lager is quite an un-Belgian style of beer, so for that reason alone I thought this would be a good beer to try in the beer packs.

The concept behind The Ministry of Belgian Beer was to establish a brewery which only brewed low ABV lager styles. A pretty brave move for a new Belgian brewery indeed.

The two fellows who started this specialised brewing label are two-thirds of the founders from DOK Brewing Co. We've had a couple of beers from them in earlier packs, and they are one of the hot new Belgian breweries on the scene, making all sorts of styles, unconstrained by the low-ABV remit.

A little intriguing is the unusual name of the beer. Apparently it came about as it wasn't until the 13<sup>th</sup> attempt that the guys settled on a recipe they were happy with!

To the beer, and it is a more than decent, all-Belgian malt and hops lager. Light and crisp as you'd expect, there is a small hint of grainy malt sweetness. There is a moderate hoppy bitterness giving off grassy aromas. Medium carbonation and a lingering, prickly hop bite finish off this beer nicely and proves that lager doesn't have to be boring!



**Style: Lager**

**Country: Belgium**

**Brewer: The Ministry of Belgian Beer**

**Alcohol Content (ABV): 4.0% (1.04 Std Drinks)**

### Uiltje Trophy Hunter

I've heard of soaking gummy bears in vodka – they absorb the alcohol for a juicy, alcoholic sweetie – but I can't say that I'd heard of putting gummy bears into a beer before this beer appeared on Uiltje's list. The beer is an American Amber Ale, brewed with a shit-ton of red gummy bears!

When our container arrived a couple of months ago, this was the beer I was most intrigued to try so it was the first beer we sampled straight out of the container.

I didn't really know what to expect from the beer to be completely honest. I love a good American Amber so was definitely looking forward to the base beer, and I guess I expected the gummy bears to add a certain lolly sweetness.

And that's pretty much what we've got. The candy aroma is much stronger than it is in the taste, though the beer is still sweet. I would have liked the American Amber to be a bit bolder, as I think a bit more bitterness would have carried the lolly flavour a little better. But it is a fun beer, not one I'll likely remember fondly but interesting to have tried it all the same.

**Style: American Amber (with red Gummy Bears!)**

**Country: Netherlands**

**Brewer: Brouwerij het Uiltje**

**Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.0% (1.56 Std Drinks)**



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## Kiss My Neighbours Wife

Brouwerij de Musketieres were the very first brewery to trust us bringing their beers to Australia when we started our import business. Under the Troubadour label, we had our first product launch and enjoyed sharing their beers with Australia. For that reason alone, I'll always have a soft spot for their beers.

And while we haven't had their beers in our containers for a while now, it was with interest that I noted their one-off series of beers they call their Bucket List Series. So unaware was I of this that they were already up to number 7 in the series.

The Bucket List Series are beers that the brewers have always wanted to brew. Luckily for us I think I've picked this series up at a good time, as I really like this beer!

Described as a juicy sour IPA, it's exactly what we get. Nice tropical fruit aromas from the dry-hopping, the beer is crisp and light with just enough sour to liven up the tastebuds. There is a definite fruity flavour of pineapple and mango, and the addition of lactose gives the beer a fuller finish that it otherwise would have.

It's a style of beer I really enjoy, perfect for a sunny afternoon session this is a beer you could quite happily have a few of as it is easy drinking but stays interesting enough to enjoy one after another.



**Style: Sour IPA**

**Country: Belgium**

**Brewer: Brouwerij de Musketieres**

**Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.2% (1.61 Std Drinks)**

## Saison d'Erpe-Mere

For years this has been one of my favourite beers from Belgium.

It was the first beer brewed by the 'Glass Tower' brewery, and remains the leader of their portfolio. It has won numerous awards at various international beer awards, and I have a pretty cool story about a US award for a competition that the brewers hadn't even entered the beer for!

For many years the beers of Glazen Toren were only available in 750ml bottles. The reason for which was explained to me over lunch one day by co-founder Jef van den Steen: 'Good beer is to be enjoyed in good company, so we make it in bottles to be shared.'

It was an ethos that really resonated with me, but I'm very glad they've started to put their beers into smaller bottles so we can include them in the beer packs too.

The beer is brewed with barley and wheat, along with some Belgian candi sugar and uses Hallertauer hops to complement the complex saison yeast mix. And the result is a truly delicious beer.

A grainy malt body with a really complex yeast character that offers citrus and also hints of hay, apple and pear. There is also a peppery touch that combines with the earthy hops for that sense of rustic farmhouse. But all in a beautiful balance.

**Style: Saison**

**Country: Belgium**

**Brewer: Brouwerij De Glazen Toren**

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



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## Kapittel Winter

I had this beer put aside for the Christmas pack, but given all the cold weather our east coast has been experiencing, I thought I'd include it in this month's pack.

Brewing many beers under the 'Kapittel' label, the Leroy Brewery has a long and interesting history having seen the merger of two heritage breweries in SAS and Ven Eecke back in 2016. They are also responsible for one of Belgium's cult classic beers in Hommelbier.

Based in the town of Watou, quite near to the French border they are in good company, counting among their neighbours Brouwerij St Bernardus and the Westvletern monastery St Sixtus. It is a great town for a stop over and visit to these Belgian icons.

The beer is made of four different malts for a strong dark malt body, and gets hints of red from the sour summer Morellen cherries that are added. There is also the addition of spices in the form of cumin, licorice and coriander for a hint of Christmas pudding.

This for me is a classic Belgian Christmas beer, rich and warming with a hint of spicing without it overpowering the malty flavour of the beer. Perfect for the cold European winter nights, we at least have a few weeks where we can enjoy these beers here and imagine ourselves sitting in a classic Belgian beer bar. At least until the beer is finished!



**Style: Winter Beer**

**Country: Belgium**

**Brewer: Brouwerij Leroy**

**Alcohol Content (ABV): 7.8% (2.03 Std Drinks)**

## Uiltje Grandson Series Vol.2 – Coconut Cream Pie



We had the first beer in the Grandson series back in October 2021. [Flipping Bitches Imperial Sweet Stout](#) was just as the name suggest, a big pastry stout with cinnamon, vanilla and lactose for that creamy touch. (If you want to revisit this beer, I still have some so will add them to the 'Extra Beers' part of the website.)

The follow up beer is in the same style, but includes in the ingredients list barley, oats and rice plus vanilla, coconut and lactose. And of course some hops though they really aren't a feature in this dessert beer.

Our cartoon hero doesn't seem to be any more proficient in the kitchen yet, but luckily for us the brewers at Uiltje are all over their roles.

As we'd expect the beer pours thick and dark, almost black with a nice tan head. In the aroma you can't really miss the vanilla and coconut.

The taste is sweet, with lots of chocolate, caramel, vanilla and coconut. The hops don't really feature other than to dry the beer out a little toward the end, and it actually finishes probably drier than you'd imagine on your first taste.

One for the sweet tooths for sure, but they've done a good job of doing exactly what is described on the tin.

**Style: Imperial Pastry Stout**

**Country: Netherlands**

**Brewer: Brouwerij het Uiltje**

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

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