

Maltgarden Historical Importance

Here we have another beer in the 'historical beer styles' series that Maltgarden have been producing.

A Dortmunder lager is a specific style of German lager, stylistically a little heavier in body than the Helles Lager that we had last month, and with a little less bitterness. Probably the most well-known Dortmunder we see in Australia is by DAB. Their 5L mini kegs were one of the coolest things I ever received as a present about 20 years ago!

MG's beer pours an interesting amber colour, quite a bit darker than a traditional lager. Bready malt and a grassy hop note are present in the really-quiet-pleasant aroma.

The first taste reveals a solid malty body, with a light fruit sweetness. Balancing this is the hop bitterness from the Hallertauer Mittelfruh hops. There is a certain weight to the body, but it is really drinkable.

This is a beer that suits an afternoon session, with enough interesting character in the taste to satisfy without affecting the drinkability. No wonder those German beers all come in such big glasses!



Style: Dortmunder Lager

Country: Poland

Brewer: Browar Maltgarden

Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.7% (2.25 Std Drinks)

Insel-Brau Baltic Gose



After last month's Baltic Tripel from Inselbrau, you'll immediately recognise the packaging as another offering from the German island brewery. This time we have their Baltic Gose to taste.

Gose is a traditional German style that dates back to the 15th-Century. The Eastern German town of Goslar is considered the birthplace of this style, and the Gose River that runs through the town gives its name to the style. Fast forward a couple of centuries and travel a hundred miles or so, and the city of Leipzig had adopted the style as its own with numerous breweries serving their goses characterised by the wheat malt, lactic acid, sea salt, ground coriander seeds and a low hop bitterness.

From the start of World War 1 to the end of World War 2 the style almost disappeared, so much so that in 1949 there was only one brewery making the style. Happily, after a few failed attempts at re-popularising the style it did indeed grab a foothold in the market and craft brewers today are embracing the humble gose.

Our beer pours an unfiltered golden colour, with a wheaty aroma and a hint of lactic acidity. That sourness is also in the taste, with a crisp wheat malt backbone, a definite salty hit and the citrus sharpness from the coriander seeds. Low on bitterness but with a dry finish this is a beautifully refreshing and balanced beer.

Style: Gose

Country: Germany

Brewer: Rügener Insel-Brauerei

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

Join our monthly beer club online at: www.beercollector.com.au/monthly_six_packs

72 different beers over the year, tasting notes and exclusive member offers
Ask about a private tasting event

Pauwel Kwak Blonde

Brewery Bosteels has always been a favourite of mine, having been lucky enough to have visited several times. It took a little finding in the days before sat-navs, but once inside the big double wooden doors there was always a very warm welcome from seventh-generation owners, and the beers weren't half bad either.

In 2016 it was announced that the brewery was to be sold to AB-Inbev, which was met with much sadness and consternation at the time. Since then, we can happily attest to the fact the three iconic beers – Karmeliet, Kwak and Deus – have not suffered from the ownership change. And in typical 'big-beer' fashion, two new beers were introduced earlier this year under the Kwak label.

So here we have the newly released Kwak Blond, described by the brewery as 'a smooth and refreshing blonde beer, with delicate bitterness and a subtle hint of aroma hops'. So a blond beer with Styrian Golding, Cascade and Simcoe hops.

For a blond it is on the sweeter side, with the taste of pear and apricot evident alongside the malty body. There really isn't a lot of hop aroma, with just enough bitterness to start balancing out the malt sweetness. I would swap a normal Kwak for this beer, but it is easily drinkable and interesting to taste the newest addition to the Bosteel range.

Style: Belgian Blond

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brouwerij Bosteels

Alcohol Content (ABV): 7.4% (1.82 Std Drinks)



BDB (Blond de Blaugies)

Seems it is the month for new beers as we now present the newest beer from farmhouse maters, Brasserie de Blaugies. The BDB (Blonde de Blaugies) was released earlier this year and we were lucky enough to time our shipment to get an early taste of this new beer.

We all like to put beers firmly in style boxes, but I'm really struggling to do so with this beer. It is a mix of Belgian Strong Golden Ale, a hint of Tripel and Farmhouse Saison, and while it makes it hard to tick that style box it is a beer I really like.

It pours a hazy kind of straw colour with a pillowy white head (as you'd expect on a saison). And the aromas emitted from the glass are enticing. Of course, you have some of the farmhouse character from Blaugies, along with fruit and spice.

Pear, apple and a little banana give an early fruit sweetness. A grainy malt body with a floral and spicy hop bitterness. There is a little farmhouse funk but not as obvious in the taste as it is in the aroma. Well carbonated with a really lively body allows the taste to dance across your tongue.

It is beautifully balanced, with everything working together for a great tasting beer that leaves a pleasant tingling bitterness and a dryness that invites the next sip.

Style: Saison

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brasserie de Blaugies

Alcohol Content (ABV): 8.0% (2.37 Std Drinks)



Join our monthly beer club online at: www.beercollector.com.au/monthly_six_packs

72 different beers over the year, tasting notes and exclusive member offers
Ask about a private tasting event

Weltenburger Kloster Asam Bock

The amazingly beautiful Weltenburger monastery brewery sits on the bank of the River Danube around 100km north of Munich in Bavaria. It has to be one of the most beautiful settings for a brewery anywhere in the world.

The monastery also lays claim to being the oldest monastery brewery in the world with a recorded brewing history dating back to 1050. Not surprising then that they know what they are doing making their beers!

They are one of the more commercial breweries that we feature, and their beers are widely distributed, and certainly not hard to source. But that doesn't mean their beers are anything less than outstanding.

In case you are new to the style, a bock is simply a German strong lager. And a doppelbock is a bigger version of strong lager. Our Asam Bock pours a beautiful dark brown, with a good head that gives off aromas of dark chocolate, toast, dark stone fruits plus a little coffee and hint of nuts.

To taste the beer is sweet and inviting, but not cloying at all. It is like a rich warm blanket of tasty goodness for your tongue. Sweet malt and dark dried fruits like prunes and raisins, dark chocolate malt with the bit of astringency to balance out the sweetness, hints of coffee and something earthy and woody. There is a lot of flavours to enjoy and they all work together so well. Sit back and savour this.



Style: Doppelbock

Country: Germany

Brewer: Klosterbrauerei Weltenburg

Alcohol Content (ABV): 7.3% (2.88 Std Drinks)

Struise Sint Amatus Reserva 2019

Here is your beery Christmas gift – Struise Sint Amatus Reserva is a Belgian quadrupel aged in Woodford Reserve bourbon barrels for two years.

Pretty much anything barrel aged from Struise is a winner; it is what they are known for. Sint Amatus is a beer that they make every year, and it is one that we certainly look out for when planning which of their beers to bring over.

It pours this lovely reddish brown colour, and immediately you are hit with the smell of dried dark fruits, caramel malt and the sweet bourbon notes.

The first taste is full and complex, there is quite a lot to take in with this beer. Early sweetness from the big malt body and the dark stone fruits like plum, cherry and raisin. The bourbon barrel doesn't hide either, with the woody tannins of the oak barrel mixed with the smooth bourbon flavours. The two years that this beer has rested in the barrel mean all the flavours blend so smoothly.

The finish is both dry and spicy, but also smooth and fulfilling. For a big beer it is dangerously easy to drink but remind yourself to let this beer sit and open up, so you get to experience all it has to offer. Merry Christmas!!



Style: Quadrupel (Bourbon Barrel Aged)

Country: Belgium

Brewer: De Struise Brouwers

Alcohol Content (ABV): 10.5% (2.73 Std Drinks)

Join our monthly beer club online at: www.beercollector.com.au/monthly_six_packs

72 different beers over the year, tasting notes and exclusive member offers
Ask about a private tasting event