

Weltenburger Kloster Anno 1050 Marzen

This is the second beer we've included from Bavaria's Weltenburg Monastery brewery, and I reckon it is every bit as good as the first.

Our Anno 1050 Marzen is a beer brewed to celebrate the anniversary of the Monastery. It is the oldest monastery brewery in the world, having been established in 1050. No surprise that the beer style chosen is a Marzen, which is a seasonal specialty beer that allows for some prolonged celebrating.

The beer is a lovely clear amber colour, giving an aroma of caramel and bready malt with a hint of fruit and grassy, floral hops.

A rich caramel malt body dominates the taste, quite sweet right up front but it is steadily balanced out by the grassy hop bitterness from Hercules, Perle and Tradition hops used.

The executive summary for this beer must be that it is just so drinkable. That is the idea of these beers, balanced and flavoursome without being challenging or intense. They are the traditional session beers, and prove that lagers don't have to be boring!



Style: Marzen

Country: Germany

Brewer: Klousterbrauerie Weltenburg

Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.5% (2.17 Std Drinks)

Ename Blond



Brouwerij Roman lays claim to being Belgium's oldest family brewery, dating back to 1545. But the Ename Abbey dates back much further to 843 and the Treaty of Verdun where a fort was built in Ename on the bank of the Scheldt River.

In 1043 this fort fell into the hands of the Benedictine Monks who converted it into an Abbey and brewing began shortly afterward.

After centuries of brewing the Ename Abbey was destroyed during the French Revolution, and it was never rebuilt. Fast forward to 1990 and Brouwerij Roman started brewing beers under the Ename label. So again, we have an example of a Belgian Abbey Ale in the Ename beers.

The beer pours a lovely clear golden colour, and has an aroma that is all about the Belgian yeast with lots of banana with some citrus in behind.

There is a little sweetness early on, with ripe yellow fruit flavours and a bready malt backbone. After the initial sweetness the beer dries out quite quickly. The finish is long and really quite bitter making this a very refreshing Belgian blond.

Style: Belgian Blond

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brouwerij Roman

Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.6% (1.72 Std Drinks)

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Maltgarden Daily News

It appears even our Polish friends at Maltgarden are joining the trend of labelling beers in new styles that (IMHO) didn't really need to be invented in the first place. Here we have their double dry hopped (DDH) Session Hazy IPA.

For clarity, the idea of a session beer of any style is that it is a lighter version of that style. In this case, a lower ABV version of an IPA, that is also softer on the aggressive characteristics of the style. In my book, a lower ABV, slightly softer hoppy beer would be called a Pale Ale and this style has existed for a long time. No need to invent a new style name, it is just marketing fluff!

Rant over, let's take a look at the beer. It pours a cloudy yellow with a big aroma of tropical fruits. And that fruity character has a distinctive Aussie feel with the hops being Galaxy and Eclipse.

Flavour-wise there is a sweetness up front, both malty and fruity. The tropical fruit notes of mandarin and passionfruit, and a little piney character seduce you in, with enough bitterness to dry things out a little leaving a slightly prickly aftertaste.

Style: Session Hazy IPA

Country: Poland

Brewer: Browar Maltgarden

Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.5% (2.17 Std Drinks)



Weihenstephaner Vitus

From the world's oldest brewery comes something a little different from the beers they are most known for, though it still complies with the strictures of the German Reinheitsgebot of course!

A bock is a strong lager, and weizen means wheat. So here we have a strong wheat lager, with the convention that weizenbocks are usually stronger and fuller than a normal bock. So we might call this an imperial wheat lager.

Whatever you want to call it, I think it is quite delicious. From the pour you will see the cloudy orange body with a perfect white foam that builds quickly and lasts while the beer works hard in the glass.

Sweet bready malts are up front, joined by a lovely fruit sweetness of banana and citrus. Then there is a little spiciness with clove the dominant spice. The hops provide a pleasant bitterness and the beer has a satisfyingly long, prickly finish.

Beers from breweries like Weihenstephan have been around for ages (obviously!) and were some of the first international beers to make a mark on our early craft beer scene. It is easy to forget some of the pioneers in favour of the newest beers on the block, but nice to check back every so often to appreciate just how good some of these classic beers are. There is a reason why they are still going strong.

Style: Weizenbock

Country: Germany

Brewer: Bayerische Staatsbrauerei Weihenstephan

Alcohol Content (ABV): 7.7% (3.04 Std Drinks)



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Ter Dolen Tripel

We've featured a few of the Ter Dolen beers over the years and I have always enjoyed every one of them. I thought we'd almost captured the full range in our past packs, but the introduction of a couple of new beers means we'll have more Ter Dolen beers to look forward.

But let's not wish away our time, and instead focus on the beer we have right now. It is of course the Ter Dolen Tripel, and as mentioned before, the tripels are always the workhorses of every Belgian brewery. And often the beer they are judged by.

This tripel is brewed with two types of malt, and two Belgian hops. As we'd expect, there is a nice fruity aroma of banana and peach, and a malt backbone with a little spicy note. The flavour is the same, the fruit and malt sweetness early on, giving in to some hop bitterness and spicing as the beer progresses.

There are a few Belgian tripels that stand out for one reason or another (Westmalle, Karmeliet, De Garre), but most fall into a basket of very good beers that are a delight to drink, quintessentially Belgian but could easily be mistaken for the same drink if someone were to swap your glass. But if you were to enjoy this beer at the brewery, I'd guarantee it would be a memory that you would hold on to for many years.

Style: Tripel
Country: Belgium
Brewer: Brouwerij De Dool
Alcohol Content (ABV): 8.1% (2.10 Std Drinks)



Uiltje Grandson Vol 1

We all know Uiltje are the Dutch hop masters, but they also brew other styles of beer; like this imperial milk stout.

This beer combines six different barley malts with flaked oats, as well as Magnum and Cascade hops. And just for good measure, they've also thrown in lactose, cinnamon and vanilla. The result is this thick black beer that gives off lots of chocolate with roasted malts, coffee and vanilla.

These all follow through in the flavour. The chocolate and lactose dominate, so this really is in dessert beer territory. Vanilla adds some depth to that sweetness, with the beer sitting heavy on the palate. The spicing is quite subdued, you kind of know there is some spicy element without being beaten down by one particular spice.

Those hops, together with a little roasted malt sharpness do make an effort to dry things out a bit toward the finish, but this really is a beer for the sweet-tooth, pastry stout lovers out there.

As for the cartoon narrative, I have no idea where this comes from or where it's going. But that's nothing new for Uiltje, they are creatives in every aspect of their business!

Style: Imperial Stout
Country: Netherlands
Brewer: Brouwerij het Uiltje
Alcohol Content (ABV): 10.0% (2.60 Std Drinks)



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