

Baptist Wit Blanche

Brouwerij Van Steenberge is one of Belgium's generations-old family breweries, most notably responsible for the delicious Gulden Draak range. But like so many of Belgium's breweries, they have other labels for some of the many, many beers they produce.

Baptist is Van Steenberge's secondary label, and under this they brew beers very different in style to those big, dark, high ABV Gulden Draak beers. Let's kick off this range with their classic Belgian witbier called Baptist Wit Blanche.

The beer was first brewed in 2017 to celebrate the opening of the brewery bar which they called 'Bar Baptist', named after the founder John Baptist de Bruyne. With all that reverence, we should expect a decent beer!

Pouring a slightly hazy straw colour with the big white foam, you get aromas of banana and clove, with a hint of citrus. That's also what you taste, with the yeasty notes being the banana and clove, and the herbal additions of coriander and orange zest backing it up.

It is an easy drinking, super refreshing beer just as is intended, and ticks all of the boxes you'd expect for a Belgian witbier.



Style: Belgian Witbier

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brouwerij Van Steenberge

Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.0% (1.30 Std Drinks)

Weltenburger Barock Dunkel



It wouldn't be an October beer club pack if we didn't include a classic German beer, and it is great that I could get my hands on this beer from the Weltenburg Monastery.

This stunning monastery set on the banks of the Danube in Bavaria dates back to 45AD, though the brewery is considered only the second oldest in the world as records show this started in 1050, 10 years after their compatriots Weihenstephan. It is considered the oldest Monastic brewery in the world, and this particular beer is believed to be the world's first ever dark beer.

A 'dunkel' is quite simply a dark lager – the word simply translates as dark. With German breweries being the masters of lager, dunkels were the most common style of lager produced in Bavaria until the late 19th century.

It pours a lovely mahogany brown, with a foam that collapses quite quickly. Aromas of dark malt, dark chocolate, nuts and a hint of smoke invite you in.

Lighter in body than the colour might suggest, this beer is so smooth. Sweet at first with some caramel malt, dark chocolate and some dark stone fruits, the subtle bitterness quickly balances out the flavour with the hops introducing an earthiness that seems to accentuate that nutty character finishing slightly spicy with a lingering roasted malt bite.

Style: Dunkel

Country: Germany

Brewer: Klosterbrauerei Weltenburg

Alcohol Content (ABV): 4.7% (1.85 Std Drinks)

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De La Senne 100 PAP Bio

We love a beer for a cause, and as this label screams it is a beer in support of solidarity. 100PAP is a not-for-profit organisation supporting undocumented homeless immigrants in the Brussels area. For every carton purchased, De La Senne is donating 6 Euro.

Our beer has a copper coloured body with a really thick white foam that last through the beer. A light biscuity malt with yellow fruits and earthy, grassy hops fill the aroma.

And that is pretty much what you get in the taste. There is just enough fruit and malt sweetness up front to invite you in. Hints of pear and apricot are about as full as this sweetness goes before the hop bitterness kicks in. As is the way at De La Senne, they have used the locally grown organic hops liberally, with a firm bitterness dominating the back half of this beer.

It finishes really dry, crisp and with a yeast-driven spicy prickle. This beer is very De La Senne in character, meaning it is tasty, interesting, very drinkable and of course finishes with a spicy bitter tingle. And that's why we love De La Senne.

Style: Belgian Pale Ale

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brasserie De La Senne

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



Het Nest Guardian Blond

Brouwerij Het Nest has such a great story, I'm always up for trying any new beer that they brew. It started as a local beer club of just 8 people, which led them to decide to brew professionally. Now, they are a well-established brewery in Belgium who brew beers under contract or in collaboration with many different groups.

This beer is the product of one such collaboration whereby they brew the beer for The Capuchin Monastery in Meersel-Dreef, which is right up near the Dutch border just south of the Dutch city of Breda. This monastery is one of only three remaining in Belgium from the Capuchin order. Het Nest pays a royalty each year to the Monastery in lieu of using its name on the beer, so this is another example of a Belgian 'Abbey Ale'.

The beer is a light and slightly cloudy golden colour, with a grassy aroma with hints of clove and citrus. To taste, the beer is reasonably light bodied with a predominant feeling of being crisp and dry. After a few sips, I get a little more of the flavours exposing themselves.

Definitely grassy hops and light citrus. There is a little sweetness to the malt body though the back half of the beer sees the bitterness firm. It finishes with a dry bitterness that features a pleasant spicy tingle that lasts for a good while after you've finished the beer.

This is a perfect beer for a warm afternoon – more than enough flavour to keep things interesting without spending too many points on the ABV.

Style: Belgian Blond

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brouwerij Het Nest

Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.8% (1.51 Std Drinks)



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Tripel Plukker

Here's a(nother) nice story for you.

In 2021 farmer Johan decided he'd turn his hand to brewing on their farm in the town of Houthulst in Western Flanders, kind of midway between Bruges and Ypres. Now father and daughter spend their time brewing beer, using the brewery of the former Brouwerij De Plukker.

The name translates as 'The Picker' and refers to the people harvesting the hops on the local hop fields. Interestingly, the brewery uses barley grown on their own farm as well as local Poperinge hops.

Our beer is described as a soft tripel, with a moderate ABV and a fairly low bitterness (only 20 IBU).

It is a dark blond, almost orange colour and has a very malty nose with hints of ripe yellow fruits. The taste is pretty much the same, with an early fruit and malt sweetness giving caramel malt, banana and some apricot.

The Pilgrim hops kick in half way through and lift the beer a little, providing a smooth, easy drinking tripel with a nice flavour and pleasant spicy aftertaste.

Style: Belgian Tripel
Country: Belgium
Brewer: Terrest Brewery
Alcohol Content (ABV): 7.5% (1.95 Std Drinks)



Duvel Imperial Blond

Last month we included an old classic – Duvel. Well that was just to get you ready for their new beer, Duvel Imperial Blond. This beer was released in April 2025 and was the first new 'Duvel' beer created in a good while. With much fanfare about the release of this limited edition beer, I was able to time it such that we got an allocation in time for our last container. So here it is!

It looks very much like the original Duvel in the glass, maybe slightly darker in colour with with that billowing white foam under which the beer is working furiously to release carbonation through it. Especially so if you have the authentic Duvel glass.

The aroma is very much the same as the normal Duvel with fruit and malt sweetness with a lifting hint of citrus. The taste is where you know you are drinking a different beer.

Slightly heavier in body, it is immediately sweeter with more pronounced yellow fruits and a more caramel malt body. About half way through you realise the bitterness is softer than the original as well. There is more than enough hop bitterness to lift the beer and provide a lovely balance, but without that little sharp bite of the original.

There was a lot of expectation on this beer, but I think it carries that burden well. Let's just hope that it may become a regular part of Duvel's range. They have history for it!

Style: Belgian Strong Golden Ale
Country: Belgium
Brewer: Brouwerij Duvel-Moortgat
Alcohol Content (ABV): 10.0% (2.60 Std Drinks)



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