

Benediktiner Weissbier Dunkel

The German Weissebier is a classic style, as is the German Dunkel (dark lager), and the Weissebier Dunkel (or Dunkelweizen) is a crossover of both. But to be honest, the early wheat beers would have been much darker in colour so they are probably a good representation of the wheat beer style from a few centuries ago.

The Licher Privatbrauerei dates back to 1854 and is based in the town of Lich in central Germany. Post-WW2 the brewery was commissioned to exclusively brew beer for the US troops stationed in the state of Hesse.

This beer has a lovely copper colour, with the near-mandatory frothy white foam. As you'd expect from a German wheat beer, the aroma is full of banana and clove, as well as some toasty malt.

There is a little caramel malt sweetness that hints at fruits like ripe banana and plum. There is very little bitterness, with the mouthfeel being smooth. It finishes clean with a little fruit and spice lingering in the aftertaste.

Style: German Dunkel
Country: Germany
Brewer: Licher Privatbrauerei
Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.4% (2.13 Std Drinks)



Funky Fluid Gelato: Passionfruit, Mango & Peach

We couldn't receive a fresh shipment of Funky Fluid beers without including one of their signature Gelato fruit smoothie sour beers.

These are the beer with which Funky Fluid made their name in Europe as one of the best brewers of this style. Happily, they derive all of the fruit flavours and colour from real fruits, so they are almost a health drink surely!! (Obviously not factual!)

This beer is a delightful mix of passionfruit, mango and peach. And really, anytime you are talking about fruits and their inviting aromas, passionfruit and mango have to be top of the list. It just screams tropical summer vibes.

Once you've got past taking in that aroma, your first taste reveals pretty much what you'd expect from the aroma. Lots of tropical fruits and the thickness of the added lactose combine for a beer that could easily be mistaken for a tropical fruit smoothie.

The passionfruit is first and offers that lovely balance of sweet and tart. The mango adds the thick nectar aspect, with the peach really playing a supporting role. It is thick and lush and just pretty much delicious.

Traditionalists will argue that this should not be classed as beer, but more a different type of drink, and it is hard to argue with that. I'm just glad we have a brewery that brews this style so well so we can occasionally enjoy these little treats.

Style: Fruit Smoothie Sour
Country: Poland
Brewer: Brouwar Funky Fluid
Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.5% (2.17 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

Saison Dupont Dry Hop

This beer is a variation of the classic Saison Dupont that is dry-hopped with Styrian Wolf hops. It is only available seasonally so I'm happy to have timed it to have some available for our beer packs.

Saison Dupont is a world class beer, held out as a leading example of the saison style. I must admit that the first couple of times I tasted Saison Dupont I really didn't get what all the fuss was about. I've since worked it out, but this version leaves you in no doubt what it is about.

Pouring a cloudy golden orange colour, the aroma is full of farmhouse funkiness with an underlying citrus note. It is such an inviting aroma, you just really want to hook straight in and taste this beer.

The taste follows the aroma. A solid grainy malt body with just enough sweetness to be inviting presents early. Then the saison funk hits the tastebuds and things get interesting. Earthy and spicy, with a good dose of grapefruit citrus and other yellow tropical fruits like passionfruit and lychee. It finishes dry with a peppery prickle.

If you are a saison fan, I reckon you'll really enjoy this beer. There is a lot to it, in every respect it is a dialled up version of the original, pimped by the dry hop.

Style: Saison
Country: Belgium
Brewer: Brasserie Dupont
Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.5% (1.69 Std Drinks)



McChouffe

McChouffe is the lesser-known sibling, dark beer variant to the famous La Chouffe strong blonde ale.

This beer is a little nod to strong Scotch Ales, with a Belgian slant of course. It sits somewhere between a Belgian Dubbel and a Scotch Ale. The brewery calls the beer a 'Ardense sKotch'. (There is a play on words there, but it only works in Flemish!)

It is a dark brown colour with a ruby red tinge, topped by a foamy white cap. The aroma is quite strong, with licorice and aniseed dominating the rich malt body.

To taste, the beer is much softer than the aroma would suggest. Sweet dark malts give a backbone of caramel and over-ripe fruits. The dark Belgian candi sugar really aids the colour, without the beer having too much of the roasted malt character, meaning it is softer to taste.

A little hop bitterness from the Saaz-Saaz and Styrian Golding hops lift the mouthfeel, while the flavours combine for a pleasant aftertaste.

Style: Belgian Scotch Ale
Country: Belgium
Brewer: Brasserie Achouffe (Brouwerij Duvel-Mortgaat)
Alcohol Content (ABV): 8.0% (2.08 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

Achel Tripel

Here we have the second of our Achel beers from the former Achel Trappist Monastery that is now a privately owned beer making Abbey Ales.

As part of the sale of the Monastery brewery, the new owner also received all the recipes for the Trappist beers. This beer was previously known as the 'Achel 8 Blond' and was probably the beer the former Trappist Monastery was most well-known for, so this really was our test case for appraising their beer given our members are near-experts on Belgian tripels by now!

It pours a lovely golden body with a very slight haze, capped by a thick white foam. Aroma is of bready malts supporting lots of yellow and citrus fruits with a pleasant spicy note in there too. Going well so far!

The taste is just as solid, with a firm malt body and a nice mix of peach and apricot flavours and just a light touch of citrus. As with all good tripels there is a late spicy tingle from the yeast that carries through into the aftertaste.

It's a really nice beer, very much as I remember it from years before. How about you guys – are we happy with the new Achel beers?

Style: Tripel
Country: Belgium
Brewer: De Achelse Kluis
Alcohol Content (ABV): 8.0% (2.08 Std Drinks)



De Molen Kandij & Kaneel

This is the last De Molen beer that will grace our beer packs, so let's hope our most creative brewery over the last 12+ years goes out with a bang!

Here we have the 'Candy & Cinnamon' quadrupel Special Series beer, which was actually a beer I'd planned to put in the packs last year but we sold too much to wholesale customers and didn't leave enough to include in the beer packs.

Typically De Molen, they've taken an established beer style and made it their own.

It pours a reddish-brown colour and even as you are pouring the beer you get a nose-full of the rich malts, fruit and spice awaiting you.

The first taste is a solid sweet caramel malt body with dried dark stone fruits like raisins and figs. There is caramelised brown sugar adding to the sweetness but then the spicing breaks that up and gives confirmation that cinnamon is there.

The flavours balance nicely leaving you feeling that this beer is a rich treat rather than being too sweet and dessert-like. For a big beer it is very easy drinking, which was always something De Molen managed very well.

Farewell De Molen, you provided our packs with many, many great beers.

Style: Quadrupel
Country: Netherlands
Brewer: Brouwerij De Molen
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