

Peroni Gran Riserva Rossa

This 'Gran Riserva' label was first released in 2006 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Peroni brewery, but it wasn't until 10 years later that this beer was introduced to expand their range of premium beers.

It is classed as a Vienna Lager, a style that was created by Austrian brewer Anton Dreher in 1841. The beer style takes its name from the specialty malt used, being Vienna Malt. It is said that Dreher toured the UK and noted the different malting techniques used allowed for greater control of gently roasting the malts.

He took this idea back to his Klein-Schwechat Brewery to craft the world's first Vienna Lager. It was so popular that his brewery operation expanded so much that at one point it was considered the largest brewery in the world at that time!

Our Vienna Lager pours an attractive copper colour, with a pleasant malty, bready and slightly earthy aroma. And that's exactly what we taste.

There is malt sweetness up front, caramelised malt, with a bready, grainy body. It is a very clean taste, that offers enough bitterness to balance out the beer without ever being aggressive. The mouthfeel is pretty smooth, with good carbonation that helps to accentuate the flavours for a lingering aftertaste that you can enjoy well after the beer is gone. It is another example of a good beer from a very commercial brewery.

Style: Vienna Lager

Country: Italy

Brewer: Birra Peroni (Asahi)

Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.2% (1.35 Std Drinks)



Super 8 Blanche

Brouwerij Haacht is a multi-generational family brewery based in the town of Boortmeerbeek which neighbours the larger town of Haacht. It started life in 1893, and now lays claim to being the largest independent family-owned brewery in Belgium.

Best known for their Primus Pilsner, they also brew beer under the labels Tongerlo, Super 8, Charles Quint, Ommegang and Mystic. Lots of different beers in all manner of traditional Belgian styles.

This beer pours a characteristically cloudy straw colour with a big white foam. From the glass the citrus dominates the aroma. Underneath that you can get the coriander, but citrus – almost lemon citrus - is what you notice most.

While cold the citrus really stands out in the taste as well. As the beer warms a little, the malt comes out a little more offering more of an initial sweetness that gives in to the spicing about half way through.

The mouthfeel is both smooth and crisp, something that witbiers often seem to achieve though it still seems an odd sensation. It finishes with a little spicy prickle, though the aftertaste doesn't really linger that long to be fair.

Style: Witbier

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brouwerij Haacht

Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.1% (1.33 Std Drinks)



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Duchesse De Bourgogne

This The 'Funky on Tour' concept was borne out of the brewer's nomadic professional lifestyle as 'gypsy' brewers. While they have purchased a piece of land outside of Warsaw, they continue to brew their beers at multiple different breweries in Poland. The reasoning is that certain beer styles are better suited to different brewery set-ups, and it is hard to argue with that.

Given they are always effectively 'on tour', this series of beers is something that is always available. This particular beer was inspired by a trip to China in late 2025 for the Mikkeller Beer Celebration in Beijing.

They've brewed a fairly standard NEIPA, but with the addition of oolong tea and Sichuan pepper. And I reckon it is pretty good.

It looks just like a normal NEIPA, it looks quite heavy and thick in the glass with a cloudy orange body. There is a nice tropical aroma with passionfruit and mango most prominent.

The taste is initially just like another NEIPA with lots of tropical fruit flavours. Passionfruit, mango, pineapple, orange and grapefruit are all present. About half way through there is a sharpness from the tea that joins in. There isn't any actual chilli spice from the Sichuan peppers as they seem to offer a herbal, savoury character to the aftertaste. There is a level of bitterness on a finish that seems to go back to those tropical fruit flavours as the lasting memory of this beer.



Style: Flanders Red Ale

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brouwerij Verhaeghe

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

Rochefort 6

The Abbey of Notre-Dame de Saint-Remy, has a history dating back to 1595, though the brewery operations of Brasserie De Rochefort only started in 1899. They only brewed small volumes servicing their local area until the expansion of Chimay threatened their limited market, so in 1953 their operations were increased to produce much more of the famous Rochefort Trappist beer.

Rochefort 6 is the oldest of the Rochefort beers, with the recipe developed in 1950. It used to be called 'Trappiste', with the name changing to '6' in 1960, and was originally the only beer available in larger bottles. Despite its history, the Rochefort 6 is only produced once a year, and accounts for only around 1% of the monastery's production volume.

This beer is the (sometimes forgotten) baby of the Rochefort range. A 7.5% strong dark ale, owing lots of characteristics to a traditional Belgian dubbel style ale. It pours a dark amber to ruddy brown colour, and has a fruity and slightly herbal aroma.

There is sweetness from the rich malt base, with hints of dark stone fruit and a little Belgian candy syrup. Cutting through this sweetness is an earthy tone, and a subdued bitterness for a smooth mouthfeel which finishes out slightly dry.

Style: Trappist Dubbel

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brasserie De Rochefort

Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.7% (2.64 Std Drinks)



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Duchesse De Bourgogne

This is one of my all-time favourite beers, and I've included it in the packs again as it really is a beer that people need to try. And if you've had this before, I'm sure you won't mind another bottle in your pack.

Named after the 'Duchesse of Burgundy', this beer is world-renowned as one of THE examples of a Flanders Red Ale. The style is native to the Flanders region, and dates back over 200 years, though over 80% of this beer is exported!

Known as mixed fermentation beers, Flanders Reds are made with roasted malts and low bitterness hops, fermented with a standard ale yeast. The beer then undergoes secondary fermentation in the tank before being moved to oak barrels where the beer matures for between 8-18 months, and this is where it is exposed to the microflora of the barrels, with lactic acid bacteria and acetic development.

Young beer is then blended with older beer to produce the nectar we know. Because of natural variance in batches, several past batches are kept to back blend each release to smooth out the natural differences in batches to provide some consistency to the finished product.

Pouring a deep ruby-brown colour, there is an intensely acetic aroma of sour cherries, sweet malt and balsamic vinegar. And this is also the flavour, with an initial sweetness inviting you in before the sourness grabs the sides of your tongue half way through. Like a red wine, the finish is dryer than the start, with an oaky back end full of tannins, lots of sour cherries and balsamic,

Such a balanced beer, with a really complex flavour range. There is a reason why this beer is always in my fridge at home. World class Belgian brewing.

Style: Flanders Red Ale

Country: Belgium

Brewer: Brouwerij Verhaeghe

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



Uiltje The Imperial March

Uiltje are famed for their hoppy beers, regarded as The Netherlands's best IPA brewery, but the team enjoy making all styles of beer. Over the years we reckon they rarely miss on their big dark creations, so I'll always grab some when they become available.

Here we have a very traditional imperial stout. Just the four main ingredients for this beer, which makes a pleasant change from all the adjunct-fuelled dessert stouts that have become so prolific over the past few years.

For the brewers in the audience, and to prove the above point, the malt bill is a combination of Pilsner Malt, Cara 120, MRoast 900, Peeled Roasted Barley and Brown Malt. The hops are 100% Centennial. Water and yeast, and that's it!

It pours pitch black, with a slightly off-white head. I always like when an imperial stout has a really dark head, but I'll allow it this time. The nose is full of dark chocolate and coffee. In the flavour this comes through as dark chocolate, cocoa, slightly astringent roasted malt with black coffee. There is a sharpness to the flavour, but it isn't too confronting, just a pure old style imperial stout. The finish is long, with a little hop bitterness ensuring nothing gets too sweet, with a light smokiness in the aftertaste to this very smooth and drinkable imperial stout.

Style: Imperial Stout

Country: Netherlands

Brewer: Brouwerij Het Uiltje

Alcohol Content (ABV): 9.2 (2.40 Std Drinks)



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