## Paderborner Pilger

If you were a lager brewer during the 16th century, the old German town of Paderborn was the place to be. Every citizen has the legal right to operate a brewery, and as such the town had more than 400 functioning breweries at that time. Fast forward to today and there are only 5 breweries remaining. Paderborner has a history dating back to 1852, but is currently owned by the The Warsteiner Group who are looking to divest the brewery.This might be one of the last times we can try this beer.




The Pilger is a relatively new beer, first released in 2017 the 'Pilgrim' was brewed to celebrate the historic pilgrim paths that intersect in the town. They chose a Landbier as the style, a traditional local 'house beer' style.

Often put in the same category as Kellerbier and Zwickelbier, all three are characterised by a usually cloudy malt body that is unfiltered and unpasteurised, though the Landbier can be filtered. It has a good, quite full bready malt backbone with quite an earthy hop bitterness that has a slightly herbal character late on.

As is always the case for good German lagers, it is just so drinkable. It has an incredible balance where all the flavours meld so well. Paderborner are more well-known as a budget brand in Germany, but intentionally brewed and marketed this beer to the growing craft audience. I think they've done a great job with this beer.

**Style: Landbier**
**Country: Germany**
**Brewer: Paderborner Brauerei**
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.0% (1.97 Std Drinks)**

## Kees Ticket to Paradise




The It's been a while since we've had a Kees beer in the packs, the last time we ordered beer from arguably The Netherland's most creative brewer was June 2024. That is way too long to be without his beers, so we are looking forward to having the little Kees cans back in our packs.

So let's get back into the Kees beers with this very easy drinking NEIPA.

Featuring Citra (the old favourite of hoppy beer lovers) and a much newer hop in Superdelic. It was developed in New Zealand and commercially released in 2023. Both hop varieties are full of tropical and citrus fruit aromas that fill your nose as you pour this beer. Mango, passionfruit, peach and guava present.

The beer pours a fairly light hazy golden colour with a rocky white foam that lasts quite a while. First taste reveals an inviting, fresh fruit sweetness with all of those tropical and citrus fruits on offer. In behind is a smooth grainy malt body made up of pilsner malt, barley, oats and wheat.

As you'd expect for a NEIPA, the hop bitterness is really low level, though the beer does have a reasonably dry finish with a little prickle in the aftertaste.

**Style: NEIPA**
**Country: Netherlands**
**Brewer: Brouwerij Kees**
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 5.5% (1.43 Std Drinks)**

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## Chimay 175 Yellow




It's always nice to see the Trappist Monastery breweries doing something new, and with this beer they are filling something of a hole in the Trappist line up.

To celebrate 175 years of brewing at the Abbaye Notre-Dame de Scourmont in 2025, it was released strictly as a one-off special in June 2025. Consumer demand for the beer led to it being adopted into the permanent range for 2026 and beyond.

In terms of Trappist Blond beers, there really is only Westvleteren Blonde (which I rate as possibly the best Belgian blonde I've ever had, but it does need to be fresh), or the La Trappe Blond so it's great to have another Trappist Blond in the range. Interestingly, they've used coriander, orange peel, cardamom and aniseed.

It pours a slightly hazy golden colour with a thick white foam that emits a nice citrus and yellow fruit, Belgian yeast aroma.

The first taste is quite sharp with lots of orange citrus and yellow stone fruit, backed by a softer grainy malt body. As the beer progresses, the spices come to the fore. The coriander and orange peel give a Belgian witbier vibe, but the body is fuller and those other spices take it in a different direction.

It finishes quite dry and slightly spicy with a little prickly aftertaste.

**Style: Belgian Blond**
**Country: Belgium**
**Brewer: Bieres de Chimay**
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 6.5% (1.69 Std Drinks)**

## La Trappe Bock




This is a beer I've wanted to include in the packs for many years now. Most people would be familiar with the La Trappe beers from 'The King's Farm' Trappist Monastery in The Netherlands. But far less people would know about this particular beer.

The Bockbier is made solely for the domestic market in The Netherlands. They do not allow this beer for export, which actually happens more than you might think with different beers. But after years of asking (not quite pleading), I was please to finally source some on our recent shipment.

I haven't had this beer for many years, so going a little from memory with these notes but here goes.

Pouring a deep reddish-brown, you know just from the pour that malt is going to play a big part in the taste of this beer. Lots of caramel, brown sugar and a tiny whiff of coffee make up an inviting aroma.

The taste follows the nose with lots of sweet fruit and malt flavours. Caramel, dark stone fruits, dark bread, dark chocolate and roasted malts. After that you can pick up some herbal hop character that offers a little bitterness to balance things out.

It's kind of smooth, with some prickly flavours throughout, and something very different to all of the other Trappist beers.

**Style: Traditional Bock**
**Country: Netherlands**
**Brewer: Bierbrouwerij De Koeninghoeven**
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 7.0% (1.82 Std Drinks)**

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## Brigand




This beer is from the makers of the Kasteel beers, and is just another of their many different beer labels. Brigand has been around for a while now, first released back in 1980.

The term came into being during the Peasant Wars in 1798, where the occupying French forces used it as an insult against the local peasants who took up arms against them. For the locals it became a badge of honour.

This was the brewery's first foray into beers other than the traditional lagers and sour beers. They saw it as a breaking of tradition, so chose the rebellious connotation behind the 'Brigand' label.

An attempt at following the success of Duvel, this beer is bright golden in colour, with a lovely aroma of pear, banana, apple, malt and spice. Lots of sweet malt meld with the fruits early on, being balanced by the peppery yeast and orange-citrus dry-hopping character by mid palate.

The beer finishes reasonable soft and full, with some earthy hop bitterness and a slightly prickly aftertaste. It's not Duvel, but it is a good beer.

**Style: Belgian Strong Golden Ale**
**Country: Belgium**
**Brewer: Brouwerij Van Honsebrouck**
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 9.0% (2.34 Std Drinks)**

## Viven Chocolate Stout




This is something new from Viven. I'd seen it on an availability list earlier this year and thought it would be something worth trying in our beer packs.

For those of you who have tasted some of the Viven beers before you might remember that the brew very atypical beer styles for a Belgian brewery, with lots of IPA's and stouts popping up in their range. So this is not unexpected from the Viven team, though it would be one of the very few adjunct-laden Belgian stouts you'd find on any of the bar lists!

I'll have to do this next section without the benefit of having tasted this beer, given the container delays and subsequent rush to get the packs out to you guys…..

We are looking for a really dark brown body, stopping just short of black with a very malty aroma of dark roasted malt, dark chocolate, cocoa nibs and hints of caramel.and toffee.

The beer is a combination of seven different barley malts, real cocoa pellets, toffee and Magnum hops for bittering. It sounds like it could easily be a dessert-style stout with that ingredient list, but I have it on good authority that the opposite is true. The beer is quite dry, with dark chocolate and roasted malts being the dominant flavour.

As you work through the beer, you also get hints of coffee and an earthy hop character. While the beer maintains a dryness throughout, we are expecting a smooth mouthfeel closing out with a dry and slightly bitter roasty finish. Let's see how we go.

**Style: Belgian Stout**
**Country: Belgium**
**Brewer: Brouwerij Van Viven**
**Alcohol Content (ABV): 8.0% (2.08 Std Drinks)**

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