

Belgian IPAs

Bedlam

Ale Asylum - Madison, WI

7.5% ABV. Spring. Bottles, draft.

Chaos as art. The interplay between the Citra hops and the Belgian yeast give it a plush finish with a hop snap that jolts your taste buds out of their slumber and into the light. Tropical fruit blasts up the nasal cavities. Pineapple rockets with mango afterburners orbiting lime moons and pelted with grapefruit and peach meteors. The toasty malt adds tethering gravity, bracing against the dusty, clove and lilac and black pepper Belgian-influenced space debris.

Live a Rich Life

Three Floyds Brewing - Munster, IN

8.7% ABV. Bottles, draft.

AKA Shark Pants (brewed at De Struise). This beer is the combined effort of Urbain from De Struise Brouwers and Three Floyds Brewing Co. On the 3rd of May Urbain came to our Indiana brewery and we created an ale using the Struise house yeast with some medium crystal malts and a portion of oats at a calculated 260 IBUs. Although it was a great time and a honor to brew with Urbain, there is a somber note to this beer. Our friend and employee Rich Sheppard passed away on April 11, 2011. This beer is made to honor his memory with a portion of the proceeds going to his family. Always remember, live a Rich life.

Stone Cali-Belgique

Stone Brewing Co. - Escondido, CA

6.9% ABV. 77 IBUs. Year-round. Bottles, draft.

Hops: Columbus, Chinook, Centennial

When reading the name "Stone Cali-Belgique IPA", "Cali" hints that it is a California-style IPA, and this brew has an undeniable Belgian influence, indicated by the word "Belgique". We carefully selected a Belgian yeast strain that illuminates a fascinating new aspect of the beer that is otherwise quite simply Stone IPA. The result is both completely new and different, while still being recognizable as a Stone brew—and Stone IPA in particular. Think of it as an otherwise identical twin to Stone IPA that was raised in a Belgian culture. Literally

De Ranke XX Bitter

Brouwerij De Ranke - Wevelgem, BEL

6.2% ABV. Year-round. Bottles, draft.

Malt: Pale pilsner. **Hops:** Brewers gold & Hallertau

XX Bitter or Extra Extra Bitter is a blond, bitter ale containing 6.2% vol. Alc. It's famous for it's very bitter and strong flavour. XX is being made with pale pilsner malt and loads of Brewers Gold and Hallertau hop flowers. A perfect combination that has been nationally and internationally praised. This ale has been a real trendsetter for the current comeback of bitter ales in Belgium.

Houblon Chouffe Dobbelen IPA Tripe

Brasserie d'Achouffe - Achouffe, BEL

9% ABV.

Hops: Amarillo, Tomahawk, Saaz.

The HOUBLON CHOUFFE was brewed for the first time in 2006. It is an 'Indian Pale ale' type of beer, with a harmonious balance between a marked bitterness (three types of hops are used to make it) and a pleasant fruitiness. The HOUBLON CHOUFFE is unfiltered, and re-fermented in the bottle as well as in the keg.

Urthel Hop-It

De Leyerth Brouwerijen - Ruiselede, BEL

9.5% ABV. Year-round. Bottles, draft.

Malt: Pilsner. **Hops:** 3 types of Euro Noble

Hildegard returned from the Anchorage Barleywine Festival, January 2005, inspired by the wonderfully hoppy beers she tried there. Barleywines, IPA, Double IPA and all manner of over-the-top beers sparked her creative impulse and the result is Belgium's first Belgian Style IPA, Urthel Hop-It.

Belgian IPAs

Inspired by the American India Pale Ale (IPA) and Double IPA, more and more Belgian brewers are brewing hoppy pale colored ales for the US market (like Chouffe & Urthel), and there's been an increase of Belgian IPAs being brewed by American brewers. Generally, Belgian IPAs are considered too hoppy by Belgian beer drinkers.

Various malts are used, but the beers of the style are finished with Belgian yeast strains (bottle-conditioned) and the hops employed tend to be American. You'll generally find a cleaner bitterness vs. American styles, and a pronounced dry edge (very Belgian), often akin to an IPA crossed with a Belgian Tripel. Alcohol by volume is on the high side. Many examples are quite cloudy, and feature tight lacing, excellent retention, and fantastic billowy heads that mesmerize (thanks, in part, to the hops).

Belgian IPA is still very much a style in development. (beer-advocate.com)