

GUEST ALE TASTING NOTES

MOORHOUSE'S PREMIER BITTER 3.7% ABV

Moorhouse's Brewery, Lancashire. Est. 1865

Amber in colour, with a smooth and creamy flavour which develops into a refreshing, hoppy finish, this was a gold-medal-winner at the International Brewing Awards, in 2004.

Hops used: Fuggles, Willamette

CALEDONIAN DEUCHARS IPA 3.8% ABV

Caledonian Brewery, Edinburgh. Est. 1869

A distinctive golden beer, long on refreshment, this has a citric, zesty hop aroma and crisp bitterness. It's a winner of many awards, including CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain, in 2002.

Hops used: Styrian Goldings

DARK STAR HOPHEAD 3.8% ABV

Dark Star Brewery, West Sussex. Est. 1994

This pale golden ale has a floral aroma, with elderflower notes from the Cascade hops, plus a full-bodied and full-flavoured character which is still gentle enough to make this an extremely drinkable beer.

Hops used: Amarillo, Cascade

HARVIESTOUN BITTER & TWISTED 3.8% ABV

Harviestoun Brewery, Clackmannanshire. Est. 1985

This classic blond beer, with its superb fresh hop profile in both the aroma and taste, has hints of fruit and a full, easy-drinking flavour throughout. Voted Champion Beer of Britain, in 2003.

Hops used: Challenger, Hallertau Hersbrücker, Styrian Goldings

OAKHAM JHB 3.8% ABV

Oakham Ales, Cambridgeshire. Est. 1993

This golden-coloured beer has an aroma dominated by hops, giving characteristic citrus notes, while the hops and fruit on the palate are balanced by malt and a bitter base, leading to a dry, hoppy finish.

Hops used: Challenger, Mount Hood

SALOPIAN SHROPSHIRE GOLD 3.8% ABV

Salopian Brewery, Shropshire. Est. 1995

This golden-coloured ale has a floral aroma and a full, hoppy flavour, balanced by a crisp, dry maltiness and a pleasing, rich finish. It was a gold-medal-winner at CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival, in 2011.

Hops used: Amarillo, Brewer's Gold, Celeia

WHARFEBANK SLINGERS GOLD 3.9% ABV

WharfeBank Brewery, West Yorkshire. Est. 2010

This deep golden and refreshing (yet full-flavoured) beer is brewed with distinctive American hops, giving a floral aroma and delicate citrus notes, combined with a pleasant, malty feel.

Hops used: Cascade, Celeia, Columbus

BEARTOWN BEAR ASS 4.0% ABV

Beartown Brewery, Cheshire. Est. 1994

This light and refreshing ruby-red ale has an excellent hop aroma, complementing the balance of fruit and malt in the smooth flavour and resulting in a satisfying, dry bitterness in the finish.

Hops used: Brewer's Gold, Challenger, Northern Brewer

BUTCOMBE TRADITIONAL BITTER 4.0% ABV

Butcombe Brewery, Somerset. Est. 1978

This classic, amber-coloured bitter has a delicate blend of malt, hops and citrus flavours, leading to a long, dry, bitter finish.

Hops used: The brewery reports that it's a secret blend of English varieties.

ORKNEY RED MACGREGOR 4.0% ABV

Orkney Brewery, Orkney. Est. 1988

Winning many awards, this glorious red-hued beer has rich hop fruits and toasted malts in the flavour, giving way to a clean, dry and refreshing floral hop bitterness in the finish.

Hops used: Cascade, Challenger

SALTAIRE BLONDE 4.0% ABV

Saltaire Brewery, West Yorkshire. Est. 2006

This straw-coloured ale has a creamy, biscuity malt base, balanced by a mild, spicy bitterness, resulting in a refreshing and easy-drinking character.

Hops used: Saaz, Tettnang

YEOVIL STAR GAZER 4.0% ABV

Yeovil Ales Brewery, Somerset. Est. 2006

This copper-coloured bitter is generously late-hopped, providing a floral bouquet and a rich, hoppy (yet sweet and luscious) flavour, leading to a pleasing, long finish.

Hops used: Cascade, First Gold

ADNAMS OLD ALE 4.1% ABV

Adnams Brewery, Suffolk. Est. 1872

This dark red ale has an aroma of caramel and nutty chocolate, with toffee and chocolate coming through on the palate, along with hints of red fruits, all balanced by a smooth bitterness.

Hops used: Boadicea

Available in January only.

GUEST ALE TASTING NOTES

CALEDONIAN 80/- 4.1% ABV

Caledonian Brewery, Edinburgh. Est. 1869

This russet-brown-coloured beer has a malty and fruity aroma, a smooth and creamy character and a good balancing dryness, leading to a subtle, hoppy finish.

Hops used: Fuggles, Goldings, WGV

COACH HOUSE CHESHIRE GOLD 4.1% ABV

Coach House Brewery, Cheshire. Est. 1991

This golden-coloured ale has a well-balanced and refreshing character throughout, leading to a clean and hoppy aftertaste, while the addition of late whole-leaf hops imparts a pine-lemon crispness and excellent aroma.

Hops used: Green Bullet

WELLS BOMBARDIER 4.1% ABV

Wells & Young's Brewery, Bedfordshire. Est. 2006

This distinctive, classic English bitter has a rich copper colour and smooth, light, fruity flavour, leading to a robust finish.

Hops used: Challenger, Goldings

WEST COUNTRY ENGLISH ALE 4.1% ABV

West Country Brewery, Wiltshire. Est. 2010

This is a medium-coloured, traditional English best bitter, with delicious malt notes and a subtle depth of hop character, providing a perfect balance of flavours.

Hops used: Goldings, Northdown

BLINDMANS MINE BEER 4.2% ABV

Blindmans Brewery, Somerset. Est. 2002

This full-bodied, copper-coloured ale has a full, malty flavour throughout, while a moderate hopping provides a balancing slight bitterness in the finish.

Hops used: Challenger, Styrian Goldings

BRAINS SA 4.2% ABV

Brains Brewery, Cardiff. Est. 1882

A justifiably renowned full-bodied bitter, this has a good balance of malt and hops, leading to a pleasing, moreish flavour and smooth, dry finish.

Hops used: Challenger, Fuggles, Goldings

CALEDONIAN OVER THE BAR 4.2% ABV

Caledonian Brewery, Edinburgh. Est. 1869

A rich, golden presentation is perfectly balanced with bittersweet flavours, while the use of amber malt adds a striking character to this tournament favourite.

Hops used: Fuggles, Styrian Goldings, Super Styrian

Available in February and March only.

HYDES WINTER FUGGLE 4.2% ABV

Hydes Brewery, Manchester. Est. 1863

This rich, chestnut-coloured ale has a gentle, fruity nose and a superb balance of malt and hop flavours, resulting in a pleasing, subtle, hoppy finish.

Hops used: Fuggles, Target

MILESTONE LOXLEY ALE 4.2% ABV

Milestone Brewery, Nottinghamshire. Est. 2005

This deep golden, full-bodied ale has a delicate lemon and citrus flavour, with hints of local honey in the boil, creating a well-rounded brew, with a crisp, bitter finish.

Hops used: Perle, Progress

RAMSBURY FLINT KNAPPER 4.2% ABV

Ramsbury Brewery, Wiltshire. Est. 2004

This amber-coloured beer is brewed using home-grown spring barley and chocolate malt, producing a taste with malty overtones, balanced by a smooth, hoppy character.

Hops used: Celeia, Goldings

TRING JACK O'LEGS 4.2% ABV

Tring Brewery, Hertfordshire. Est. 1992

A combination of four types of malt and two types of aroma hops provides this copper-coloured ale with a full fruit flavour and distinctive hoppy bitterness.

Hops used: Challenger, Styrian Goldings

INVERALMOND THRAPPEDOUSER 4.3% ABV

Inveralmond Brewery, Perthshire. Est. 1997

This golden-copper-coloured ale has an inviting thick and creamy white head and delicate citrus aroma, leading to a unique spicy and floral flavour. Thrapple is the Scottish word for 'throat', so this is the ideal beer with which to 'douse your thrapple'.

Hops used: Cascade, East Kent Goldings, Pilgrim

WICKWAR RITE FLANKER 4.3% ABV

Wickwar Brewery, Gloucestershire. Est. 1990

This amber-coloured ale has an aroma and initial taste of malt and fruit, developing into a powerful, fruity body which gives way to a smooth, satisfying finish.

Hops used: Fuggles, Styrian Goldings

BREWSTER'S DECADENCE 4.4% ABV

Brewster's Brewery, Lincolnshire. Est. 1998

This golden ale has herbal and tropical fruit aromas, leading to a full-bodied and balanced biscuit malt flavour, before resulting in a lasting finish of zesty citrus fruits.

Hops used: Cascade, Nelson Sauvin

GUEST ALE TASTING NOTES

TITANIC FULL STEAM AHEAD 4.4% ABV

Titanic Brewery, Staffordshire. Est. 1985

This is a beer into which you can truly launch yourself – it's a pale ruby-coloured, full-bodied and well-balanced beer, with a superb blend of hops supplying a distinctive flavour and aroma.

Hops used: Cascade, Goldings, Yakima Galena

BATEMANS HOOKER 4.5% ABV

Batemans Brewery, Lincolnshire. Est. 1874

This light amber beer has a blend of pale and crystallised malts, fused with citrusy hops, slowly matured to create a spicy character, with a hint of cracker biscuit flavour.

Hops used: Challenger, Goldings, Liberty

Available in February and March only.

BATEMANS XXXB 4.5% ABV

Batemans Brewery, Lincolnshire. Est. 1874

This is a superb classic bitter with a delicate aroma of hops and a complex palate of robust hop flavours, delightfully balanced by a prominent malty character and finish.

Hops used: Challenger, Goldings, Styrian

COTLEIGH BARN OWL 4.5% ABV

Cotleigh Brewery, Somerset. Est. 1979

This popular, copper-coloured premium bitter has a full and distinctive flavour, with hints of toffee and nut, leading to a smooth, malty, bittersweet finish.

Hops used: Fuggles, Goldings, Northdown

EXMOOR GOLD 4.5% ABV

Exmoor Brewery, Somerset. Est. 1980

This classic ale has a predominant maltiness throughout, balanced by an underlying hoppiness and sweet flavour, leading to a refreshing finish.

Hops used: Fuggles, Goldings

MORLAND OLD SPECKLED HEN 4.5% ABV

Greene King Brewery, Suffolk. Est. 1799

This rich amber-coloured beer has a superb fruity aroma, complemented by a malty, smooth flavour, leading to a balanced sweetness on the back of the tongue.

Hops used: Challenger, Goldings

OXFORDSHIRE 2012 4.5% ABV

Oxfordshire Brewery, Oxfordshire. Est. 2005

This is a new beer for a new year and is copper in colour, with a hoppy, citrus aroma and a moderately hoppy flavour, before resulting in a pleasing, bitter finish.

Hops used: East Kent Goldings, Mount Hood

SHEPHERD NEAME LATE RED 4.5% ABV

Shepherd Neame, Kent. Est. 1698

This easy-drinking ale is a crimson-copper colour, with myriad flavours of plum, prune, raisin, a touch of toffee and tropical fruit gradually emerging by the finish.

Hops used: Cascade, East Kent Goldings

WHITE HORSE CHAMPION

THE WONDER HORSE 4.5% ABV

White Horse Brewery, Oxfordshire. Est. 2004

This is the latest addition to this brewery's great stable of beers. It is deep chestnut in colour, with a dominant, roasted character and a smooth, rich biscuit finish on the palate.

Hops used: Cascade, Fuggles

WYCHWOOD HOBGOBLIN 4.5% ABV

Wychwood Brewery, Oxfordshire. Est. 1983

With its chocolate-toffee malt flavour, moderate bitterness and distinctly fruity character, this is a ruby-red-glowing, full-bodied and well-balanced ale.

Hops used: Fuggles, Styrian Goldings

HOOK NORTON OLD HOOKY 4.6% ABV

Hook Norton Brewery, Oxfordshire. Est. 1850

This consistently popular tawny bitter has a strong fruity aroma and palate, balanced by a subtle hoppiness, creating a well-rounded and pleasing beer.

Hops used: Challenger, Fuggles, Goldings

ADNAMS BROADSIDE 4.7% ABV

Adnams Brewery, Suffolk. Est. 1872

This classic beer is dark ruby-red in colour, rich in fruitcake aromas, with hints of almond and fruit in the smooth flavour, leading to a pleasing, dry, bitter finish.

Hops used: First Gold

ARUNDEL STRONGHOLD 4.7% ABV

Arundel Brewery, West Sussex. Est. 1992

This chestnut-coloured full-flavoured bitter has a fine hop aroma and predominantly malty flavour, balanced by an emerging crisp flavour in the smooth and bitter finish.

Hops used: Goldings

BRENTWOOD WINTER WARMER 4.7% ABV

Brentwood Brewery, Essex. Est. 2006

This seasonal beer has a light orange-brown colour, slightly spicy aroma and citrus and ginger notes in the flavour, leading to a light bitterness in the finish.

Hops used: East Kent Goldings, Fuggles

GUEST ALE TASTING NOTES

SUMMERSKILLS WHISTLE BELLY VENGEANCE 4.7% ABV

Summerskills Brewery, Devon. Est. 1983

This dark ruby beer is full of dark malt character, with aromas of rich, dark malt and hops and a flavour dominated by dark malt and liquorice, with just the subtlest of hop flavours.

Hops used: Goldings

FREEMINER SPECULATION 4.8% ABV

Freeminer Brewery, Gloucestershire. Est. 1992

This is a rich, deep ruby-red, premium-strength ale, with plenty of hops in the nose and lots of rich malt flavours in the mouth, leading to a complex (yet balanced) malt and hop aftertaste.

Hops used: Fuggles, Goldings

MARSTON'S SWEET CHARIOT 4.8% ABV

Marston's Brewery, Staffordshire. Est. 1890

Swing low with this full and fruity, chestnut-coloured beer, guaranteed to carry you home with a spicy aroma and malty, sweet taste to help to savour every try and tackle.

Hops used: Fuggles, Goldings, Sovereign, Target

Available in February and March only.

MORDUE RADGIE GADGIE 4.8% ABV

Mordue Brewery, Newcastle. Est. 1995

This strong (yet easy-drinking) amber northern ale has a full and balanced flavour, with hops, fruit and malt all emerging and leading to a long, lingering finish. Voted Champion Strong Bitter of Britain, in 1998.

Hops used: Galena, Willamette

NEWBY WYKE WHITE SQUALL 4.8% ABV

Newby Wyke Brewery, Lincolnshire. Est. 1998

This amber-coloured beer has an immediate impact of hops in the aroma, leading to a dominant hop flavour, balanced by subtle malt flavours and a pleasing, fruity finish.

Hops used: Challenger, Mount Hood

TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH ALES SPORRAN WARMER WINTER ALE 4.8% ABV

Traditional Scottish Ales, Stirlingshire. Est. 2005

This classic, dark, smooth ale is brewed from a traditional Scottish strong-ale recipe and has a complex, hoppy and fruity aroma, leading to a full treacle and toffee flavour – guaranteed to warm your tassels.

Hops used: Goldings, Target

WOLD TOP WOLD GOLD 4.8% ABV

Wold Top Brewery, East Yorkshire. Est. 2003

This blond, continental-style beer has a drinkable flavour which belies its strength, with a good hop aroma and soft, fruity character, with emerging hints of spice.

Hops used: Goldings, Styrian

RINGWOOD FORTYNINER 4.9% ABV

Ringwood Brewery, Hampshire. Est. 1978

This superb, consistently popular, moreish beer, golden-brown in colour, has a well-balanced blend of malt and hops, leading to a refreshing and distinctively fruity aroma and finish.

Hops used: Challenger, Fuggles, Goldings, Progress

ARKELL'S KINGSDOWN 5.0% ABV

Arkell's Brewery, Wiltshire. Est. 1843

This splendid, rich-coloured, strong beer has a distinct malt and hop flavour, balanced by an underlying fruitiness and a long, dry finish.

Hops used: Fuggles, Goldings

BANKS & TAYLOR SOD 5.0% ABV

B & T Brewery, Shefford, Bedfordshire. Est. 1981

Shefford Old Dark is a dark, rich and smooth beer, with a strong fruit and hop aroma, leading to a slightly sweet malt flavour, with subtle hop notes and a smooth, creamy finish.

Hops used: Cascade

BURTON BRIDGE

BRAMBLE STOUT 5.0% ABV

Burton Bridge Brewery, Staffordshire. Est. 1982

This rich, dark, full-bodied stout has a strong, chocolate aroma and complex flavour, with hints of ripe hedgerow fruits emerging, before a subtle bitterness in the finish.

Hops used: Challenger

GRAINSTORE TEN FIFTY 5.0% ABV

Grainstore Brewery, Rutland. Est. 1995

This full-strength, mahogany-coloured beer has a fine balance of hop bitterness and malty sweetness, creating a potent (yet easily drinkable) character.

Hops used: Challenger, Fuggles, Northdown

HAMBLETON NIGHTMARE 5.0% ABV

Hambleton Brewery, North Yorkshire. Est. 1991

This award-winning black porter has a strong roast malt character and a notable hop presence, combining to create a wonderfully smooth flavour, with a creamy finish.

Hops used: Fuggles, Northdown

GUEST ALE TASTING NOTES

SHEPHERD NEAME

BISHOPS FINGER 5.0% ABV

Shepherd Neame Brewery, Kent. Est. 1698

This strong, ruby-red-coloured ale is brewed to a traditional Kentish recipe, using local hops to create a fruity palate and impressive bitter flavour.

Hops used: First Gold, Target

WOODFORDE'S

ADMIRAL'S RESERVE 5.0% ABV

Woodforde's Brewery, Norfolk. Est. 1980

This tawny-coloured ale has a distinctive, estery nose of rich fruit and a palate full of sweet malt and rich fruit, slowly dominated by an increasing bitterness, leaving a satisfying, dry finish.

Hops used: English Goldings, Savinjski Goldings

CAIRNGORM WILDCAT 5.1% ABV

Cairngorm Brewery, Highlands. Est. 1997

This is a smooth, deep-amber-coloured ale with a complex malt, fruit and hop flavour. It is strong and distinctive, like the powerful, sleek Scottish wildcat, after which it is named.

Hops used: Challenger, Fuggles

JENNINGS SNECK LIFTER 5.1% ABV

Jennings Brewery, Cumbria. Est. 1828

This rich, dark and satisfying bitter contains generous quantities of amber and chocolate malts which impart a full malt flavour, balanced by a hoppiness in the finish, to leave you wanting more.

Hops used: Challenger, Fuggles, Goldings

KELHAM ISLAND PALE RIDER 5.2% ABV

Kelham Island Brewery, South Yorkshire. Est. 1990

This deceptively easy-drinking pale ale is brewed using water drawn from the foothills of the Pennines, Yorkshire malt and American hops, giving a fruity berry aroma and fruity flavour, with a hint of malty sweetness, leading to a smooth, long finish.

Hops used: Willamette

SLATER'S HAKA 5.2% ABV

Eccleshall Brewery, Staffordshire. Est. 1995

This award-winning New Zealand-style pale ale has a sweetness, due to its strength, superbly balanced by the full hop character, culminating in a strong, aromatic finish.

Hops used: Goldings, Motueka, New Zealand Cascade

RINGWOOD OLD THUMPER 5.6% ABV

Ringwood Brewery, Hampshire. Est. 1978

This justifiably famous, classic English ale is copper in colour, with a predominantly fruity flavour and slight sweetness, leading to a full flavour and pleasing, dry finish.

Hops used: Challenger, Fuggles, Goldings, Progress

MARSTON'S OLD EMPIRE 5.7% ABV

Marston's Brewery, Staffordshire. Est. 1834

In this impressive re-creation of a traditional IPA, pale in colour, the light, spicy aroma leads to a juicy malt palate, balanced by its refreshing bitterness.

Hops used: Cascade, Fuggles, Goldings

THORNBRIDGE

JAIPUR INDIA PALE ALE 5.9% ABV

Thornbridge Brewery, Derbyshire. Est. 2005

The initial impression of this award-winning ale is soft and smooth, but this soon builds to a crescendo of massive hoppiness, with hints of honey, then finishes in a powerful, yet pleasant, enduring bitter finish.

Hops used: Ahtanum, Centennial, Chinook

GREENE KING ABBOT RESERVE 6.5% ABV

Greene King Brewery, Suffolk. Est. 1799

This distinctive, full-bodied, smooth, mature beer has a primarily sweet and malty character which bursts out with rich fruit cake and toffee flavours.

Hops used: Challenger, First Gold, Fuggles

EXMOOR BEAST 6.6% ABV

Exmoor Brewery, Somerset. Est. 1980

This dark, porter-style beer has an aroma in which espresso, currants, cocoa and rum can be detected, while the complex flavour has hints of fruit cake and chocolate, before a spicy hoppiness develops in the long aftertaste.

Hops used: Brewer's Gold, Challenger, Goldings