



Recommending a Belgian-Style Tripel

BY MICHAEL KUDERKA

When thinking about beer styles to recommend to your customers, the Belgian-style tripel may not be the first style of beer that comes to mind. Far from having the mainstream popularity of pilsners and pale ales, Belgian-style tripels are generally sweet and fruity, lightly spicy, and deceptively strong. An increasing number of American brewers are offering a version of them in their portfolios.

As Simple Trappist ale as the baseline, a Belgian-style "Tripel" represents a literal tripling of the amount of malt used to brew a Simple or Standard Trappist ale.

Belgian-style tripels range from deep yellow to dark gold in color, and derive much of their spicy, fruity, bubble gummy and alcohol character from the pale malts and Belgian candi sugars. Belgian-style tripels are often described as being complex, fruity, sweet, and spicy. They will also have a low to medium hop presence, good carbonation, a dry finish, and a well hidden alcohol content.

Belgian-style tripels can pair well with spicy foods and meats such as pork, beef or poultry. The fairly high alcohol content (ranging between 7.5 and 9.5%) make Belgian-Style Tripels great for sipping.

24 (US brewed and commercially available) Belgian-style Tripels:

1. Ale Asylum Tripel Nova - Ale Asylum - Madison, WI
2. Allagash Brewing Tripel (30 IBU) - Allagash Brewing - Portland, ME
3. Bete Blanche Belgian-Style Tripel (36 IBU) - Elysian - Seattle, WA
4. Long Strange Tripel (30 IBU) - Boulevard Brewing - Kansas City, MO
5. Defiant Brewing Belgium Tripel - Defiant Brewing - Pearl River, NY
6. Fish Tale Monkfish Belgian-style Triple Ale (32 IBU) - Olympia, WA
7. Fluffy White Rabbits - Pretty Things Beer & Ale Project - Holyoke, MA
8. Heavy Seas Brewing Yule Tide - Clipper City Brewing - Baltimore, MD
9. Midnight Sun Epluche-Culotte Tripel (20 IBU) - Anchorage, AK
10. Trippel (7.9 SRM, 25 IBU) - New Belgium - Fort Collins, CO
11. New Holland Black Tulip - New Holland Brewing - Holland, MI
12. Monk's Uncle (4 SRM, 38 IBU) - Pike Brewing - Seattle, WA
13. Pisgah Solstice - Pisgah Brewing - Black Mountain, NC
14. Devil's Backbone (36 IBU) - Real Ale Brewing - Blanco, TX
15. River Horse Tripel Horse - River Horse Brewing - Lambertville, NJ
16. Rock Art Brewery Golden Triple - Rock Art Brewery - Morrisville, VT
17. New World Tripel (10 SRM, 21 IBU) - Boston Beer Company - Boston, MA
18. Schlafly Tripel - Schlafly Beer - St. Louis, MO
19. Sly Fox Incubus (39 IBU) - Sly Fox Brewing - Phoenixville, PA
20. Stoudt's Abbey Triple (37 IBU) - Stoudt's Brewing - Adamstown, PA
21. Tripel Perfection - Brewery Ommegang - Cooperstown, NY
22. Unibroue Eau Benite Tripel - Unibroue - Canada, QC
23. Velvet Rooster (60 IBU) - Tallgrass Brewing - Manhattan, KS
24. Merry Monk's Ale (35 IBU) - Weyerbacher Brewing - Easton, PA

Featured Brand: Elysian Bête Blanche

Elysian Bête Blanche pours hazy pale gold and is extremely drinkable. Fermented with Belgian yeast, this Belgian-style Tripel, is sweet, fruity, and spicy, from the additions of Pale malt and Belgian candy sugar, and has hints of bitter German Northern Brewer and Styrian Goldings hops.



Available April-June ABV:
7.5% | IBU: 41 | SRM 12.3

Are You Thinking Out-of-the-Box?

How innovative is your store at selling beer? If you have promotions that go beyond refilling the cold box, we would like to hear from you and share your "out-of-the-box" thinking with our fellow Beer Trends readers.

E-mail me at mkuderka@mcbasset.com with your successful ideas for selling beer, along with your contact information. If we write about your program in our column we will send you a free copy of The 3rd Edition of *The Essential Reference of Domestic Brewers and Their Bottled Brands*.