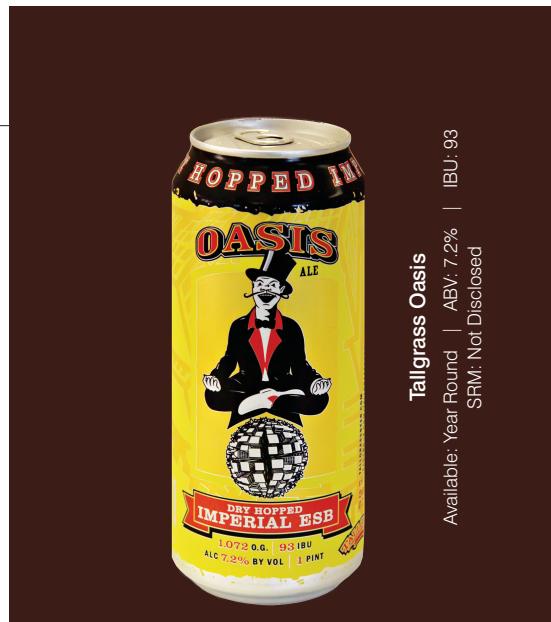


## BEERTRENDS



Tallgrass Oasis  
Available: YearRound | ABV: 7.2% | IBU: 93  
SRM: Not Disclosed

# Recommending an Extra Special Bitter

BY MICHAEL KUDERKA

Often overlooked – and from our point of view underappreciated – Extra Special Bitters (ESBs) are perhaps the perfect beer style for introducing a consumer to craft ales. Delivering a balanced profile, standard ESBs offer both a mild malt sweetness and a medium to strong hop bitterness which makes them very approachable.

The Great American Beer Fest Style Guidelines divide ESB's into two subcategories, English-Style Extra Special Bitters and American-Style Strong Bitters. The main point of differentiation between the two versions is the English-Styles' predominate use of English hops; the American-Style is not hop restrictive and tends to have a hoppier profile. Imperial ESBs, although not specifically categorized under ESBs, weigh in with more malt, more hops, and a higher alcohol by volume (ABV).

### What to expect from the style

Most often associated with Fuller's Brewery of the United Kingdom, and Redhook Brewery in the United States, Extra Special Bitters can range from amber to copper in color. This style is mildly carbonated, and ESBs are often described as being fruity, earthy, mildly sweet, balanced, dry and/or smooth.

ESBs pair well with spicy foods and meats such as beef and pork. Fairly low in alcohol content, this style (ranging between 3.8% and 4.6%) means that ESB's are very sessionable and are the perfect beer style for enjoying a few rounds with friends at the pub.

### 22 Great (US brewed and commercially available) ESBs and Imperial ESBs:

1. AlpHalpHa - Ithaca Beer Company - Ithaca, NY
2. Anderson Valley Boont ESB Ale (61 IBU)  
- Anderson Valley Brewing - Boonville, CA
3. Avery Brewing 14'er ESB (37 IBU) - Avery Brewing  
- Boulder, CO
4. Climax Extra Special Bitter Ale (32 IBU) - Climax Brewing  
- Roselle Park, NJ
5. Dick's Best Bitter - Dick's Brewing Company  
- Centralla, WA
6. Double DBA (13.5 SRM) - Firestone Walker Brewing  
- Paso Robles, CA

7. Full Sail Extra Special Barney (35 IBU) - Full Sail Brewing  
- Hood River, OR
8. Grand Teton Bitch Creek ESB (54 IBU)  
- Grand Teton Brewing - Victor, ID
9. Hale's O'Brien's Harvest Ale - Hale's Ales - Seattle, WA
10. Holy City Biscuits and Honey ESB - Holy City Brewing  
- North Charleston, SC
11. Hope Street Bitter - The People's Pint Brewery  
- Greenfield, MA
12. Organic ESB (12 SRM, 36 IBU) - Lakefront Brewery, Inc.  
- Milwaukee, WI
13. Left Hand Brewing Sawtooth Ale (27 IBU)  
- Left Hand Brewing - Longmont, CO
14. Magnumus ete Tomahawkus (80 IBU)  
- Rock Art Brewery - Morrisville, VT
15. Redhook ESB (13.2 SRM, 28 IBU)  
- Redhook Brewing - Woodinville, WA
16. Rogue Brutal Bitter (59 IBU) - Rogue Ales - Newport, OR
17. Saranac ESB - F.X. Matt Brewing - Utica, NY
18. Schlafly Winter ESB (45 IBU) - Schlafly Beer  
- St. Louis, MO
19. Shipyard Brewing Double Old Thumper Ale  
- Shipyard Brewing - Portland, ME
20. Sierra Nevada ESB (46 IBU) - Sierra Nevada Brewing  
- Chico, CA
21. Ska Brewing Special ESB (8 SRM, 58 IBU)  
- Ska Brewing Company - Durango, CO
22. Stoudt's Scarlet Lady Ale (32 IBU)  
- Stoudt's Brewing - Adamstown, PA

### Featured Brand: Tallgrass Oasis

An amber gold Double ESB, Oasis is big and balanced, with lots of sweet malt and a bitter, citrusy hop flavor.

**Correction for Beer Trends February column:** Boston Beer Company will be partnering with Massachusetts' Berkshire Mountain Distillers, the two will be producing two different whiskeys. Using Sam Adams Boston Lager and their limited-edition Cinder Bock, the wood aged spirits will be ready in about two years and should sell for about \$40 per bottle.