

Recommending a Saison

BY MICHAEL KUDERKA

Reminiscent of the growth trend of IPAs about five years ago, Saisons have become an increasingly popular offering from American Craft Brewers. Most often bright, effervescent and fruity, with a mild mouth feel, the complexity of this style is a nice step up for the lager drinker and offers enough flavor to attract the wine drinker as well.

Like many European beer styles, the Saison was brewed and allowed to barrel ferment for enjoyment in the late spring or early summer. So, although the French word “saison” translates to mean “season,” implying seasonal availability, this style can now be found year round from a growing number of brewers. Saison Dupont Vieille Provision is the most recognized brand associated with this style and is brewed by Brasserie Dupont of Belgium.

The Saison can range in color from hazy bright gold, to pale orange, to amber. The aroma tends to be floral and spicy. The flavor of Saison is often described as being fruity, citrusy and spicy, with hints of peppery yeast, a mild earthy hop presence, and a finish that is distinctively dry. Some Saisons can offer tart or sour flavors in the finish.

Saisons pair well with salad, poultry, seafood, sushi, and spicy entrées.

The average alcohol content of this style (ranging between 5 and 8%), and the style, is traditionally popular in the warmer summer months.

25 Great (US Brewed) Saisons:

1. **21st Amendment Sneak Attack Saison (38 IBU)** - San Francisco, CA
2. **Adelbert's Philosophizer - Adelbert's Brewery** - Austin, TX
3. **Autumnal - Stillwater Artisanal Ales** - Baltimore, MD

4. **Avery Brewing Karma Belgian Ale (17.5 IBU)** - Avery Brewing - Boulder, CO
5. **Boulevard Brewing Saison (30 IBU)** - Boulevard Brewing - Kansas City, MO
6. **Brooklyn Sorachi Ace - Brooklyn Brewery** - Brooklyn, NY
7. **Cigar City Guava Grove Saison** - Cigar City Brewing - Tampa, FL
8. **Das Wunderkind (38 IBU)** - Jester King Craft Brewery - Austin, TX
9. **Dogfish Head Saison du BUFF - Dogfish Head Craft Brewery** - Milton, DE
10. **Elysian Oddland Peppercorn Saison** - Elysian Brewing - Seattle, WA
11. **Farmhand - Brewery Vivant** - Grand Rapids, MI
12. **Firestone Walker OPAL (4 SRM, 35 IBU)** - Firestone Walker Brewing - Paso Robles, CA
13. **Flying Dog Garde Dog Biere De Garde (27 IBU)** - Flying Dog Brewery - Frederick, MD
14. **Heavy Seas Red Sky at Night Saison Ale (15 IBU)** - Clipper City - Baltimore, MD
15. **Jolly Pumpkin Biere de Mars - Jolly Pumpkin Artisan Ales** - Dexter, MI
16. **Karbach Barn Burner Saison (20 IBU)** - Karbach Brewing Company - Houston, TX
17. **New Belgium Prickly Passion Saison (19 IBU)** - Fort Collins, CO
18. **New Glarus Brewing Saison** - New Glarus Brewing - New Glarus, WI
19. **New Holland Farmhouse Hatter (54 IBU)** - New Holland Brewing - Holland, MI
20. **Ommegang Glimmerglass Saison** - Brewery Ommegang - Cooperstown, NY
21. **Perennial Ales Fresh Hop Red Saison - Perennial Artisan Ales** - St. Louis, MO
22. **Prairie Artisan Prairie Ale - Prairie Artisan Ales** - Krebs, OK
23. **Round Guys Kentucky Saison (35 IBU)** - Round Guys Brewing - Lansdale, PA
24. **Schlafly Saison (22 IBU)** - Schlafly Beer - St. Louis, MO



25. **The Lost Abbey Carnevale - The Lost Abbey** - San Marcos, CA

Featured Brand: The Lost Abbey Red Barn Ale

Red Barn is a sweet, malty beer with a slightly acidic finish with hints of spice, most notably ginger, orange peel, black pepper and Grains of Paradise. Red Barn Ale pairs well with spicy foods, such as Thai cuisine.

Available Year Round. ABV: 6.7% | IBU: N/A | SRM 9

Distributed in 750 ml cork finished bottles as well as 1/6 and

1/2 bbl kegs.

Thinking Out-of-the-Box?

How innovative is your store at selling beer? We would like to know. 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.

Michael Kuderka is the Managing Partner at MC Basset, LLC. The company designs beer selling solutions and training for On and Off Premise retailers. Contact Michael at mkuderka@mcbasset.com.

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