



Importers of the finest Belgian Beers.

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the largest on Belgian Beer!

NEWSLETTER

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Wittekerke

A true Belgian Wit (white) beer must be made with at least 25 % unmalted wheat in combination with barley malt. Wittekerke is the last Belgian Wit that also uses a small amount of oats. Belgian Wit beers are naturally cloudy since they are unfiltered. Wittekerke is the fruitiest (slight hints of lemon) of the Belgian Wits, very refreshing and pleasant to drink, and was voted 2 years in a row the best Belgian Wit by Belgian consumers (Test Aankoop). It charms you with its own character, smooth taste and unique delicious aroma. You'll enjoy a very pleasant drink, light in alcohol with a crisp and refreshing flavor.

The fruity flavor of Wittekerke, with its subtle but non-dominant hops character, makes it a very thankful beer to cook with. Especially fresh starters, sauces and sorbets are very much improved and enriched by the use of Wittekerke. And there is simply no better beer to steam mussels or fish with.

For more recipes, visit www.globalbeer.com

Wittekerke Mango Sorbet.

Makes 8 servings:
16 oz. cold fresh Mango puree
1 tsp of Honey
1/2 cup Wittekerke

Place all ingredients in an ice cream maker according to manufacturer's directions.
Or freeze in a metal pan until ice crystals form, then stir with a fork to break up the crystals, and continue freezing and breaking up the crystals until mixture is nearly solid.



Serve between appetizer and main course during your fancy dinner.



INTERBREW: the destruction of the Belgian Beer Culture, part II.

In a recent Newsletter we reported about a street manifestation in Belgium against Interbrew, organized by the Belgian Camra chapter (the Objectieve Bier Proevers - OBP). The reason is that Interbrew takes over independent Belgian breweries and independent malteries to close them. The result is that a lot of Belgian beer brands, yeasts and brewing-traditions disappear, and that independent family brewers loose access to specialty malts.

The European Community changed laws last year to make it more difficult for mega-brewers like Interbrew to own and control the beer-line-up in bars and restaurants. Interbrew controlled the beer-line-up of about 60 percent of all bars and restaurants in Belgium, and was able to effectively close out all non-Interbrew brands at these places.

As a reaction to enforce their market dominance Interbrew started to buy as many beer distributors as possible. The immediate result is that all independent brewers loose their distribution channels, since they are kicked out by the distributor, now fully owned by Interbrew. The second largest brewery-group, Alken-Maes, owned by Scottish-Newcastle, had to react quickly and is now buying other distributors.

The creative independent family brewers loose distribution channels, and will have to find alternative distribution channels or self distribute in Belgium. You understand that this is not easy, and that the immediate result is that a lot more pubs and restaurants will offer less of the finest Belgian beers.

Interbrew is the brewer of Labatt, Sol, Stella Artois, Hoegaarden, Leffe.



Fun & Beer Tours in Belgium.

The report of the fall 2002 tour is now available on our web site, with plenty of pictures. Join the leaders in Belgian beer tours on a tour in 2003.

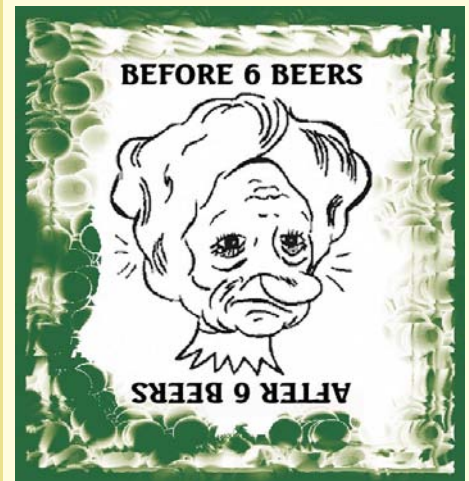
Check out the plans for 2003: www.globalbeer.com

Alcohol reduces the risk of the common cold.

A study published in the American Journal of Public Health examined whether the drinking of alcohol combined with smoking reduced resistance to viral infections. 391 men and women were exposed to one of five possible viruses responsible for infections of the respiratory tract; 26 other persons were given only a saline solution not containing a virus.

The study revealed that smokers run a greater risk of catching a cold, because they are more easily infected and succumb more rapidly. Consumption of alcohol (3 to 4 glasses per day) gave a lower risk of catching a cold. However, this was found to be the case for non-smokers only, with smokers losing that advantage.

(based on a story published at www.beerandhealth.com)



Election of a Student body, the Belgian way.

Every year in the spring, at the Catholic University of Leuven, the largest university of Belgium, several groups of students engage in the political process. They each create a list with their names on it, and a corresponding function in the student body. A catchy name is chosen for their list, and a mission statement with "platform" is defined. For about 2 months a fierce "political" battle reigns in the city. Each group tries to convince and win the support of as much students as possible. The list that wins the most votes on "election day" takes all the functions in the presidium. So, the stakes are high.

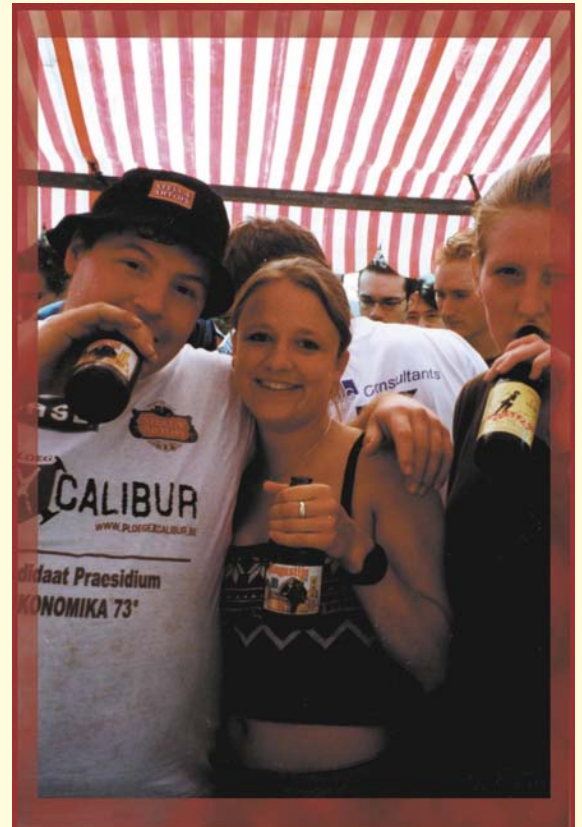


Each group organizes big parties and rallies. The group that manages to organize the largest rally, the hippest party with the most freebies usually wins. Plenty of free beer is THE deciding factor.

Our niece, Tine Fincioen, senior in Economic studies, successfully lobbied our Belgian brewers to give her plenty of free beer.

No wonder she won with her 'Economics-party' in May 2002. With free Wittekerke, Augustijn Abbey Ale, Scotch de Silly Ale, and Joseph Spelt Ale, you understand that her team was unbeatable. As a result she'll sit on the student board to negotiate with the University Management about all things that affect students, during the 2002-2003 school year.

As you know, 'binge-drinking' doesn't exist in Belgium, it's an American creation.



Happy Holidays
Johnny & Clau-

