

DRAFT

THE BEER ENTHUSIAST'S

DRAFT

LIFE ON TAP

MAN v. BEER

ADAM
RICHMAN

SUMMER ISSUE

107 SUMMER
BREWS

BEST CHERRY BEERS

JULY/AUGUST 2010

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Road Trip with

THE BARREL GUY

BEERTOWN FORT COLLINS

BEERS FOR SUMMER

AMERICAN WHEAT • PREMIUM AMERICAN LAGER • IMPERIAL IPA
AMERICAN STOUT • DRY MEAD

KEY

95-100 - DRAFT Classic
90-94 - Exceptional Recommendation
85-89 - High Recommendation
80-84 - Good Recommendation
75-79 - Moderate Recommendation
0-74 - No recommendation

ABV: (Alcohol by Volume) Amount of pure alcohol in a beer, measured as a percentage of the total volume.

IBU: (International Bittering Unit) The accepted standard for measuring and expressing the actual bitterness of a beer due to the use of hops. The apparent bitterness of a beer is subjective to the tastes of the drinker and the other ingredients used. The least bitter beers have IBU ratings of less than 5 while the bitterest have ratings of more than 100.

AMERICAN WHEAT

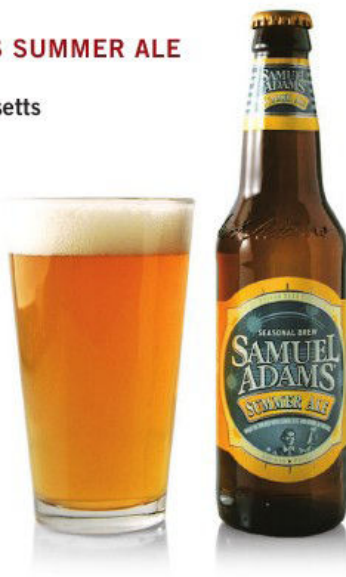
Describing the “typical” American wheat beer is no small task because this style has such massive variations in flavor, appearance, aroma and mouthfeel. On one end of the spectrum lie very light and brilliantly clear brews with little aroma; on the flipside sit cloudy brews in a multitude of colors, with huge aromas showcasing bright hops, yeast and grain qualities. The style’s unifying parameter is the substitution of wheat or rye for a portion of the grain bill (though, unlike German versions, there’s no rule dictating the proportion must be at least 50 percent). The wheat or rye flavor may be low to moderately strong, but the beers should never take on weizenlike characteristics. **Pair:** Wheat beers’ zesty, lemony notes pair perfectly with light summer fare. Try one with a beet- or berry-topped salad to bring out those bright, tart notes; sip another with buttered corn on the cob and shrimp kebabs to draw out their sweetness.

SAMUEL ADAMS SUMMER ALE

Boston Beer Co.
Boston, Massachusetts
samadams.com

American Wheat
ABV: 5.3%
IBU: 8

RATING
89



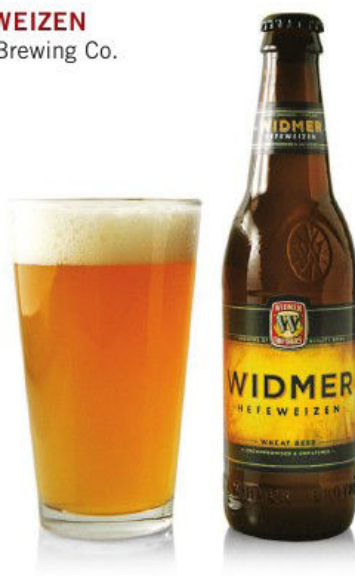
A bready, lemon-nipped aroma drifts up from the tight bubbles of this slightly hazy, deep golden brew. Brewed with lemon zest and grains of paradise, this summer seasonal begins with full-flavored grainy wheat that explodes on the tongue with biting lemon notes. As the pithy citrus and touch of pepper take over the palate, they combine with a dash of bitterness that immediately dries out the sides of the tongue. As Summer Ale finishes, lemon and a hint of grains of paradise—imagine white pepper mixed with evergreen—linger crisply on the tongue.

WIDMER HEFEWEIZEN

Widmer Brothers Brewing Co.
Portland, Oregon
widmer.com

American Wheat
ABV: 4.9%
IBU: 30

RATING
89



This cloudy yellow brew’s thin white head unleashes an enticing juicy orange aroma with a touch of peppery spice. Mirroring the aroma, a juicy orange flavor fills the mouth as a subsequent wheat flavor spreads out across the tongue. As the brew moves back, orange peel bitterness arrives with a touch of alcohol warmth that clings to the throat. While bitterness is evident, this brew’s still refreshing and soft on the tongue, finishing with a bitter nip in the back while a smudge of orange sweetness remains on the tip of the tongue.

PREMIUM AMERICAN LAGER

A close sibling of standard American lagers, the premium version contains less corn and rice adjuncts and typically a bit more alcohol. These lagers should be pale yellow to gold and very clear, emit low malt and hop notes in the aroma, and feature a crisp, carbonated, medium-light body. Although this style contains nearly half the adjuncts of other American lagers, malt hints and sweetness should still be restrained to maintain balance in the taste.

Pair: There's no better way to wash down traditional barbecue—be it brisket, chicken or ribs—than with an American lager. These beers' crisp finishes wash down sticky-sweet or fire-hot sauce, and their low alcohol levels ensure you can drink more than one.

NARRAGANSETT LAGER

Narragansett Brewing
Providence, Rhode Island
narragansettbeer.com

Premium American Lager
ABV: 5.0%
IBU: 12

RATING
93



Hover over this flawlessly clear, bright-gold brew and inhale: A sweet grainy aroma with the slightest perfumy hop whiff rises from the dense, fluffy white head. On the front of the tongue, sweet grains dance fleetingly as hop bitterness rises mid-sip to jumpstart this brew's crisp finish. Despite the bubbly carbonation, sweet malts maintain a soft, almost creamy texture on the tongue that lingers into the finish. While a grainy tang hangs on post-swallow, this brew excels with a refreshing, clean mouthfeel that's both quenching and inviting of another sip.

SINGHA

Boon Rawd Brewery Co.
Bangkok, Thailand
boonrawd.co.th

Premium American Lager
ABV: 5.0%
IBU: UNKNOWN

RATING
93



Crisp, clear and light on the eyes, this pale straw brew bubbles up from the glass with a delicate sweet bread aroma; just the faintest whiff of floral hops invigorates the bouquet. Subdued, soft and still sweet, those same bready malts deepen a playful grainy bite on the front of the tongue, hydrating the taste buds as they flow to the back. Distant earthy hops anchor the gentle malt flavors while a light bitterness and bubbly carbonation pull across the tongue to cleanse the mouth. Understated, compact and refreshing, Singha is a quaffable treat.

BIRRA MORETTI

Birra Moretti
Udine, Italy
birramoretti.com

Premium American Lager
ABV: 4.6%
IBU: UNKNOWN

RATING
93



This straightforward pale straw brew fills the nose with a bready malt aroma—simple, subtle and right on style. Slightly sweet bready flavors lull across the tongue, followed by a shot of piercing grains that race to the back of the mouth. Refreshingly wet, Birra Moretti is just what the style suggests: thirst quenching and deliciously modest. As the beer washes back, a gentle hop bitterness flexes ever so slightly to dry out the subtle sweetness. Balanced and light, this brew finishes clean with a quiet bitter twang at the end.