



Westside Liquor Beer Newsletter

August 2013

Backyard Beer Panel

Tonto says "Do not go into woods, mosquito big as bird. Go to backyard, find happiness, beer and many squaws there. Ok not so many squaws but there is beer and happiness".

We chose to do a late morning boozeaplazooa because afternoons are too short in the summer. It worked it was a long afternoon and it was beer filled and fun (again)..

New Belgium 1554 Enlightened Black Ale



Brewed by: New Belgium Brewing Company

Fort Collins, Colorado USA

Beer Style: Traditional Ale

Best served in a Dimpled Mug, English Pint, Stein,
Yard (sounds like fun)

ABV: 5.6%

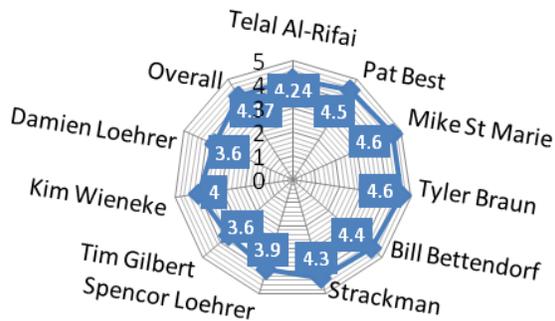
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COMMERCIAL DESCRIPTION

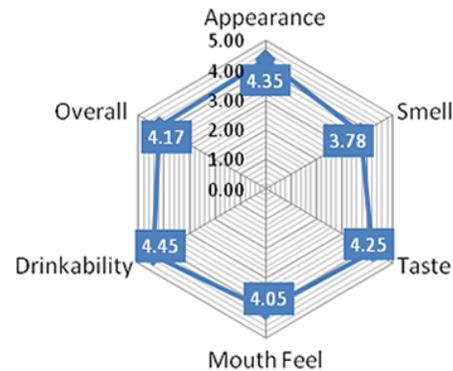
Born of a flood and centuries-old Belgian text, 1554 Enlightened Black Ale uses a light lager yeast strain and dark chocolate malts to redefine what dark beer can be. In 1997, a Fort Collins flood destroyed the original recipe our researcher, Phil Benstein, found in the library. So Phil and brewmaster, Peter Bouckaert, traveled to Belgium to retrieve this unique style lost to the ages. Their first challenge was deciphering antiquated script and outdated units of measurement, but trial and error (and many months of in-house sampling) culminated in 1554, a highly quaffable dark beer with a moderate body and mouthfeel.

	Telal Al-Rifai	Pat Best	Mike St Marie	Tyler Braun	Bill Bettendorf	Strackman	Spencor Loehrer	Tim Gilbert	Kim Wieneke	Damien Loehrer	Overall	
Appearance	4	4.5	4.5	5	5	4	4	4	5	3.5	4.4	I am recommending this beer to all my friends. -Strackman (it must be good because Dan does not do that)
Smell	4	4.5	4.8	4	4	4	3	4	3	2.5	3.8	Deep dark chocolate brew with a graduated creamy head that you want to stare at and not interrupt until it is done messing around on top of the beer. -Pat Dark brown almost maple syrup in color with a tan head that looks splendid, laces nicely to the glass. -Damian Very dark with more clarity than most black beers. Has a medium head that lasts about a minute. -Telal
Taste	4.2	5	4.3	5	4	4.5	4	3.5	4	4	4.2	Smells like good beer. -Mike Slight! Very light on toffee and caramel. -Strackman Not as chocolately as I expected but, pleasantly surprised with a big coffee flavor. -Kim
Mouth Feel	4.5	4	4.5	4	4	4.5	4	3	4	4	4.1	A nice creamy taste, very pleasant on the tongue, doesn't linger long but enough to be there to make you want more. A mild taste for such a dark beer. -Bill Chocolate and sweet with a slightly bitter start.-Tyler Roasted coffe with a little hint of smokiness (could be the lamb chops being grilled right behind me) chops were devine. -Damian
Drinkability	4.5	4.5	5	5	5	4.5	4.5	3.5	4	4	4.5	Slightly carbonated, not real strong. Reminds me of drinking a Coca Cola. -Kim A crisp yet little carbonated beer which rolls smoothly across the palate. A light beer which feels and looks as though it should be a thicker beer. -Tim
Overall	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.3	3.9	3.6	4.0	3.6	4.2	Sit down with a couple 1554's and a bowl of cherries and you have a sweet summer treat. -Mike For us darkside people, this is my new summer light dark beer.-Pat A drinkable beer which has the taste of chocolate and coffee. I prefer a much more hoppier beer but this is a nice change. -Tim Very easy to put these down any time of the year. Just enough sweetness for the winter and definately crisp enough for the summer.-Spencor

Our Beer Radar Range



Beer Attributes



New Belgium was the last beer paring for the season and they put on a good show. Everyone in the company is a part owner which makes things more personal. This recipe come from the year 1554 and dug up in some old library in Belgium and back then they measured things differently so it had to be translated from ancient Belgineese to get it right. All I know is this is real good and for those who were digging in those old musty books please keep it up.

New Belgium's Company Core Values and Beliefs

1. Remembering that we are incredibly lucky to create something fine that enhances people's lives while surpassing our consumers' expectations.
2. Producing world-class beers.
3. Promoting beer culture and the responsible enjoyment of beer.
4. Kindling social, environmental and cultural change as a business role model.
5. Environmental stewardship: Honoring nature at every turn of the business.
6. Cultivating potential through learning, high involvement culture, and the pursuit of opportunities.
7. Balancing the myriad needs of the company, our coworkers and their families.
8. Trusting each other and committing to authentic relationships and communications.
9. Continuous, innovative quality and efficiency improvements.
10. Having fun.

The reason I put this in the review it is great to see a small timer hit it big and it all started with some crazy guy riding around Belgium on his fat tire bike (mountain bike) and a dream of making beer some day. He is a real person just like you and me. They care about the environment , they care about each other and most of all they care about making beer. All this caring is kind of making me a little sappy.

When I first tried this at Westside Liquors Learning center, it was over shadowed by the success of Fat tire. It was surprisingly smooth with minimal bitterness and

very easy to drink. Telal had prepared some lamb chops glazed with maple syrup to pair with these. We kept picking up maple tones during the review not sure it was from the beer or the grill. (nicely done my friend). Another simple paring we found was to gobble up some sweet cherries and wash them down with this brew tasted like a cordial cherry (delicious). The team today was Mike St Marie, Telal Al-Rifai, Kim Wieneke, Tim Gilbert, Dan "Strackman" Strack, Damien Loehrer, Spencor Loehrer, Bill Bettendorf, Tyler Braun.

How about a quote:

"In wine there is wisdom, in beer there is Freedom, in water there is bacteria."
- Benjamin Franklin

"Alcohol may be man's worst enemy, but the bible says love your enemy."
- Frank Sinatra

"Oh, you hate your job? Why didn't you say so?
There's a support group for that. It's called EVERYBODY, and they meet at the bar."
- Drew Carey

"The problem with the designated driver program, it's not a desirable job, but if you ever get sucked into doing it, have fun with it. At the end of the night, drop them off at the wrong house."
- Jeff Foxworthy

I would like to celebrate this months shout out to a new Brewhouse back in my college town of Big Rapids Mi. Crankers Brewery, Mother and I had a wonderful and beer filled lunch. Very fond of your coconut porter brought some home to share with friends (they were equally as fond). Please donate to your local brewers, brew pubs and breweries. They are popping up everywhere and need your support because they make beer.



Must go now , Time for beer.

Thank you,
Pat Best