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10 Signs You Know Too Much About Belgian Beer

By *andrew* - January 16, 2015

This entry is part 14 of 15 in the series **Belgium in a Glass.**

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Is it possible to know *too much* about Belgian beer? Find out if you're a Belgian beer snob with our **10 signs you know too much about Belgian beer.**

When I started this series about Bel-



We are Canadians, Alison & Andrew, and we are slow travelling around Europe – with our cats. We believe every destination has a story to tell and that the journey truly is the destination. We travel slow – because everywhere is somewhere. **read more...**

Do you know too much about Belgian beer? I know more about Belgian beer, I did it for two reasons: to learn more about beer myself and to make Belgian beer more approachable for others.

However, there comes a point when perhaps you've had a bit too much 'education'. I fear the day when I tip the scales and become a total beer snob. I'm close. I can already tell. So I've invented a simple test.

Answer the following questions and score one point for each time you can answer positively to find out how much you know about Belgian Beer.

—

1. You know the difference between lambic and gueuse (and you wax poetic about them).

Off to a great start. I've been known to provide recommendations on what to pair with certain lambics. (+1)

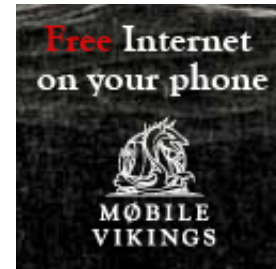
2. You have the official glass for each Belgian beer you've purchased.

*Well, I had a **lot***. I didn't have every one, but I had about 50 different glasses. (I'll award myself +0.5.)*

*sold most as part of our downsizing

3. You know all 6 Belgian Trappist breweries (if you know the other four outside Belgium, add another point).

*West Vleteren. Orval. Chimay. Rochefort. Westmalle. Achel.
Bonus: La Trappe (NL), Engelszell (A), Spencer (US), Zundert (NL).*



**ahem* Definitely got the extra point. (+2)*



Do you know your Belgian Trappist Beer

4. You know the names of all the beer made by the Belgian Trappist breweries.

That would just be showing off. But feed me a few beer and I might relent. (+0.5)

5. Few have ever heard of your favourite Belgian brewery.

De Dochter van de Korenaar. Heard of it? You have now and you should seek it out. (+1)

6. The name of your favourite Belgian beer is unpronounceable.

I fail at this one. My favourite is **Embrasse** (especially the oak aged version) by the brewery named above. However there are some beer with names which are only pronounceable having imbibed a few first.



Not so hard to pronounce – Embrasse

7. Seasons of the year are based on what style of Belgian beer is available.

Guilty. I look forward to both the summer 'saison' style and the winter spiced beer. Simply because they offer something a bit

different and they are harder to get outside of their season. (+1)

8. The dates of upcoming Belgian beer festivals are already marked on your calendar.

Less of an issue for me as I have attended very few beer festivals. After attending the Brussels festival a couple of times I'm a little put off this format of mass tasting. I'm willing to be convinced otherwise...

9. You know which Belgian beer pairs best with frites.

My pick is Zinnebir by Brasserie de la Senne. It works well against the grease of the frites and the slight bitter finish cleanses the palette for the next bite. Ummm... well I guess that's another (+1).



What beer do you serve with Belgian frites?

10. You have several books about Belgian beer on your bookshelf but you never refer to them anymore.

**whew* I still refer to mine on a frequent basis (especially the*

Good Beer Guide to Belgium and All Belgian Beers

Bonus Question: Who was Michael Jackson?

Ooooooh! I know! But I'll keep quiet to see if anyone else will jump in.

If you've scored:

- Less than 5 points, then you have some work to do.
- Between 5 and 9 points and you are doing well but you need to step up your game.
- Greater than 9 points? We are not worthy! You are a Belgian beer aficionado!



What's your Belgian beer score?

In the end, I seem to have scored an 8. I'm happy with that, but I think I could do better. Only one more point and I could be up there with some of the greats!

How did you score? Share your total in the comments below,

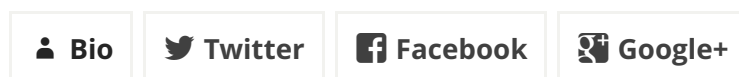
your answer to the bonus question, and any insight you have gained into Belgian beer. Find out more about Belgium's favourite beverage on our [Guide to Belgian Beer and Breweries in Belgium page](#).

Cheers!

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Andrew

Andrew is our resident tech-geek and is normally found lurking behind the scenes on CheeseWeb.eu doing things with code that Alison finds mysterious. He comes out of hiding occasionally to write about history and technology. He is also part of the duo that produces Tech Brew, a podcast about beer and technology in Belgium. He loves castles, driving on narrow, twisty mountain roads and relaxing with a glass of peaty Scotch. Follow Andrew on Google+

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Sabine @ The Travelling Chilli

January 17, 2015 at 17:15

Good list of signs referring to your knowledge of Belgian beer. Let's say there is so much to know about Belgian beer (and of course so much tasting to do), it can keep you busy for ages 😊
Let me start counting my score....:)



Andrew

January 19, 2015 at 18:56

Thanks for visiting and commenting Sabine! There is a lot to learn but I think it's a fun type of education. 😊 Good luck! Would love to know how you managed in the tally!

Brett Domue

January 19, 2015 at 12:02

I have to admit, I don't have a single Belgian Beer Book! And while I do have a few Belgian beer glasses, I'm not even close to one for every Belgian brewery I've had a beer from (I do at least try to keep one of each proper style of glass available.)

With the bonus points, especially the Trappist ones, I definitely feel like I hit an acceptable score... I actually have at least 1 bottle (or cap in the case of Westvleteren) from all of the "primary" Trappist beers, having just scored bottles of Spencer and Nivard. A few one-offs or secondarys still to find...

Thanks for the series, was fun to follow! Should be at a few of the Belgian beer festivals this year...they're actually pretty fun when you have some fellow beer lovers with you.



Andrew

January 19, 2015 at 18:59

Sounds like you're doing pretty well on your list, Brett! The glasses are a tricky one for anyone who tends to move. But you're right, having at least the proper style on hand is a good start. Thanks for visiting and sharing, Brett!

Someone

January 24, 2015 at 06:28

Michael Jackson ???! He's a famous programmer who invented the "Jackson Method" flow charts.

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