

THE BEER DEMYSTIFIER *NEW YORK CITY FILES* 2009-2010

BREWERY PROFILE

Anker Mechelen, Belgium

Het Anker (in English: The Anchor) is possibly the oldest working brewery in Belgium, earliest records show brewing there in the 14th century. Although rebuilding and modernization has obviously taken place, some parts of the brewery are from the 15th century, and a former hospital and nunnery has been incorporated onto the present brewing site. Owner Charles Leclef brewed 9,300 hectolitres in 2006, up from 1,700 ten years prior. There is a recently-built hotel on the brewery site for visitors' ease of stay. The Gouden Carolus name means 'Golden Charles'; referring to Holy Roman Emperor Charles V who was born in Ghent, Belgium, over 500 years ago.

Importer: [Wetten Importers Inc.](#)

Distributor: S.K.I. Beer Distributors, tel. 1 718 821 7200.



Ratings

Each beer has been given a rating from one to five which should be interpreted as follows.

- * Bland, one-dimensional, or tasting of cheap adjuncts – unenjoyable. Not recommended.
- ** Nothing special but may be worth trying if nothing better is available.
- *** Good, recommended.
- **** Great, highly recommended.
- ***** Exceptionally good, very highly recommended.

Ratings are based on personal taste although, in certain instances, outside evaluations have been used when a particular beer has not been sampled by the author/webmaster.

{S} after the beer name denotes seasonal availability.

Gouden Carolus Ambrio (8.0%) ***** < - BELGIAN GOLDEN STRONG ALE - > – Brewed to a heavier, hoppier version of the historic Mechelschen Bruynen (Mechelen Brown) style formerly common to the area. Mid-amber, creamy and fruity with some balancing hops.

Gouden Carolus Classic (8.0%) ***** < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – Rich copper colored, vinous beer with hints of molasses which contrast well with some herbal and clove flavors.

Gouden Carolus Triple (9.0%) ***** < - BELGIAN TRIPEL - > – A mildly spicy, golden, award-winning ale. Full-bodied and a little estery. Hopped with the Challenger, Goldings, Saaz, and Magnum varieties, Belgian-grown.

Gouden Carolus Noël (aka Christmas) {S} (10.5%) ***** < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – Dark ruby festive ale with plenty of different herbs and spices, including licorice and anise, to make this complex and warming brew a delight to be sipping.

Gouden Carolus Cuveé van der Kaiser – ‘Red Stripe’ {S} (10.0%) ***** < - BELGIAN GOLDEN STRONG ALE - > – A blonde version of the original Kaiser was introduced in 2008, significantly spicy and herbal with hops and caramel in the enticing aroma.

Gouden Carolus Cuveé van der Kaiser – ‘Blue Stripe’ (aka Carolus d’Or) {S} (11.0%) ***** < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – Bold deep red beer with a complex mouthfeel including raisins, berries, and dates. Brewed annually on and around February 24th, the birthday of Charles V.

SEE BEER MENUS FOR AVAILABILITY (EXTERNAL LINK)

<http://www.beermenus.com/breweries/brouwerij-het-anker>

**CLICK BELOW TO SEE
PHOTOS OF THIS BREWERY**
(EXTERNAL LINK) © CHUCK COOK

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/belgianbeerspecialist/sets/72157604183984775/>



Ratings and tasting notes are taken from Beer Demystifier New York City 2008-2009 by Alex Hall (published June 2008).

This page is written by Alex Hall, and is updated to June 2008.

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