

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

BREWERY PROFILE

Dogfish Head Craft Brewery

Type: Domestic Craft Brewery

6 Cannery Village Center, Milton, DE 19968.

Tel. 1 302 684 1000.

Available in cask? – Not locally.

Available in keg? – Yes.

Available in bottle or can? – Yes.

Distributor: Oak Beverages, tel. 1 718 652 8555.

Who's who: President & Brewmaster – Sam Calagione.

Notes: An immensely successful and innovative microbrewery, enjoying a cult following and impressive market growth. "Off-centered ales, for off-centered people". Dogfish Head also distill their own spirits. Dogfish head invented the 'Randall', an organoleptic hops transducer – basically a converted water filter filled with fresh hops inside which beer flows on its way from the keg to the tap. Manhattan's Blind Tiger Ale House has one, which is used for special occasions.

Distance to the brewery from New York City: 201 miles.



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.

Festina Peche {S} (4.5%) *** < - BERLINER WEISSE (SOUR) - > – A refreshing Berliner Weisse fermented with peaches. Slightly sour, which complements the peach fruitiness. Released in June.

Shelter Pale Ale (5.0%) *** < - AMERICAN PALE ALE - > – This beer has a fine malt backbone and a slightly nutty flavor. A session beer, mildly hopped with whole-leaf Glacier and Warrior.

Chicory Stout {S} (5.2%) **** < - AMERICAN STOUT - > – A dark, creamy, roasty, dry stout made with a touch of roasted chicory, organic Mexican coffee, St. John's Wort, and licorice root. Brewed with whole-leaf Cascade and Fuggles hops, the grains include pale, roasted & oatmeal. December release.

60 Minute IPA (6.0%) **** < - AMERICAN IPA - > – A session American India Pale Ale brewed with Warrior, Amarillo & "Mystery Hop X." This is powerful East Coast I.P.A. with a lot of citrusy hop character, together with notes of cedar, pine, and candied orange.

Aprihop {S} (7.0%) **** < - FRUIT BEER - > – Fruity IPA brewed with real apricots, finished with whole-leaf hops. A very thirst quenching seasonal brew, released in March.

Punkin' Ale {S} (7.0%) **** < - PUMPKIN BEER - > – A full-bodied, malty, brown pumpkin ale with smooth hints of pumpkin, spices, caramel, and brown sugar. Released in September.

Snowblower Ale {S} (7.0%) *** < - BELGIAN GOLDEN STRONG ALE - > – Beer with an elegant malt balance and a distinct hop character and a subtle spiciness from a traditional Belgian yeast.

Indian Brown Ale (7.2%) * * * * < - AMERICAN STRONG ALE - > – A cross between a Scotch ale, an IPA, and an American brown, this beer is well-hopped and malty at the same time. It is brewed with Aromatic barley and caramelized brown sugar, and has hints of molasses, coffee, ginger, vine fruit, and chocolate.

Raison D'Et're (8.0%) * * * * < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – A deep mahogany, complex, malty Belgian strong dark ale brewed with beet sugar, green raisins, and Belgian-style yeast. Notes of pit fruit, raisins.

Midas Touch Golden Elixir (9.0%) * * * * < - HERB, SPICE, OR VEGETABLE BEER - > – Unusual mead-like golden beer brewed with barley, honey, saffron, and white Muscat grapes. This recipe is the actual oldest-known fermented beverage in the world using ingredients found in the drinking vessels in King Midas' tomb!

90 Minute IPA (9.0%) * * * * * < - AMERICAN IPA - > – An American Double IPA best savored from a snifter. A big beer with a great malt backbone that stands up to the extreme hopping rate. Brandied fruitcake, raisins, citrusy hops tease the palate. Ideal to be served via Dogfish's "Randall the Enamel Animal" device.

- **Occasional and commemorative beers:**

Verdi Verdi Good (5.5%) * * * < - DORTMUNDER EXPORT LAGER - > – Dortmund Export lager, colored green by spirulina. On hiatus.

Festina Lente (7.0%) * * * < - FRUIT LAMBIC (SOUR) - > – Sour peach lambic, currently on hiatus.

Pangaea (7.0%) * * * * < - BELGIAN GOLDEN STRONG ALE - > – Belgian-style ale brewed with ingredients from every continent including crystallized ginger from Australia, water from Antarctica, Moscavado sugar from Africa, and Basmati rice from Asia. This is slightly spicy ale, with a notable complexity.

Liquor de Malt (7.0%) * * * < - PREMIUM LAGER - > – A rare craft-brewed adjunct (corn) malt liquor with a dose of humor, complete with a brown bag stamped with the brewery's logo! Currently on hiatus.

Chateau Jiahu (8.0%) * * * * < - HERB, SPICE, OR VEGETABLE BEER - > – Examination of 9,000 year old pottery jars found in the Neolithic village of Jiahu, China, revealed that a mixed fermented beverage of rice, honey and fruit was being produced that long ago. In keeping with historic evidence, Dogfish brewers used pre-gelatinized rice flakes, wildflower honey, Muscat grapes, barley malt, hawthorn fruit, and Chrysanthemum flowers to recreate the ancient brew. Primary fermentation is for one month with a fresh culture of Sake yeast. A truly unique brew, tangy, vinous, and a little sweet.

Golden Era (aka Golden Shower) (9.0%) * * * * < - AMERICAN IMPERIAL PILSNER - > – very strong, clean, golden lager brewed with 100% pilsner malt, and dry-hopped in the conditioning tank for eight weeks.

Black and Blue (10.0%) * * * < - FRUIT BEER - > – Reddish brown fruit beer with balancing berry and malt notes.

Burton Baton (10.0%) * * * * (blend) – A blend of oak-aged English strong ale and 90 Minute IPA. Citrus notes from North Western hops meld with vanilla notes from the oak.

Red and White (10.0%) * * * * < - SPECIALTY BEER - > – A big, Belgian-style Wit brewed with coriander and orange peel and fermented with Pinot Noir juice. After fermentation a fraction of the batch is aged in Oregon Pinot Noir barrels, and another fraction is aged on oak staves. The beer is blended together before packaging. It successfully marries the refreshing citrusy qualities of a Belgian-style white beer with the robust complexity of a bold red wine.

Theobroma (10.0%) * * * * < - SPECIALTY BEER - > – A unique, cloudy, golden ale brewed with Aztec cocoa powder, cocoa nibs, honey, chillies, and annatto. It is a recreation of an Aztec beverage dating from about 1200BC.

Immort Ale (11.0%) * * * * < - AMERICAN STRONG ALE - > – Deep amber beer, big in character, luscious and complex. Brewed with peat-smoked barley and organic juniper berries, vanilla & maple syrup, fermented with a blend of English and Belgian yeasts. It is then aged on oak.

Paolo Santo Marron (11.0%) * * * * * < - AMERICAN BROWN ALE - > – Very strong brown ale with vanilla, oak, and brown sugar notes.

Olde School Barleywine (15.1%) * * * * < - AMERICAN BARLEYWINE - > – Bold, yet smooth American Barleywine fermented with dates and figs. This skull splitting beer is fairly sweet and predictably has some alcohol heat.

Fort (18.0%) * * * * < - FRUIT BEER - > – The world's strongest fruit beer with over a ton of pureed Oregon and Delaware raspberries that were dosed in, slowly, over a two month primary fermentation. This process produced lots of complex fruit aromas and flavors without being too sweet. Warrior hops.

Raison D'Extra (18.0%) * * * * < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – A bigger, bolder version of Raison D'Et're. Deliciously vinous.

World Wide Stout (18.0%) * * * * * < - AMERICAN DOUBLE STOUT - > – The world’s strongest dark beer. Goodnight Vienna...

120 Minute IPA (21.0%) * * * * < - IMPERIAL / DOUBLE IPA - > – Hefty American Double IPA brewed to a colossal 45-degrees plato, boiled for a full two hours while being continuously hopped with high-alpha acid American hops, then dry-hopped daily in the fermenter for a month and aged for another month on whole-leaf hops! Resiny, piney, flowery, with some sweetness – and of course crazy hoppy.

SEE BEER MENUS FOR AVAILABILITY (EXTERNAL LINK)

<http://www.beermenus.com/breweries/dogfish-head-brewery>



Sam Calagione of Dogfish Head

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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