

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

BREWERY PROFILE

Lees (J.W.) Manchester, U.K. (England)

A stalwart, family-owned regional brewery founded in 1828. Lees is one of the very few British breweries regularly aging beer in wooden pins.

Importer: [B.United International](#)

Distributor: Union Beer Distributors, tel. 1 718 497 2407.



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.

Manchester Star Ale (7.3%) ***** < - BROWN PORTER - > – A black beer brewed according to an 1884 Lees recipe for a hoppy strong porter, brewed in November of that year, called ‘Star’. Chocolate, cashew nuts, ripe plums, citrus, and a hint of moist tobacco can be detected. There’s a dry, vinous finish.

Moonraker (7.5%) ***** < - OLD ALE / WINTER WARMER - > – Deep red-brown strong ale, smooth and thick on the palate with notes of caramel, sweet malt, toffee, chocolate, vanilla, and raisins.

Harvest Ale (11.5%) ***** < - ENGLISH BARLEYWINE - > – Copper-colored barleywine with a vinous, hoppy, and estery aroma. Incredibly complex though smooth on the palate, alcohol, toasted malt, caramel, molasses, coffee, chocolate, raisins, and toffee all compete for the attention of the taste buds. Moderate citrusy hops balance the malt well. Bottles are year dated and improve for up to a decade (or even more) with careful cellaring.

Harvest (Calvados cask) (11.5%) ***** < - WOOD-AGED BEER - > – Matured in wooden Etienne Dupont Calvados casks for over four months.

Harvest (Lagavulin cask) (11.5%) ***** < - WOOD-AGED BEER - > – Matured in wooden Lagavulin malt whisky casks for a peaty texture.

Harvest (Port cask) (11.5%) ***** < - WOOD-AGED BEER - > – Matured in wooden Willoughbys Crusted Port casks to impart sweetness and a prominent vinous characteristic.

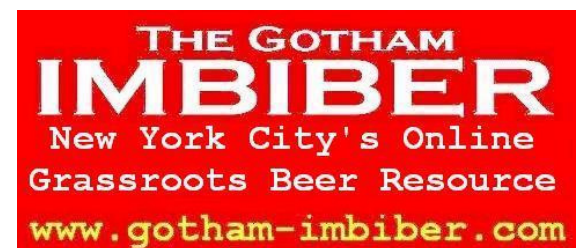
Harvest (Sherry cask) (11.5%) ***** < - WOOD-AGED BEER - > – Matured in wooden Willoughbys Cream Sherry casks, which give the beer a nuttiness and some sweetness.

SEE BEER MENUS FOR AVAILABILITY (EXTERNAL LINK)

<http://www.beermenus.com/breweries/j-w-lees>

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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