

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

## Middle Ages Brewing Co.

*Type: Domestic Craft Brewery*

120 Wilkinson Street, Syracuse, NY 13204.

Tel. 1 315 476 4250.

Available in cask? – Yes.

Available in keg? – Yes.

Available in bottle or can? – Yes.

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

Who's who: President & Brewmaster – Marc Rubenstein.

Notes: A small upstate brewery which puts a distinct emphasis on supplying cask-conditioned beer. Middle Ages have been brewing since 1995, run by husband and wife team Marc and Mary Rubenstein. The house yeast is the Ringwood strain.

*Distance to the brewery from New York City: 248 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.

**Apricot Ale** (4.4%) \*\*\* < - FRUIT BEER - > – Sweet, fruity, orange-amber.

**Syracuse Pale Ale** (5.0%) \*\*\* < - AMERICAN PALE ALE - > – An amber pale ale, well-balanced and refreshing.

**Beast Bitter** (5.3%) \*\*\*\* < - EXTRA SPECIAL BITTER (ESB) - > – tasty, dark amber ESB with an earthy hoppiness. Great when cask-conditioned.

**Highlander 80/- {S}** (5.4%) \*\*\*\* < - SCOTTISH EXPORT 80/- - > – A rich, dark, Scottish-style brown ale with an attractive dark cherry color and a soft, lightly chewy body with a hint of licorice in its malt character. Ideally sampled cask-conditioned.

**Grail Ale** (5.5%) \*\*\*\* < - AMERICAN AMBER ALE - > – Ruby amber ale with a strong malt backbone and hints of caramel and apple.

**ImPaied Ale** (6.5%) \*\*\*\* < - AMERICAN IPA - > – Plenty of citrusy, piney Cascade hops can be detected in this amber-colored IPA.

**The Duke of Winship** (6.5%) \*\*\*\* < - EXTRA SPECIAL BITTER (ESB) - > – A dark brown ale which is best described as a cross between a Scottish 'Wee Heavy' and a traditional porter, quite malty with a little coffee, chocolate, and butterscotch.

**Black Heart Stout** (6.6%) \*\*\*\* < - DRY STOUT - > – Very dark brown, roasty beer, dry on the palate with chocolate prominent.

**Old Marcus Ale** (6.6%) \*\*\*\* < - EXTRA SPECIAL BITTER (ESB) - > – Amber-hued, bready, malty, full flavored beer with a good level of balancing hops. Draft only.

**Wizard's Winter Ale {S}** (6.8%) \* \* \* < - ENGLISH STRONG ALE - > – Warming deep chestnut colored strong ale with notes of malt and a little buttery diacetyl.

**Swallow Wit** (7.1%) \* \* \* < - BELGIAN WITBIER - > – Yellow-colored, refreshing wheat beer brewed in the Belgian style but incorporating British ingredients. Coriander and orange peel add a mild spiciness to the tasting experience.

**Wailing Wench** (8.0%) \* \* \* \* < - AMERICAN STRONG ALE - > – Full-bodied, deep amber strong ale “screaming with hops”. Citrusy and satisfying.

**Kilt Tilter {S}** (8.5%) \* \* \* \* < - WEE HEAVY STRONG SCOTCH - > – Rich and full-bodied winter ale with plenty of malt sweetness.

**Dragonslayer {S}** (9.5%) \* \* \* \* \* < - RUSSIAN IMPERIAL STOUT - > – An outstanding, full-bodied, black winter brew with notes of coffee, bitter chocolate, roasted and burnt malt, and a little fruit to balance.

**Druid Fluid** (9.5%) \* \* \* \* \* < - AMERICAN BARLEYWINE - > – Red-amber barleywine, full-bodied and smooth. There's a sweetness imparting fruit notes, and the hops are balanced but not overly prominent.

**X Double India Pale Ale (aka 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ale)** (10.0%) \* \* \* \* < - IMPERIAL / DOUBLE IPA - > – Golden, grassy, woody, and citrusy.

**Tripel Crown** (10.2%) \* \* \* \* < - BELGIAN TRIPEL - > – Very smooth, malty, fruity, bronze-colored beer with a little buttery texture (diacetyl) and alcohol warmth coming through.

- **Occasional and commemorative beers:**

**11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Double Wheat** (8.5%) \* \* \* \* < - AMERICAN PALE WHEAT ALE - > – Hazy pale orange with a fair bitterness, unexpected for the style.

**12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Imperial Porter** (9.0%) \* \* \* \* < - ROBUST PORTER - > – Black, bitter and roasty, with notes of cocoa, coffee, mocha, and dark bitter chocolate.

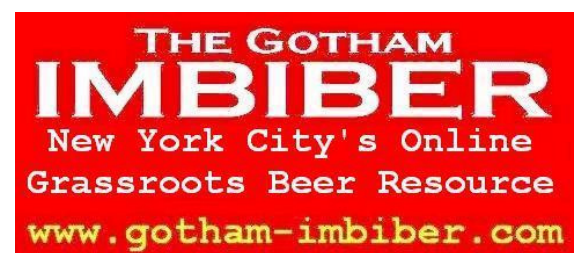
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*Ratings and tasting notes are taken from Beer Demystifier New York City 2008-2009 by Alex Hall (published June 2008).*

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



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