

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

BREWERY PROFILE

Ridgeway

South Stoke, U.K. (England)

[Contract brewed at Hepworth Brewery]

Former Brakspear head brewer Peter Scholey set up Ridgeway after his former brewery's demise. He uses the plant of Hepworth, situated in Horsham (35 miles from London), to brew on. An unusually high number of Christmas seasonals with tongue-in-cheek names and labels are produced.

Importer: [The Shelton Brothers](#)

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.

Ridgeway Bitter (4.0%) * * * < - ENGLISH BITTER - > – Hopped with Boadicea and Challenger, this quaffing ale has moderate notes of fruit, bread, grass, and caramel.

Ivanhoe (5.2%) * * * < - EXTRA SPECIAL BITTER (ESB) - > – Reddish-amber ale, well-balanced.

IPA (5.5%) * * * < - ENGLISH IPA - > – A solid IPA with citrus and pine on the palate.

Bad Elf {S} (6.0%) * * * < - ENGLISH IPA - > – A hoppy golden strong ale, clean and well-balanced.

Reindeer's Revolt {S} (6.0%) * * * < - ENGLISH STRONG ALE - > – A rich, amber, strong winter ale with notes of caramel.

Santa's Butt {S} (6.0%) * * * < - ROBUST PORTER - > – Mahogany-colored winter porter with a little coffee, molasses and fruit on the palate. The name refers to cooperage, a 'butt' being a very large cask (3 brewers barrels, or 108 imperial gallons) which was common in bygone days for beer storage and aging.

Warm Welcome {S} (6.0%) * * * < - ENGLISH BROWN ALE - > – A spicy, strong brown ale for the festive season.

Very Bad Elf {S} (7.5%) * * * < - ENGLISH STRONG ALE - > – Copper-colored strong ale hopped with Fuggles, a little malty and earthy.

Lump of Coal {S} (8.0%) * * * < - FOREIGN EXTRA STOUT - > – Chocolate stout, "black as coal". Easy-drinking and bittersweet.

Seriously Bad Elf {S} (9.0%) * * * < - ENGLISH BARLEYWINE - > – Golden "English Double Ale", strong and a little spicy.

Criminally Bad Elf {S} (10.5%) * * * < - ENGLISH BARLEYWINE - > – A sweetish, very strong winter barleywine with notes of fruit.

Insanely Bad Elf {S} (11.2%) * * * * < - ENGLISH BARLEYWINE - > – A strong, sweet, festive ale straddling 'Imperial Red' and 'Barleywine' styles. As with the straight-jacket-wearing elf on the label, this beer could probably benefit from putting away for a year or two.

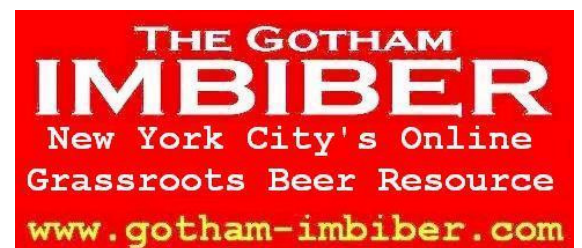
SEE BEER MENUS FOR AVAILABILITY (EXTERNAL LINK)

<http://www.beermenus.com/breweries/ridgeway-brewing>

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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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