

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

## BREWERY PROFILE

### SABMiller

[Global Corporate Mass Producer](#)

HQ: United Kingdom (England)

The second largest global brewing giant, formed from a merger of South African Breweries and Miller but headquartered in the United Kingdom. SABMiller owns the rights in the U.S. to Foster's Lager from Australia's Foster's Group – but the beer itself is brewed in Canada for the U.S. market. It is in an alliance with [Molson-Coors](#) for joint distribution of the two giants' brands in the U.S., designed to strengthen their respective positions mainly at the expense of [Anheuser-Busch](#) [InBev](#) brands. SABMiller has also recently acquired the Grolsch brand.



SABMiller's beers packaged in clear bottles, at least the domestic ones, are immune to 'skunking' (damage by exposure to light) as the company uses a modified hop extract (as opposed to real hop flowers or pellets) called Tetra Hop - which imparts only flavor with no contribution to aroma whatsoever due to a modified molecular structure.

## 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.

### • Domestic

**Sharp's** (0.4%) \* < - LOW ALCOHOL BEER - >

**Miller Lite** (4.1%) \* < - LIGHT LAGER - > – Bland, pale yellow beer that is manufactured to offend no-one. A beer for people that like to pee a lot for very little in return.

**Leinenkugel's Light** (4.2%) \*\* < - LIGHT LAGER - >

**Leinenkugel's Summer Shandy {S}** (4.2%) \*\* < - AMERICAN PALE WHEAT ALE - >

**Miller Chill** (4.2%) \* < - FRUIT BEER - > – A Frankenstein monster of 'beer' mixed with lime and salt. Blech!

**MGD Light** (4.5%) \* < - LIGHT LAGER - >

**Miller High Life Light** (4.5%) \* < - LIGHT LAGER - >

**Milwaukee's Best** (4.5%) \* < - STANDARD LAGER - > – Light-bodied beer totally dominated by grain and cooked corn. Rough to drink. If this is their "best", I'm not going there.

**Milwaukee's Best Light** (4.5%) \* < - LIGHT LAGER - >

**Leinenkugel's Original** (4.6%) \*\* < - STANDARD LAGER - >



**Leinenkugel's Berry Weiss {S}** (4.7%) \* \* < - FRUIT BEER - >

**Miller Genuine Draft (aka MGD)** (4.7%) \* < - STANDARD LAGER - > – Genuine what? Little flavor is discernable in this light yellow, watery lager, apart from an unwelcome corny-vegetable finish.



**Leinenkugel's Apple Spice {S}** (4.9%) \* \* < - FRUIT BEER - >

**Leinenkugel's Creamy Dark** (4.9%) \* \* \* < -DARK AMERICAN OR EURO LAGER - > – Dark brown, mild session lager.

**Leinenkugel's Honey Weiss** (4.9%) \* \* < - AMERICAN PALE WHEAT ALE - >

**Leinenkugel's Red** (4.9%) \* \* < - AMBER LAGER / RED LAGER - >

**Leinenkugel's Sunset Wheat** (4.9%) \* \* \* < - BELGIAN WITBIER - > – Witbier fermented with lager yeast. Hints of blueberries and citrus.

**Leinenkugel's Northwoods** (4.9%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Red Dog** (5.0%) \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Southpaw Light** (5.0%) \* < - LIGHT LAGER - >

**Icehouse Light** (5.0%) \* < - LIGHT LAGER - >

**Miller High Life** (5.0%) \* < - STANDARD LAGER - > – The so-called “champagne of beers” is in reality a pale industrial lager with prominent cooked corn and corn grit notes in the flavor and aroma. Uncouth swill. The highest point of life's ladder to good beer if you remain forever on the bottom rung – living the low life.

**Leinenkugel's Oktoberfest {S}** (5.1%) \* \* < - OKTOBERFEST / MÄRZEN - >

**Icehouse** (5.5%) \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Miller High Life Ice** (5.5%) \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Miller Lite Ice** (5.5%) \* < - LIGHT LAGER - >

**Mickey's** (5.6%) \* < - STANDARD LAGER - > – Beer for alcoholic Disney mice who know no better.

**Leinenkugel's Big Butt {S}** (5.7%) \* \* < - DOPPELBOCK / EISBOCK - >

**Milwaukee's Best Ice** (5.9%) \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Magnum 40** (6.0%) \* < - PREMIUM LAGER - > – Corn, skunk, and alcohol. A beer that could do with being shot to put it out of its misery.

**Olde English 800** (7.3%) \* < - PREMIUM LAGER - > – The English generally don't like rubbing alcohol with their fish and chips.

**Olde English HG800 High Gravity** (8.0%) \* < - PREMIUM LAGER - >

- **Brewed in Canada**

**Foster's Special Bitter** (3.5%) \* \* < - ENGLISH BITTER - >

**Foster's Lager** (5.0%) \* < - STANDARD LAGER - > – A nondescript, Australian-branded lager manufactured in Canada.

- **Brewed in Colombia**

**Cerveza Aguila** (3.9%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Club (Ecuador)** (4.4%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Club Colombia** (4.7%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >



- **Brewed in the Czech Republic**

**Pilsner Urquell** (4.4%) \* \* \* < - BOHEMIAN PILSNER - > – Crisp and golden traditional Czech lager, brewed since 1842.

**Zubr Premium** (5.1%) \* \* < - BOHEMIAN PILSNER - >

**Zubr Jasne Pelne (aka Bison)** (6.0%) \* \* < - PREMIUM LAGER - >

- **Brewed in Ecuador**

**Pilsener of Ecuador** (4.2%) \* \* < - BOHEMIAN PILSNER - >

- **Brewed in El Salvador**

**Cerveza Caguama** (3.5%) \* < - LIGHT LAGER - >

**Santiago** (3.5% est'd) \* < - LIGHT LAGER - >

**Cantina** (3.7%) \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Pilsener of El Salvador** (3.9%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Regia** (3.9%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Suprema** (4.5%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Cabaña** (4.6%) \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Regia Extra** (5.3%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

- **Brewed in India**

**Haywards 2000** (5.0%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Royal Challenge Premium Lager** (5.0%) \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Haywards 5000** (7.0%) \* \* < - PREMIUM LAGER - >

- **Brewed in Italy**

**Peroni Birra** (4.7%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Nastro Azzurro** (5.1%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

- **Brewed in the Netherlands**

**Grolsch Blond** (4.5%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Amsterdam Mariner** (4.8%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Grolsch Premium Lager** (5.0%) \* \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - > – Unassuming but refreshing lager no longer brewed with adjuncts. Beware of skunked bottles, however.

**Grolsch Amber Ale** (5.0%) \* \* < - ALTBIER / STICKE - >

- **Brewed in Peru**

**Cristal** (5.0%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Cusqueña** (5.0%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

**Cusqueña Malta** (5.0%) \* \* < - DARK AMERICAN OR EURO LAGER - >

**Pilsen Callao** (5.2%) \* \* < - GERMAN PILSNER - >



CERVEZA



- **Brewed in Poland**

Lech Premium (5.2%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

Tyskie Beer (aka Tyskie Gronie) (5.6%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

Zubr Jasne Pelne (aka Bison) (6.0%) \* \* < - PREMIUM LAGER - >

Dojlidy Magnat (7.0%) \* \* < - PREMIUM LAGER - >



- **Brewed in Russia**

Zolotaya Bochka Svetloye (aka Zolotaya Light) (4.0%) \* \* < - LIGHT LAGER - >

Zolotaya Bochka Klassichiskoye (aka Zolotaya Classic) (5.0%) \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - >

- **Brewed in the Slovak Republic**

Topvar Dark (4.6%) \* \* \* < -DARK AMERICAN OR EURO LAGER - > – This is a sweetish, full-bodied, highly carbonated dark ruby lager with a mild fruity character.

Topvar Premium Lager (5.2%) \* \* \* < - STANDARD LAGER - > – Session lager that is somewhat dominated by malt sweetness.

Topvar Premium Pils (5.4%) \* \* < - BOHEMIAN PILSNER - >



**SEE BEER MENUS FOR AVAILABILITY (EXTERNAL LINK)**

<http://www.beermenus.com/breweries/sab-miller>

<http://www.beermenus.com/breweries/leinenkugel-brewing-company-sabmiller->

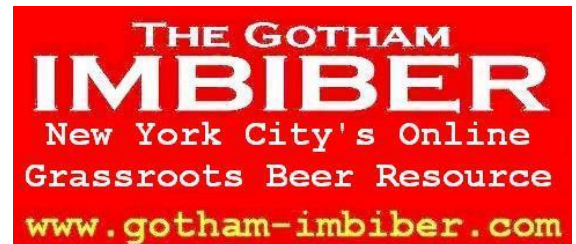
<http://www.beermenus.com/breweries/kompania-piwowarska-sabmiller->

<http://www.beermenus.com/breweries/grupo-empresarial-bavaria>



^ “Whatever you do, don’t take the top off. The bottle, that is...”

< “No no, I don’t want this swill! I asked for a [Thomas](#) Hooker Blonde!”



*This page is written by Alex Hall, and is updated to August 2009.*

**Join the craft beer revolution.  
You'll enjoy it.**