

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

BREWERY PROFILE

Sapporo

[Global Corporate Mass Producer](#)

HQ: Japan

An eponymous Japanese major player which can trace its history back to 1876, which owns Canadian national brewery Sleeman (founded 1988) and their specialist subsidiary Unibroue. Most Sapporo brands are brewed in Canada by Sleeman for the American market. Unibroue was founded as a large independent craft brewery in the early 1990s to brew bottle-conditioned Belgian-style beers bearing highly artistic labels, often with 'devilish' names; it remains as an individually managed subsidiary but there are slight concerns for the future, especially if Sapporo themselves ever get devoured by a bigger global giant.



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.

- **Brewed in Canada**

Light Beer (3.9%) ** < - LIGHT LAGER - >

Original Draft (aka Sapporo Premium) (5.0%) ** < - JAPANESE RICE LAGER - >

Sleeman Cream Ale 64 (5.0%) ** < - CREAM ALE - >

Blanche de Chambly (5.0%) **** < - BELGIAN WITBIER - > – Refreshing, highly carbonated witbier.

Reserve (5.2%) ** < - STANDARD LAGER - >

Sleeman IPA 46 (5.3%) ** < - AMERICAN IPA - >

Sleeman Original Dark 50 (5.5%) ** < - AMERICAN AMBER ALE - >

Sleeman Porter 68 (5.5%) ** < - ROBUST PORTER - >

Éphémère (Apple) {S} (5.5%) **** < - FRUIT BEER - > – Éphémère apple is best described as a white ale with fruit. It has an alluring pale golden color, effervescent foam, and a mouth-watering bouquet of Granny Smith apples and spices. It is slightly sweet, slightly tart and refreshingly thirst-quenching.

Raftman (5.5%) **** < - BELGIAN PALE ALE - > – Easy drinking Belgian-style pale ale, slightly yeasty and spicy.



Chambly Noire (6.2%) * * * < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – A dark ale with an opaque black color with beige-colored foam. Its roasted malt character is complemented by spicy, mildly smoky notes and a clean finish.

Seigneuriale (7.5%) * * * * < - BELGIAN GOLDEN STRONG ALE - > – This brew has an opaque amber color and spirited effervescence. The floral, spicy and yeasty bouquet reveals a complex flavor of citrus, malt and ripe fruit undertones with a dry, hoppy finale.

Eau Bénite (7.7%) * * * * < - BELGIAN GOLDEN STRONG ALE - > – Belgian-style strong pale ale with a slightly fruity nose and a pleasant warming character. Taste is of rich fruit with a honey-sweetness and a little alcohol. Mild bitterness.

Maudite (8.0%) * * * * < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – Deep amber-red Belgian strong dark ale with a rocky head and an aroma of wild spices and floral hop notes. Spicy, vinous, and complex with a crisp hop finish.

Quelque Chose {S} (8.0%) * * * * < - FRUIT BEER - > – Winter fruit beer with aroma and taste of wild cherries, lightly acidulated. Can be mulled and drunk up to a temperature of 70°C (160°F).

Don de Dieu (9.0%) * * * * < - BELGIAN GOLDEN STRONG ALE - > – Described as a “Triple Wheat Ale”, this beer has an appealing orange-golden hue with a stable, creamy head of foam. The fruity, malty and yeasty flavor is quickly leads to a palate-warming finish of roasted nuts and spices.

La Fin du Monde (9.0%) * * * * * < - BELGIAN TRIPEL - > – Golden Belgian tripel with vigorously effervescent foam. A little yeasty with a complex mix of malt, fruit and spice notes followed by a dry finish.

Trois Pistoles (9.0%) * * * * * < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – This Belgian strong dark ale is dark brown in color topped with a rich foam mousse. Its slightly sweet taste is enhanced by accents of roasted malt, cocoa, ripe fruit and dark spices with a smooth finish like an old port.

Edition 2005 (10.0%) * * * * < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – Dark brown, rich ale with vine fruits plentiful on the palate.

Unibroue 15 (10.0%) * * * * < - BELGIAN GOLDEN STRONG ALE - > – 15th anniversary special, hazy amber, spicy, with a fruity sweetness.

Unibroue 16 (10.0%) * * * * < - BELGIAN GOLDEN STRONG ALE - > – 16th anniversary special, complex with plenty of dark fruit and spices.

Unibroue 17 (10.0%) * * * * < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – 17th anniversary special, a smooth and fruity dark brown ale with a hint of spice.

La Terrible (10.5%) * * * * * < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – Belgian-style strong dark ale which possesses a fruity aroma enriched with notes of roasted malt and Madeira. Its long lasting flavour is both elegant and full bodied.

- **Brewed in Japan**

Sapporo Black (4.3%) * * * < -DARK AMERICAN OR EURO LAGER - > – Tame deep red lager brewed with rice.

Yebisu (5.0%) * * * < - DORTMUNDER EXPORT LAGER - > – Lightly fruity, golden, all malt lager.

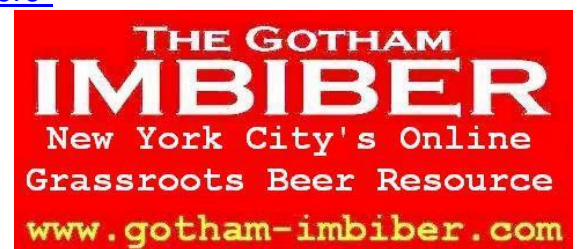
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This page is written by Alex Hall, and is updated to August 2009.



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