

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

BREWERY PROFILE

Smisje

Oudenaarde, Belgium

A small craft brewery near Bruges which was founded in 1996 as *Regenboog* (translates as 'Rainbow'), and which moved in 2008 to Oudenaarde. Beers had always been branded 't Smisje, and this became the name of the brewery after the move. European beer labels mostly depict the *Salty Dog* character (as featured regularly in *Ale Street News*) created and drawn by New York City cartoonist Bill Coleman (see below for examples of his art), but ironically bottles for the US market carry substitute generic labels at the request of the importer. Brewmaster Johan Brandt is innovative with his recipes.

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.

Vuuve (5.0%) *** < - BELGIAN WITBIER - > – A slightly herbal-tasting witbier with orange peel and coriander on the palate, which follows a pleasant yeasty and citrusy aroma.

Slee Doorn {S} (6.0%) *** < - FRUIT BEER - > (sloe berry ale) – A unique winter beer, sour and a little musty.

't Smisje Blond (6.0%) *** < - BELGIAN BLOND ALE - > – An unusual pale ale brewed with lime blossoms, citrusy and yeasty.

't Smisje Fiori (7.0%) ***** < - BELGIAN PALE ALE - > – Hazy amber with an orange hue, this is an earthy, spicy, fruity ale with a flowery, hoppy, and yeasty aroma.

Wostyntje (7.0%) *** < - SPECIALTY BEER - > (mustard seed ale) – Innovative and interesting orange-amber colored beer with notes of mustard seed, citrus, apple cider complementing an underlying candi sugar sweetness. A little acidic.

Guido (8.0%) ***** < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – A beer brewed with honey and raisins, mid-brown and quite sweet though balanced by notes of tart fruit.

't Smisje Dubbel (9.0%) ***** < - BELGIAN DUBBEL - > – A fairly light-bodied brown dubbel with notes of dates, honey, and chocolate.

't Smisje Catherine the Great (10.0%) (no rating yet) < - RUSSIAN IMPERIAL STOUT - > – A Belgian take on a Russian Imperial Stout.

't Smisje Dubbel IPA (10.0%) (no rating yet) < - IMPERIAL / DOUBLE IPA - > – A new direction for a Belgian brewery, an American-style double IPA. Hazy orange-amber with a good dose of hoppiness which comes from four different varieties. Don't confuse with the Dubbel.

't Smisje Kerst {S} (11.0%) * * * * < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – A strong winter seasonal, mid-brown with a reddish tinge. Notes of raisins and figs blend nicely with winter spices and malt in this smooth, powerful brew.

't Smisje BBourgondier {S} (12.0%) * * * * < - BELGIAN BARLEYWINE / QUAD - > – An occasional amber-colored quadruple, vinous, strong, and rich. Brewed in honor of The Burgundian Babble Belt (www.babblebelt.com).

't Smisje Calva Reserva (12.0%) * * * * < - BELGIAN BARLEYWINE / QUAD - > – Dark brown quadruple brewed with pale malt, wheat malt, vienna malt and caramalt, hopped with Hallertau and Kent Goldings. Dark and white candi sugars, coriander, and Grain de Paradise contribute to the rich, fruity texture of this beer, which is aged calvados casks for six months. Referred in the bottle with ale, port, and champagne yeast strains.

SEE BEER MENUS FOR AVAILABILITY (EXTERNAL LINK)

<http://www.beermenus.com/breweries/brouwerij-de-regenboog>

