

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

**Van Steenberge**  
**Ertvelde, Belgium**

*A family owned, popular, medium-sized brewery just north of Ghent, dating back to at least 1784 when farming was the principal operation and brewing just a sideline. The company was formerly known as 'Bios', but has reverted to the Van Steenberge family title. The brewery has invested heavily in brewing technology recently. 155 Belgian beer cafes are owned, while the brewery employs about 30 people.*



Importer: [Global Beer Network](#)

Distributor: Manhattan Beer Distributors, tel. 1 718 292 9300.

**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.

**Cherish Kriek** (5.0%) \*\*\* < - FRUIT LAMBIC (SOUR) - > – Well-balanced cherry lambic with a see-saw of sweetness and sourness.

**Cherish Peach** (5.0%) \*\*\* < - FRUIT LAMBIC (SOUR) - > – Quite tart, hazy amber beer with a dry finish.

**Cherish Raspberry** (5.0%) \*\*\* < - FRUIT LAMBIC (SOUR) - > – Sour, fruity, reddish brown beer which is dominated by raspberries.

**Ertvelde's Wit (aka Celis White)** (5.0%) \*\*\*\*\* < - BELGIAN WITBIER - > – A refreshing, quite highly spiced, bananary witbier whose recipe was devised by the legendary Pierre Celis – the man who created Hoegaarden Belgian White Ale (which is now a global, mass-produced brand of InBev).

**Tikka Gold** (5.0%) \*\* < - STANDARD LAGER - > – Asian-style lager brewed with rice. Good for pairing with a curry, but unexciting on its own.

**Bruegel** (5.2%) \*\*\* < - BELGIAN PALE ALE - > – Undemanding amber ale with hints of fruit, a sort of mild Belgian session beer.

**Vlaamse Bourgogne (aka Monk's Café Sour Red Ale)** (5.5%) \*\*\*\* < - FLANDERS OUD BRUIN (SOUR) - > – Ruby colored and extremely sour.

**Bière du Boucanier Red** (7.0%) \*\*\*\* < - BELGIAN PALE ALE - > – Cloudy amber with a little sour fruit tartness.

**Gulden Draak Vintage {S}** (7.5%) (no rating yet) < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – An effervescent beer with sweet malts, plums, and raisins on the palate. Do not confuse with the regular Gulden Draak Ale.

**Atomium Grand Cru** (8.0%) \* \* \* \* < - BELGIAN GOLDEN STRONG ALE - > – Lively yellow ale, a little phenolic and with hints of coriander.

**Augustijn Ale** (8.0%) \* \* \* < - BELGIAN TRIPEL - > – Golden tripel with hints of lemon, grapefruit, and pineapple.

**Bornem Double** (8.0%) \* \* \* \* < - BELGIAN DUBBEL - > – Mahogany brown with plenty of juicy fruit notes and a little spice.

**Leute Bokbier** (8.2%) \* \* \* < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – Very dark brown ale with notes of vine fruits.

**Augustijn Grand Cru** (9.0%) \* \* \* \* < - BELGIAN GOLDEN STRONG ALE - > – Dry and fruity, this pale gold beer is quite herbal with gentle phenols apparent, as is mild pepper and a hint of spices.

**Bière du Boucanier Dark** (9.0%) \* \* \* \* < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – Dark brown with a chocolate and fruit sweetness plus a little spice.

**Bornem Triple** (9.0%) \* \* \* \* < - BELGIAN TRIPEL - > – An amber tripel, bittersweet on the palate with notes of fruit, spices, and phenols.

**Keizersburg** (9.0%) \* \* \* \* < - BELGIAN GOLDEN STRONG ALE - > – A crisp, fruity, zesty, golden tripel.

**Piraat** (9.0% & 10.5% variants) \* \* \* \* < - BELGIAN IPA - > – Hazy amber with an explosive range of tastes on the palate including spices, alcohol, citrus, pine, and tropical fruit.

**Gulden Draak** (10.5%) \* \* \* \* \* < - BELGIAN DARK STRONG ALE - > – Strong, rich, and satisfying beer, syrupy and a little estery.

**Bière du Boucanier Golden** (11.0%) \* \* \* \* < - BELGIAN GOLDEN STRONG ALE - > – Golden amber strong ale, a little yeasty and bready with plenty of fruitiness, especially banana.

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

<http://www.beermenus.com/breweries/brouwerij-van-steenberge>

<http://www.beermenus.com/breweries/brouwerij-van-steenberge-n-v->

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PHOTOS OF THIS BREWERY**  
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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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