

THE TAPROOM

TASTING NOTES

Welcome to the PUB²⁰ Taproom, in partnership with Bier Nuts, curated by four of the UK's favourite beer experts, bringing you a selection of the finest beers available to the UK on-trade.

CURATORS



Natalya Watson

Natalya Watson is a Beer Sommelier and Certified Cicerone® passionate about sharing her knowledge of beer with others by hosting brilliant beer tastings for all kinds of audiences. She regularly teaches at *The Beer & Cider Academy*, judges at beer competitions, and produces and hosts the podcast *Beer with Nat*. Her debut book, *Beer: Taste the Evolution in 50 Styles*, will be published on 19 March 2020.



Jonny Garrett

Jonny Garrett is a London-based writer, videographer and consultant. He spends most of his time running his award-winning YouTube channel, *Craft Beer Channel*, which has over 70,000 subscribers and has been watched over 3.5 million times. He also writes for several beer and national newspapers including the *CAMRA Magazine* and *Good Beer Hunting* and has authored two books. He is the current *Beer Writer of the Year* and *Broadcaster of the Year* according to the *British Guild of Beer Writers*.



Jessica Mason

Jessica Mason aka Drinks Maven is a passionate drinks and pubs writer and champion for the pub, bar, drinks and hospitality industry. She heads up a monthlong campaign called *Try January* to encourage people to expand their repertoire of food and drink and continue to go out and support their local pubs during the first month of each year; and is currently in the process of launching *TEPA (The Equality in Pubs Accreditation)* to shine a light on pubs that are non-discriminatory and put an end to sexism, racism or homophobic attitudes across the UK.



Pete Brown

Pete Brown is a British author, journalist, broadcaster and consultant specialising in food and drink, especially the fun parts like beer and cider. Across nine books, his broad, fresh approach takes in social history, cultural commentary, travel writing, personal discovery and natural history, and his words are always delivered with the warmth and wit you'd expect from a great night down the pub. He writes for newspapers and magazines around the world and is a regular contributor to *BBC Radio 4's Food Programme*. He was named *British Beer Writer of the Year in 2009, 2012 and 2016*, has won three *Fortnum & Mason Food and Drink Awards*, and has been shortlisted twice for the *Andre Simon Awards*. Pete is Editor-at-Large of *Full Juice* magazine, and Chair of the *British Guild of Beer Writers*.

GET INSIDER KNOWLEDGE

Don't miss workshops from our favourite beer experts at The Taproom Talk-Space, in partnership with Thirsty's.

Natalya's Picks



Hofmeister

Hofmeister Helles 5% ABV

If you're looking to trade up from your standard pale lager and give a more flavourful brew a go, Hofmeister Helles is the perfect place to start. A Helles-style lager, it's light in colour with soft, bready malt flavours and just enough hop bitterness to balance out malt's sweetness. Clean, refreshing and (almost too!) easy drinking.

Bedlam Brewery

Bedlam Pilsner 4.2% ABV

A modern take on the traditional Czech pilsner, Bedlam's version uses Czech Saaz hops along with two German varieties – Saphir and Herkules – which, when combined, give the beer a beautiful hop bouquet, full of spicy and citrusy notes. Take a sip and that bready-rich malt flavour hits first, followed by the style's assertive bitterness that mellows into the soft, rounded finish. Bedlam's sustainability chops are also worth a shout out – the brewery is fuelled by solar energy and they share their spent grain with local farmers. Cheers to that!

Freestar

Freestar 0% ABV

If you're looking for something different, this alcohol-free alternative brings beer flavour without the buzz. Freestar starts with three of beer's four main ingredients – malt, water, and hops – but it skips the yeast, as, of course, it's yeast that produces alcohol. Not technically brewed, this sparkling beer infusion is bursting with citrus and floral notes from the addition of bergamot and pomelo.

Jonny's Picks



By The Horns Brewing Co.

By the Horns West End Pils 4% ABV

The brewery claims it's no-fuss but there's plenty to talk about with this beer. It has a bright, biscuity malt base like all good pale lagers but also a whack of American hops that add citrus, pine and a clean, assertive finish. It's a great modern interpretation of a pilsner and would be the perfect foil to your more traditional pouring lager.

By the Horns Cosmic Warrior Pale Ale 4.8% ABV

Supposedly inspired by Marc Bolan, lead singer of T Rex, this beer means one can only assume he drank lots of lapsang souchong. As well as the bright hop citrus, this beer has complex floral tea notes and a hint of savoury smoke. It's brilliantly drinkable and stands out among the endless American pale ales on the market.

Gower Brewery

Gower Gold 4.5% ABV

One of those beers that makes you want to spout clichés like “lovely drop” and “a proper pint”, Gower Gold is proof that traditional British brewing will never go out of fashion. That said, the use of American Cascade hops adds a modern element of floral tea and citrus to the deep maltiness. The result is a very drinkable, very err... proper pint.

Gower Lighthouse 4.5% ABV

Gower Lighthouse is the kind of beer you want to relish after a long walk in the country on a cold, crisp winter day. It's simultaneously warming and refreshing, with a rich bready body but a clean, toasty finish that can only be achieved by the combination of British malts and a good bit of lagering time.

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Jessica's Picks



Big Drop Brewing Co.

Big Drop Citra IPA 0.5% ABV

Pale, crisp and fruity with hints of citrus on the finish. Big Drop Citra IPA is delicious and refreshing. Plus, not only is it gluten free but it also fits neatly into the low/no category that has become increasingly appealing of late. Win-win. It's quaffable, elegant and well-crafted, showing off an example of how a beer can give nods to both tropical notes and a touch of spice on its backbone. A great beer to dip into should you really fancy a drink and love beer, but you're keen to stay mindful of your intake.

Big Drop Lager 0.5% ABV

Delicate, with noble hop aromatics. This is a Vienna style lager that is light and instantly refreshing. But not just that, it's vegan friendly and gluten free too. Both a crisp hit on the palate at the start and boasting a rounded and smooth finish at the end of each sip. Quite a feat. A well-made beer suitable for those looking to satiate their thirst with a low ABV alternative.

71 Brewing Co

Rivet Red 4.8% ABV

A beautiful American red ale that has heaps of full biscuit maltiness that works in perfect unison with the hop hit it delivers. A beer with an incredible body. Nothing about its ingredients shouts too loudly – all its attributes are there for a reason. Offering perfect balance, liquid caramel comfort and the rosy life-affirming warmth of a crackling pub fireside.

Outer Galactic 7.5% ABV

An imperial dry hopped pilsner that, for a lager, certainly over-delivers. More is more, let's say. You get so much more body and mouthfeel. But not just that, this beer is crisp and refreshing with insanelly moreish hits of malt rising up for your attention. It really does manage to pack a lot in. Additionally, it is dangerously too easy to drink. It contains a lot of hops. And they're all showing what they can do. This beer is just rammed full and is bursting with flavour. It's a great way to end the day. Any day.

Pete's Picks



Vocation Brewery

Vocation Pride & Joy 5.3% ABV

Where does pale ale end and IPA begin? These days there's no coherent answer. This pale ale is as robust as many an IPA, with grapefruit dominating a tropical nose, before broadening out into a bigger citrus palate tempered with a delicate toasty malt backbone.

Vocation Bread & Butter 3.9% ABV

The holy grail of pale ale is a beer that combines huge flavours with the drinkability of traditional ale. There's tons of citrus fruit on the nose here, followed by a balance of peach and lychee juiciness and a dry, spritzzy body that will leave you wanting to drink more than just the one.

Hop Stuff Brewery

Hop Stuff Renegade IPA 5.6% ABV

Hop Stuff's first beer is still its flagship, combining the rock stars of the US hop scene over the last twenty years – Cascade and Citra – with legendary British malt Maris Otter, for a classic style of American IPA that may no longer get the hype of other variants, but has never been bettered.

Hop Stuff Four Hour Session 4.2% ABV

Different people want different things from craft pale ales these days: intensity, drinkability, juiciness, balance, and assertive hop bitterness. Rarely do you find all these attributes in one beer, but this one pulls it off, with elements that are often contradictory working here in perfect balance.

Salcombe Brewery

Salcombe Island Street Porter 5.9% ABV

Hops may be hogging the attention, but beer is nothing without malt, and with eight different varieties this porter is a hymn to beer's core ingredient. Rich with coffee, chocolate and, somehow, black cherry, this classic porter has swept up awards since launching just a year ago.

Salcombe Pale Ale 4.6% ABV

Hailing from a part of the country where exotic fruits used to be landed from foreign climes, this is a pale ale that gains its fashionable flavour notes from ingredients that were available around Salcombe in the nineteenth century: orange, pink grapefruit and anise, creating a fruity yet complex character.

Don't miss workshops from all of our beer experts in
The Taproom Talk-Space, in partnership with Thirsty's.
For all sessions and timings, see the PUB²⁰ Show Guide.

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