



BUZZ PICKS



JOEY

Full Sail Session Black Lager

5.4% ABV, American Dark Lager

Released in 2009 to add to the successful Session Premium Lager brand, Session Black Lager quickly gained respect and a sort of “Rookie of the Year” status by winning gold medals at both GABF '09 and World Beer Cup '10 in the American Dark Lager categories. American Dark Lager is a style modeled after German Dunkel (“dark”) and Schwarzbier (“black beer”) styles, categorized usually as lacking in flavor and body. Many of the “Bock” beers marketed from large American breweries fall into the ADL category. Session Black avoids the “dark without the taste” stigma, while remaining approachable to those that think they aren’t fans of dark beer.

“I bought a twelve pack of this beer when it was released last year and it took several nights and the entire twelve pack before I was sold on the idea. I now go back to Session Black regularly when I want dark beer flavor in a lighter, but flavorful, package.”



AUGUSTINE

Cusquena

5.0% ABV, Premium South American Lager

Cusquena, like many Central and South American beers, is modeled after the beers of Germany. Seemingly inspired by the Munich Helles style of blonde lager, Cusquena offers a crisp, clean malt flavor accentuated by a mild hop bitterness. A fairly recent addition to the SABMiller international family of beers, Cusquena is enjoying widespread popularity in the States, and for good reason.

“Good full-bodied beer with a nice kick in the end.”



AUSTIN

Lagunitas Brown Shugga'

9.9% ABV, American Strong Ale

Brown Shugga' is rumored to have been born when a batch of the brewery's award winning Gnarleywine wasn't fermenting according to plan. The brewery, still in its infancy, couldn't afford to dump the uncooperative beer and start over, so a brewer told a brewery hand to go around to local stores and pick up as much brown sugar as could be obtained. The sugar cane pack mule returned with something close to 100lbs. of brown sugar that was dumped into the unfinished beer. The yeast went nuts, the beer finished and the brewery released what they thought would be a one time release birthed from necessity. When the beer was a massive success and customers began to ask when and where they could get more, Brown Shugga' was born.

“Brown Shugga is a great brown ale with a very nice hop presence. This is a great beer to take home and enjoy. Go on, get some of this delicious Shugga.”



JOSE

St. Bernardus Abt 12

10.5% ABV, Belgian Strong Dark Ale

St. Bernardus is what is known as an “Abbey” brewery, a commercial brewery brewing for or under the name of a currently or previously existing monastery. The beers coming from this commercial brewery in Watou, Belgium have only recently gone by the name St. Bernardus. Before the current name, the brewery produced beer under the name St. Sixtus for the Trappist monastery Westvleteren. Westvleteren currently produces, what is regarded by BeerAdvocate.com and RateBeer.com users as, the best beer in the world, Westvleteren 10. The unfortunate reality is that Westvleteren's line of beers are only legally sold by the monks at the monastery in Belgium. The upside to all of this is that St. Bernardus Abt 12 is almost indistinguishable, by many accounts, from Westvleteren 10 and is unbelievably delicious and easily attainable.

“When I first started drinking specialty beers, this is one of the first that I tried. Unbelievably good malt character. One of the best beers I have ever tasted.”