

# BELGIAN POORTER

Official NORTHERN BREWER Instructional Document

Straddling the line between robust and Baltic porter, this smooth, malt-forward, faintly smoky dark ale from NB Milwaukee's Vaughn Stewart is in a class of its own. Spiced with licorice root, which aids head retention and mouthfeel while adding a suggestion of sweet smoke, it is accented by spicy esters and a dry finish courtesy of the Leuven ale strain. Slovenian and Czech finishing hops round out this continental traveler with smooth notes of earth, wood, and fruit.

Expect herbal, earthy and slightly mushroomy undertones amidst complex malt and roast aromas and flavors before a very long, smooth finish with mild smoke and roast notes; think root beer to get an idea of the flavor contribution from the licorice root. Lower levels of chocolate and coffee, and elevated malty sweetness make the Belgian Poorter a very approachable dark charmer, perfect for charcuterie or steak frites ... or all by itself, for that matter.

**O.G: 1.062    READY:6 WEEKS**

1-2 weeks primary, 2 weeks secondary, 2 weeks bottle conditioning

## KIT INVENTORY:

### SPECIALTY GRAIN

- 0.5 lbs Special B
- 0.5 lbs Debittered Black
- 0.5 lbs Weyermann Chocolate Wheat
- 0.25 lbs Aromatic malt

### FERMENTABLES

- 6 lbs Gold malt syrup
- 2 lb Briess Golden Light DME

### HOPS & FLAVORINGS

- 1 oz Nugget (60 min)
- 0.5 oz Saaz (20 min)
- 0.5 oz Styrian Goldings (15 min)
- 0.5 oz Saaz (10 min)
- 1 oz Licorice Root (5 min)
- 0.5 oz Styrian Goldings (1 min)

### YEAST

- **WYEAST 3538 LEUVEN PALE ALE.** Vigorous top fermenting yeast with spicy aromatic characteristics. Slight phenolics dissipate with conditioning. Excellent strain for a variety of Belgian styles including pales, doubles, & brown ales. Apparent attenuation: 75-78%. Flocculation: high. Optimum temp: 60-75° F.

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN ...

### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Homebrewing starter kit for brewing 5 gallon batches
- Boiling kettle of at least 3.5 gallons capacity
- A 5 gallon glass carboy, with bung and airlock, to use as a secondary fermenter - If you do not have a secondary fermenter you may skip the secondary fermentation and add an additional week to primary fermentation before bottling
- Approximately two cases of either 12 oz or 22 oz pry-off style beer bottles

### UNPACK THE KIT

- Refrigerate the yeast upon arrival
- Locate the Kit Inventory (above) - this is the recipe for your beer, so keep it handy
- Doublecheck the box contents vs. the Kit Inventory
- Contact us immediately if you have any questions or concerns!

## PROCEDURE

### A FEW DAYS BEFORE BREWING DAY

1. Incubate yeast. Remove the yeast from the refrigerator, and "smack" as shown on the back of the yeast package. Leave it in a warm place (70-80° F) to incubate until the pack begins to inflate. Allow at least 3 hours for inflation; some packs may take up to several days to show inflation. Do not brew with inactive yeast - we can replace the yeast, but not a batch that fails to ferment properly.

### ON BREWING DAY

2. Collect and heat 2.5 gallons of water.

3. Crush and steep specialty grain. Pour crushed grain into supplied mesh bag and tie the open end in a knot. Steep for 20 minutes or until water reaches 170°F. Remove bag and discard.

4. Bring to a boil and add the 6 lbs Gold malt syrup and 2 lbs Golden Light dry malt extract. Remove the kettle from the burner and stir in the Gold malt syrup and Golden Light DME.

5. Return wort to boil. The mixture is now called "wort", the brewer's term for unfermented beer.

- Add 1 oz Nugget hops and boil for 60 minutes.
- Add 0.5 oz Saaz hops 20 minutes before the end of the boil.
- Add 0.5 oz Styrian Goldings hops 15 minutes before the end of the boil.
- Add 0.5 oz Saaz hops 10 minutes before the end of the boil.
- Add 1 oz Licorice Root 5 minutes before the end of the boil.
- Add 0.5 oz Styrian Golding hops 1 minute before the end of the boil.

6. Cool the wort. When the 60-minute boil is finished, cool the wort to approximately 100° F as rapidly as possible. Use a wort chiller, or put the kettle in an ice bath in your sink.

7. Sanitize fermenting equipment and yeast pack. While the wort cools, sanitize the fermenting equipment - fermenter, lid or stopper, fermentation lock, funnel, etc - along with the yeast pack and a pair of scissors.

8. Fill primary fermenter with 2 gallons of cold water, then pour in the cooled wort. Leave any thick sludge in the bottom of the kettle.

9. Add more cold water as needed to bring the volume to 5 gallons.

10. Aerate the wort. Seal the fermenter and rock back and forth to splash for a few minutes, or use an aeration system and diffusion stone.

11. Measure specific gravity of the wort with a hydrometer and record.

12. Add yeast once the temperature of the wort is 78°F or lower (not warm to the touch). Use the sanitized scissors to cut off a corner of the yeast pack, and carefully pour the yeast into the primary fermenter.

13. Seal the fermenter. Add approximately 1 tablespoon of water to the sanitized fermentation lock. Insert the lock into rubber stopper or lid, and seal the fermenter.

14. Move the fermenter to a warm, dark, quiet spot until fermentation begins.

### BEYOND BREWING DAY, WEEKS 1-2

15. Active fermentation begins. Within approximately 48 hours of Brewing Day, active fermentation will begin - there will be a cap of foam on the surface of the beer, the specific gravity as measured with a hydrometer will drop steadily, and you may see bubbles come through the fermentation lock. The optimum fermentation temperature for this beer is 60-75° F - move the fermenter to a warmer or cooler spot as needed.

16. Active fermentation ends. Approximately two weeks after brewing day, active fermentation will end. When the cap of foam falls back into the new beer, bubbling in the fermentation lock slows down or stops, and the specific gravity as measured with a hydrometer is stable, proceed to the next step.

17. Transfer beer to secondary fermenter. Sanitize siphoning equipment and an airlock and carboy bung or stopper. Siphon the beer from the primary fermenter into the secondary.

### BEYOND BREWING DAY- SECONDARY FERMENTATION

18. Secondary fermentation. Allow the beer to condition in the secondary fermenter for 2 weeks before proceeding with the next step. Timing now is somewhat flexible.

### BOTTLING DAY-ABOUT 1 MONTH AFTER BREWING DAY

19. Sanitize siphoning and bottling equipment.

20. Mix a priming solution (a measured amount of sugar dissolved in water to carbonate the bottled beer). Use the following amounts, depending on which type of sugar you will use:

- Corn sugar (dextrose) 2/3 cup in 16 oz water.
- Table sugar (sucrose) 5/8 cup in 16 oz water.

Then bring the solution to a boil and pour into the bottling bucket.

21. Siphon beer into bottling bucket and mix with priming solution. Stir gently to mix, don't splash.

22. Fill and cap bottles.

### 1-2 WEEKS AFTER BOTTLING DAY

23. Condition bottles at room temperature for 2 weeks. After this point, the bottles can be stored cool or cold.

24. Serving. Pour into a clean glass, being careful to leave the layer of sediment at the bottom of the bottle. Cheers!