

Beer's Most Wanted



GANG: THE LAGERS

Also Known As: The Joe Normals

Wanted For: Appealing to everyone. Most marketed beers (Canadian, Budweiser) are lagers. Clean, refreshing, nondescript. Not sure what you want? Lager is what you want.

The Kingpin: Heineken. One of the most popular beers in the world and always solid off of the tap. Buyer beware: for years, people have observed that Heineken and Stella Artois taste a little "skunky" out of the bottle—one theory is that the green glass exposes the beer to UV rays. Buy the cans instead.

Armed and Dangerous: Barking Squirrel. A perfect example of how diverse a single style of beer can be, this hoppy lager drinks like ale. It's got a dark complexion and a bitter aftertaste, but it's a relatively sweet and inviting entry.



GANG: THE INDIA PALE ALES (IPAS)

Also Known As: The Young Guns

Wanted For: Running the gamut from light, mildly-bitter lager-like beers to harsh, hardy, citrusy hops beers. Having a deceptive name; "pale ale" is paler than 19th century ale, but some are as dark as stout.

The Kingpin: Alexander Keith's. Crisp, clear, balanced, with a bitterness that doesn't linger long. The most accessible IPA, but one that'll also satisfy connoisseurs—provided they aren't too hungry for bitter hops. If your guests are "hop heads," avoid.

Armed and Dangerous: Mad Tom IPA. Like most "hops beers" (i.e., flavour focused on the bitterness of hops), this ain't for everybody. Mad Tom is 50% bitter, 50% citrus, and 100% awesome for the eccentric palate.



GANG: THE PILSNERS

Also Known As: The Evil Twins

Wanted For: A splinter cell of the lager gang, The Pilsners have a clean and simple flavour, but with a more pronounced hops bitterness. Some foreign pilsners have a sweet entry that Western palettes may find peculiar.

The Kingpin: Steam Whistle. A great, clean, go-to Canadian beer. Not much fuss on the way in, enough carbonation to be satisfying, and a present but not pronounced bitter aftertaste. Bonus: virtually every 'Sauga bar seems to have it on tap.

Armed and Dangerous: Old Credit Pale Pilsner. Otherwise known as the sleeper hit. Starts off extremely subtle, clean, smooth drinking, with no harsh aftertaste.

Once you get used to it, you'll notice the perfect sweet balance of bitterness and sweetness, and a crisply refreshing finish.



GANG: THE WHEAT BEERS

Also Known As: The Saskatchewan Pirates

Wanted For: The Pirates plunder the Prairies for wheat to brew their beers. Wheat beers tend to be a little sweeter and low on hops, and you'll usually find citrus flavours in there as well.

The Kingpin: Rickard's White. The first thing you'll notice is the orange notes, with just a slight bit of bitterness. The sweetness from the wheat comes afterwards. A light-bodied beer, commonly served with an orange peel to enhance the citrus notes.

Armed and Dangerous: Erdinger Dunkel Weissbier. The double-agent. A spy for the wheat beers, disguised as a stout. Like pouring an opaque glass of cola, creamy and smooth yet very carbonated with sweet notes of caramel and banana.



GANG: THE STOUTS

Also Known As: The Black Panthers

Wanted For: You like strong flavours? Then you and The Stouts will get along just fine.

The Kingpin: Guinness Draught. Smooth, creamy and barely carbonated, Guinness starts off with a burnt roasted flavour which is easy to mistake for bitterness, but it's not hoppy at all. It's not for everyone—some have said it's like drinking dirt. Those people are silly.

Armed and Dangerous: Dragon Stout. This is almost twice as strong as Guinness, at 7.5% compared to Guinness's 4.2%, and there's a complexity in flavour—and sweetness—that you wouldn't expect from a stronger beer. There's a hint of chocolate, maybe even roasted coffee.



GANG: THE RED ALES

Also Known As: The Ginger Ales

Wanted For: Former members of the IPA Gang, The Gingers are in fact not a singular gang, but a coalition with many charters—like the Hell's Angels. The Amber Ales, for instance, are not as hoppy due to their addiction to crystal malts, but many people also lump brown ales, cream ales and certain English ales under this category.

The Kingpin: Rickard's Red. It's nicely balanced, with a bit of caramel at first, and then a slightly bitter hops kick at the end. Bit of a malty aftertaste.

Armed and Dangerous: Boddington's Pub Ale. Technically an English bitter—a subsidiary of pale ale, as with most reds—this 4.7% beer is light red in colour and lightly fruity in taste. Low carbonation, plenty of head and little bitterness either during or after makes for a smooth and easy—but not flavourless—drink.



— Chris Carriere and Leo Graziani



find
STEAM WHISTLE
near you



m.steamwhistle.ca
from your smartphone