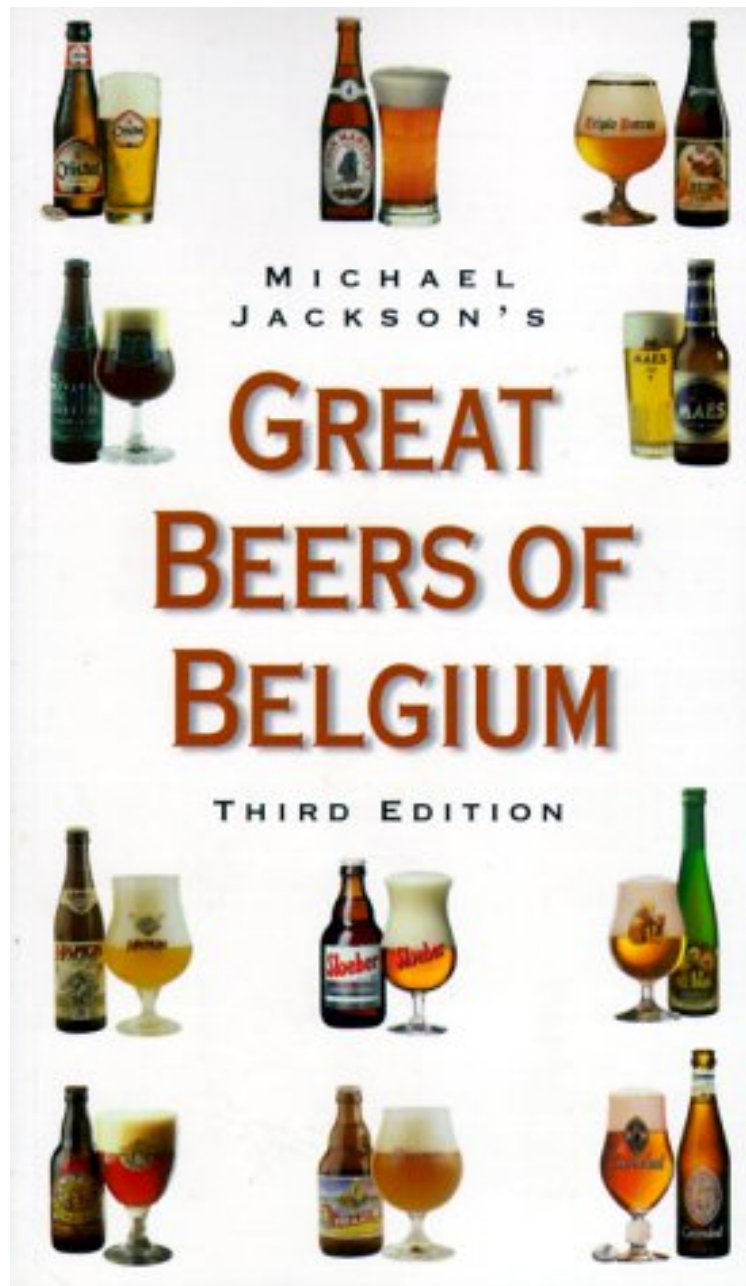


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Michael Jackson's Great Beers of Belgium

Michael Jackson

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Michael Jackson : Michael Jackson's Great Beers of Belgium before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Michael Jackson's Great Beers of Belgium:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Gary FlaniganVery thorough.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A classicBy P. MulloyThe late Michael Jackson was the world's preeminent beer writer, probably invented beer styles and was one of the midwives that brought the popularity of craft beer to life. In all his books he hammers home the idea that beer deserves the same reverence and respect given to wine and in this book his discussions of Belgian Beers shows you why. Michael originally wrote this book in 1991 and gave it a final revision in 1998, so it is 17 years out of date but it is still a worthwhile read. An immensely charming and entertaining raconteur, Michael weaves the story of Belgian beer using the threads of culture, geography, the ingredients of brewing, and how they all work together. Then he delves into the various styles and how they are made, how they taste and visits some of the notable breweries for each style and describes their beer so alluringly that you want to go drink it. Even out of date, Michael's knowledge, personality and joy of beer informs on every page.7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. If this is Heaven, it must be Belgium.By Noel MolloyI've loved Belgian beers for years, but never truly understood them fully until now. Where do you begin to classify them? To choose one to drink? Michael Jackson shows you how. From the ancient beginning of the brewing of Belgian beer, to now, as you smell, taste, and swallow, Michael Jackson takes you through the process. This is education in the most delightful way. Great photographs, delightful anecdotes, You almost feel you are on a stool beside him. My wife, who is Belgian born, loved the insights into her native land and traditions. If you can only buy one book on beer, this must be it!

Belgium is to beer what Burgandy and Bordeaux are to wine. With an introduction about Belgium and its traditions, Michael Jackson takes us on a tour of its ancient regions, such as Flanders and Brabant, and places the various brewing traditions in their local contexts. He describes the time honoured traditional ingredients: water; the yeasts; the hops; the varieties of barley and the various brewing techniques. He then takes the reader round the famous breweries, frequently monasteries, and the styles - lambic, gueuze, kriel, framboise, brown beers, wheat beers, fruit beers, the famous trappist and other abbey beers, and golden ales.

.com Belgium must be Michael Jackson's idea of heaven. The diversity, individuality, and ubiquity of beer in that country astounds even the beer sophisticate. Belgians lay claim to dozens of brewing styles that, motley as they are, read like a royal registry of beer: Lambics, Abbey Ales, Belgian Whites, Strong Golden Ales, Trappist Ales, Belgian Browns. Consider the Lambic brewer's "wind through the rafters" approach, in which wild yeast and airborne bacteria are responsible for the fermentation process and the otherworldly flavor characteristics of the final product. The brewing style is so dependent on the microflora of the greater Brussels area that it cannot be successfully duplicated anywhere else in the world. Jackson exposes the history and inner workings of this quiet, quirky brewing behemoth with characteristic thoroughness and enthusiasm. We learn the origins of monastic brewing, the good fortune of spiders in Lambic breweries, and the reasoning behind using orange peels, coriander seeds, and three years' worth of stale hops in the brewing process. Ample tasting notes of commercial Belgian products--from those famous worldwide to those available only locally--provide a reference point for the reader's own beer hunting. A few bottles of Belgian brew and a copy of Great Beers of Belgium are as close to a brewing tour of Belgium one can get, short of visiting the country itself. Such armchair exploration, with Jackson as a guide, may be just the revelation that makes a physical trip irresistible. --Todd GehmanAbout the AuthorMichael Jackson is the frequently awarded writer of books on beer, whiskey and travels. Maker of the world-famous television series 'The Beer Hunter', he received the 2000 Travel Award of the British Guild of Beer Writers. As a top author and the biggest beer expert on Earth, he has tasted beer and visited breweries from Alaska to Patagonia. In 1999, he was awarded a Glenfiddich Award as Drinks Journalist of the Year for his articles in 'The Independent', 'High Life' and the cocktail magazine 'Class'.