

# THE KING'S RESERVE BELGIAN PALE ALE

Official NORTHERN BREWER Instructional Document

Somewhere stylistically and geographically between English pale ale and German Altbier you will find a russet-colored, standard gravity, top-fermented beer: Belgian pale ale. This is the standard lunchtime tippie in the cafes and pubs of Antwerp.

The King's Reserve is copper colored with a rocky white stand of froth and, at 5% abv, it's engagingly drinkable. Lucid levels of bright malt supported by kettle additions of nothing but Saaz hops and overlaid with yeast-derived complexity. Fruity with spicy overtones, hopped to balance, finishing malty but dry with a hint of toast and hop bitterness, entirely accessible but packed with intriguing layers of flavor. This everyday ale is just enough like other styles you've had to make it seem a little familiar, but at the same time it's like nothing else, either. This is a beer you could get lost in. Serve at cellar temp in a stemmed goblet and pair with freshwater fish, shellfish, or sausages.

## O.G: 1.048 READY: 6 WEEKS

1-2 weeks primary, 2-4 weeks secondary, 1-2 weeks bottle conditioning

## KIT INVENTORY:

### MAILLARD MALTS™ SPECIALTY GRAIN

- 0.5 lbs Belgian Caramunich
- 1 oz Belgian Debittered Black Malt

### MAILLARD MALTS™ EXTRACTS & OTHER FERMENTABLES

- 3 lbs Briess Pilsen dry malt extract
- 3.15 lbs Pilsen Malt syrup late addition (15 min)

### HOPTIMUS REX™ PREMIUM HOPS & OTHER FLAVORINGS

- 1.75 oz Saaz (60 min)
- 0.25 oz Saaz (15 min)

## YEAST

- **WYEAST 3655 BELGIAN SCHELDE.** From the East Flanders - Antwerpen region of Belgium, this unique and classic top fermenting yeast produces distinct complex fruity aroma and favors that meld well with premium quality pale and crystal malts. Clean well rounded and smooth textures are exhibited with a full bodied malty profile. Apparent attenuation: 73-77%. Flocculation: medium. Optimum temp: 65°-72° 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. Remove the liquid Wyeast pack 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. If you are using dry yeast, no action is needed.

### ON BREWING DAY

2. Collect and heat 2.5 gallons of water.
3. For mail-order customers grains for extract kits come crushed by default, but if you requested uncrushed grains, crush them now. 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 3 lbs Pilsen dry malt extract. Remove the kettle from the burner and stir in the Pilsen DME.
5. Return wort to boil. The mixture is now called "wort", the brewer's term for unfermented beer.
- Add 1.75 oz Saaz hops and boil for 60 minutes.
- Add .25 oz Saaz hops and 3.15 lbs Pilsen malt syrup 15 minutes 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 65-72° F - move the fermenter to a warmer or cooler spot as needed.

16. Active fermentation ends. Approximately one week to 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 2-4 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)  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup in 16 oz water.
- Table sugar (sucrose)  $\frac{5}{8}$  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 1-2 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!