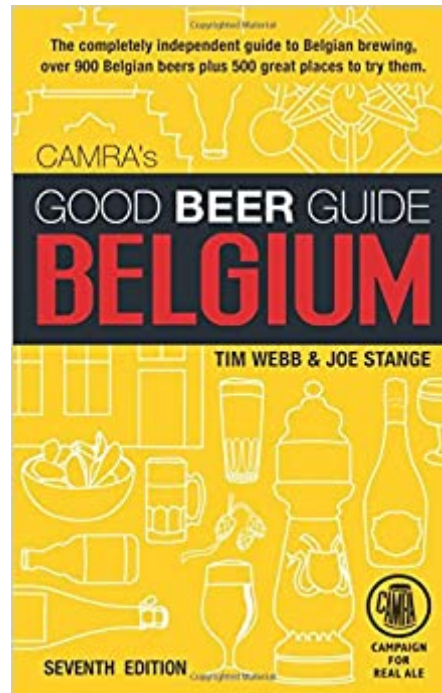




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# Good Beer Guide Belgium



## Synopsis

Recommended reading in the Rough Guide to Belgium, thisÂ guide to breweries, beers, and bars is acknowledged as the standard work for Belgian beer lovers, even in Belgium itselfÂ Building on 20 years of research, this is notÂ justÂ a beer guide,Â but a side door into the culture of a nation. Information forÂ tourists traveling to oneÂ of theÂ greatÂ beer nationsÂ includes comprehensive advice on getting there, being there, what to eat, where to stay, and how to bring beers back home. Tourists are guidedÂ to more thanÂ 600 quirky beer cafÃ©s of every style and genre,Â and also given background history and an insight into all of Belgium's eccentricities. Full-color throughout with both province-by-province and city maps, this guide is suitable for both leisure and business travelers, as well as for armchair drinkers looking to enjoy a selection of Belgian brews from their local beer store.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An extraordinary resource for the beer traveler. . . . If you are planning a trip to Belgium, you must have this book!"Â â "Celebrator Beer News

Tim Webb has been a professional beer writer forÂ more than 20Â years. HeÂ is the author ofÂ 100 Belgian Beers to Try Before You Die! and The World Atlas of Beer. Joe Stange is a freelance writer and editor who has contributed to a variety of magazines, specializingÂ in Belgian ales, Brussels, North and Latin American craft beer, and beer travel in general. He is the author of Around Brussels in 80 Beers.

This will be helpful for a trip I am taking soon! Great information and well organized.

Nice book and very helpful for sorting through what you might want to check out while in Belgium. I am hopeful the rating system will help us choose--so many beers there to try!

Great book with good information

Very in septh

Even if you aren't going to belgium, you'll probably want to after reading this. Been reading a bunch of guide books like crazy, and researching online, but this has to be the best guide book I have read yet. I don't know if it is because they have such a specific topic but this book was really easy to read, and extremely easy to understand. I have yet to go to Belgium and check the accuracy of the information, but seems really informative and a great read. The authors write in a great voice and are very knowledgable. I'm a home brewer and love beer, but learned a lot from this book and this really helped finalize the itinerary for my trip to Belgium which is coming up soon. I've just been borrowing books from the library, so I was hesitant on purchasing this book for \$20+, but it was very worth it.

Content dense. I'm going to Belgium in April and it is my main reference. Several re-reads will be required to absorb what I think I need to know to have a great beer vacation. The authors are very knowledgeable but have their own biases. They favor emerging beer concepts over traditional styles. I think the experience will be fine as long as I keep that in mind.

I assumed that with all of the glowing 5 star reviews that this was THE go-to beer guide to Belgium, but even the "Good" in the book title was a little too generous. I thought it was "Okay" or "Decent". I'll explain more below...Pros:+Lots and lots of colored photos of the beers, breweries, and bars.+Belgian beer styles section was informative to understand all of the different kinds+Comprehensive guide of brewery companies, including helpful beer ratings+City-by-city guide of the best beer barsCons:- By far the biggest problem was the confusing and disorganized structure/layout of the book. Brewery reviews were separated from the city-by-city guide. I'll explain in more detail further below.- Lack of maps for locations of breweries. Perhaps it was an incorrect

assumption that Guide books would be much more helpful with physically guiding people to the breweries and bars. Seems easy to just add the breweries to the maps along side the beer bars and beer stores.- No ratings of the beer bars or stores. Mostly just information about how many beers they offered and whether or not the bar served food.- Confusing symbols throughout the guide. Map key at the beginning explains each one, but some symbols still seem pointless. (For example, they have a map symbol for a "Listed beer bar" and another symbol for "Other beer bar to try"). Yet, no map symbol for a brewery! To elaborate on my first Con above, it was frustrating that the writers decided to separate the brewery reviews away from the city-by-city beer bars/stores guide. I found myself having to play "Where's Waldo" to figure which breweries were or were not in/nearby the cities in Belgium I was going to visit. You'd get the clue at the very beginning of a Belgian region (in the beer bars/stores section) of which breweries were there, but there was no indication of where they were on the map. You'd have to find the name of the town/city in the brewery list, then try to find that town/city on the map. Sometimes I could find it, sometimes I couldn't. You'd think the short mention of the brewery destination would be matched up to the name of the Belgian town (but it's not). It requires lots of flipping back and forth to the Breweries section (from the city-by-city Beer Bars section) to read more about the brewery to see if it was worth your time based on the rating and beer styles they offered. Not sure why they couldn't at least have the brewery rating listed again with the page number to find it earlier in the book. If you're confused about my explanation, then hopefully my blabbering at least demonstrates how confusing the layout is of the content. I think with a healthy restructuring of the book with some updates to the maps, I would have given this a great rating. It's a shame because the authors really know their stuff about Belgian Beer. Instead it's 3/5 stars.

This is the best beer guide I have ever read. Insightful and full of tips for the traveler.

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