



## BEER RADAR

# BIG BUMPER BOOZE GUIDE 2012

John Kruger

IT'S TIME TO HEAD OUT TO A DECENT BOTTLE SHOP AND FILL THE FRIDGE WITH GLORIOUS COLD BEVERAGES. HERE'S A BRIEF EXPLANATION WHY WE'D BUY ANY OF THE FOLLOWING BEERS AND CIDERS. BUY YOURSELF A ROLLERCOASTER OF FLAVOURS INSTEAD OF A 30 PACK OF FIZZY DISH WATER.

### BEER

#### Feral Brewing Company

**Hop Hog** – Punchy hoppy goodness from Western Australia. Resiny aromatic hops meet bitter marmalade, caramel and burned white toast. It's a chewy mouthful of bitterness and it's so enjoyable.

#### Hitachino Nest

**Japanese Classic Ale** – Been waiting for a Japanese made India Pale Ale that's been matured in cedar sake casks? Wait no more and embrace the cedar. Pencil shavings and wooden sauna with sappy pine needles. It's an amazing left field beer and it's surprisingly good.

**Espresso Stout** – Forget the idea of coffee at the end of a meal, enjoy an espresso and a stout at the same time. High alcohol and a good whack of dark roasted coffee beans. Based on the Russian Imperial stouts, there's coffee and sweetness in a big delicious stout. It's seamless. Candidate #1 for Breakfast Beer of the Year.

#### Cascade

**Pure** – It's a beer surrounded by weird carbon neutral and low-carb marketing. Ignore all of that. The fact is it fared quite well in blind tastings and is a clean, easy drinking summer quaffer with a hint of fresh hops.

#### Epic

**Armageddon IPA** – Not as scary as their Hop Zombie, it's still a formidable beer. There's a very liberal amount of hops, loads of bitterness, aroma and flavour but also a sweet honey character that provides balance. What a beer!

#### Coopers

**Sapporo** – Now made by Coopers in Regency Park, South Australia. Very easy to drink session beer with good malt character. Knock off a few washing down some seafood. We'll be smashing these down. A good father-in-law beer.

**Pale Ale** – The fresher they are, the better. A fresh pale is a slightly malty sweet, hoppy and a vibrant beer with yeast complexity. Every fridge should have a few ready to go.

#### Matilda Bay

**Alpha Pale Ale** – Not too aggressive, but still very tasty. A session style of hoppy beer rather than a tongue buster. There's plenty of hop aroma and flavour that'll make you finish a six-pack before you know it.

#### Endeavour

**2011 Reserve Pale Ale** – Munich malt flavours with a background of fresh hops. Good pre-dinner beer. Malty and fresh.

#### Brooklyn Brewery

**Brooklyn Lager** – An American take on a Vienna lager. It's malty, hoppy and very tasty. It's nothing like a watery Aussie lager. Once punters realise a lager can also be packed full of flavour, this will be huge.

#### St. Ambrose

**Framboise** – A raspberry ale that's reeking of fresh berries. Looks weird but tastes great. Not everyone loves fruit in beer, but this was perfect with the Christmas turkey. Candidate #2 for Breakfast Beer of the Year.