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Cadieux Cafe

4300 Cadieux Rd., Detroit - 313.882.8560

by Lindsey Shaw

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Belgian owners, the Devos family, can relish in providing metro-Detroit with a culturally authentic social hub for all ages to enjoy good food, live music and, of course, rich brews. While one could indulge their senses with intoxicating tastes from Germany, Great Britain and Michigan (amongst other regions), it may be best to heed to the bumper sticker on Cadieux's wall: "It's Beautiful to Be Belgian." I thought, when in a Belgian bar, do as the Flemish do and drink! And drink I did ...

Bartender Danielle selected the Café's six top-selling beers, lined up three sample shots for me and was generous with the stronger beers by giving me whole bottles and glasses.



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Drink 1: Stella Artois

This smooth, light lager may be catching on in frat parties and college bar scenes, but it will always rise above standard flip-flop-wearing, collar-popping status. It is a Belgian staple at the Cadieux Café, recommended to complement the restaurant's famed steamed mussels. And a word to the undergrad wise, this beer may be light and named after a chick, but it's not wimpy.

Drink 2: Hoegaarden White

This original white ale brings eclectic ingredients to the palate, disguised in beer form. Upon sipping, I got hints of vanilla, embraced the banana infusion and complimented Danielle on knowing about the elusive fruity taste. Hoegaarden gives you a hint of hops, so you know you're drinking actual beer, and it holds the bitterness, making it a sure favorite.

Drink 3: Lindeman's Framboise Raspberry Lambic

Being a Lambic and all, this beer delicacy is only brewed southeast of Brussels in Belgium. Pretending to be some sort of connoisseur, I put the shot of beer under my nostrils to take in its soothing aroma. It could make you feel high, considering it is fermented with 12 raspberries, making it fruity going down and finishing dry.

Drink 4: Troubadour Blond Ale

You can't let the blond in the name fool you. It's a heartier drink than the rest of Cadieux's Belgian list. Here I was delighted with a sweet meld of yeast and fruits, including oranges, peaches and apricots topped with a solid white head I could have scooped with a spoon. I'd brand this a dessert beer, but it wasn't done with my beer buffet just yet.

Drink 5: Duvel

When Danielle asked a nearby waitress what she thought of Duvel beer — she said: "the devil." Duvel really does translate into devil. Whether or not Duvel has you drunk dialing your ex at the end of the night, before you get to make bad decisions you can enjoy its spicy flavor and champagne-like sparkle.

Drink 6: Scaldis Strong Ale

Having "strong" in this beer's title is a bit of an understatement. Most commonly compared to cognac or brandy, Scaldis doesn't translate into anything but "good ol' drunken times." It has a 12% alcohol content masked behind a nutty, sweet, malt taste. It finishes dry and hopefully won't finish your night off. | RDW

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