

Two Tribes – truly an international brewery!

For the drinkers who have been following Two Tribes, in recent years, they have introduced the 'Metroland' beer range. Unlike some breweries that are influenced by just one country, Two Tribes take their influences worldwide but the international element is more than just their beers.

Until last year, the head brewer was a Finn, Christoffer Tuominen, now succeeded by Dominic, who really does have an international pedigree. Born in Germany, Dominic did his brewing training there before going to Australia where he worked for Stone in Hand, best known for their Pacific Ale. He finally reached the UK and a role as a Production Brewer for Beavertown.

Dominic heads up a small team assisted by Stirling Mitchell (ex Affinity). Their beer production has grown substantially over the last couple of years. By the side of the brewery, Campfire has been established: a large outside tap room, food and events area. This has freed up space in the brewery building for more brewing kit and thus increase their production. They brew twice a day two to three days a week on their 1100 hectolitre kit with 12 tanks but this isn't enough to satisfy demand. They have a few of their bigger sellers contract brewed. This includes their lager, which is brewed by De Proef in Belgium. But managing contracts takes time. "We currently have an apprentice, who is with us until later this year. Once she was trained, it freed me up to manage the contracts more closely" said Dominic.



Their brewing kit enables them to rotate the wort to extract the maximum it can out of the hops. This means that the level of hopping needed to get the flavour profiles wanted is far less than on a traditional kit. This means that the hops can be washed out by the CIP system (cleaning in place) and down the drain rather than finding a home for spent hops. The used malt is sent to a biodigester, which is used to produce energy.

Around 14% of their production is canned, which helped during the pandemic (they have a small canning line). Their core beer range is Dream Factory, Power Plant and these are complemented by their Metroland range where the international influence really comes into play. Metroland Mariachi lager using Mexican yeast; Metroland Tokyo using rice and the biggest seller in the range, Metroland New York is packed with American hops. The newest edition is Metroland Colombo inspired by Sri Lanka ingredients: Coriander, Penang Leaves and Curry Leaves. At 3.9% ABV, it is refreshing, fruity and slightly spicy golden ale. It was produced especially for a Sri Lankan restaurant called Hoppers to go with their curries and the first batch sold out in a month.

You may have guessed by now, that Dominic likes to experiment. A recent collab was with a Mexican restaurant with a 2000 litre beer run. They started the development with a blind tasting and ended up with a beer using tortilla paste! The latest development is a Hibiscus beer combined with an experimental hop from Yakima Chief (HBC630) for those who fancy a pink beer!

But it isn't all experimentation. Dominic's first commercial brew for Two Tribes was a 'Cold IPA' at 5% ABV and you would expect someone who trained in Germany to appreciate a traditional Helles. Dominic has started brewing his own version, albeit with a lower ABV than usually found in Munich (4%) using three Noble hops (Tenang, Hallertau Mittelfruh and Hallertau Traditional) and lagering for 4 weeks after 2 weeks fermentation. Called Rockar, it is intended that this easy drinking beer will take over from the Mariachi lager.

So what of the future? Dominic would like more space, including room for water treatment but knows that is unlikely in the immediate future. However, when Jason Hutton, the Operations Director, was asked about export, he said "It's less than 5% at the moment. Over the last two years a lot of our export markets have slowed down but we expect that to grow significantly this year". If they succeed, then Two Tribes might have more cash for investment and Dominic might get his wish sooner than thought!

See: <https://twotribes.co.uk/> for more details

Tasting notes

Metroland Rio de Janeiro 3.9%.

A pale yellow beer with a refreshing lemon character overlaid with sweet ripe peaches. A hint of floral hop on the nose with the hops becoming more spicy on drinking, which fades in the dry bitter finish.

Metroland Colombo 3.9%

Inspired by Sri Lankan cuisine, this slightly hazy golden beer is flavoured with curry leaf. It has a sweet aroma with a little lime character, which is also in the flavour, which is initially spicy but fades in the dry, gentle bitter finish.

Metroland Tokyo Session IPA 4.0%

Using rice in the mix, this is a light drinking, refreshing pale beer with citrus throughout. There is a biscuity sweetness that is also present in the dry bitter finish. Hints of pineapple in the flavour.

Rocka Classic 4%

This Helles is cold fermented for 2 weeks and then lagered for 4 weeks. It has a classic nose of bread, caramel and citrus. The flavour is of sweet lemon with some zest and a hint of caramel. Soft mouthfeel.



Metroland New York City Session IPA 4.2%

This is their biggest seller using Mosaic hops and dry hopped with Cashmere and Citra. Cloudy orange coloured smooth beer with piney hops and sweet citrusy aroma. Earthy hops in flavour and finish becoming bitter and dry with just a hint of honey, which is more noticeable on the smooth palate. There are mango and tangerine notes that fade.

Dream factory 4.4%

Refreshing pale gold beer with sweet tropical aroma. Flavours of bitter lemon with a little mango over a sweetness that is also present on the bitterish finish. Hops are noticeable on palate and aftertaste.

Mariachi Mexican lager 4.7%

Columbus hops and using Mexican lager yeast.

A hazy gold with sweet bready nose with some fruit. These are also in the flavour with spicy hops. The spiciness lingers in the strong bitter finish which is still sweet. Smooth mouthfeel.

Rozy Club Cold IPA 5.0%

Described a cross between a lager and an American IPA, it is intensely fruity with lemon and grapefruit notes alongside the hoppy flavour. Biscuit and pine is noticeable in the aroma and flavour.