



# SPRING BEER SENSATIONS

BY KENDALL JONES

When people say “seasonal beer,” they’re usually talking about beers brewed exclusively for winter, but that’s not fair to the other seasons. Now that the days are growing long, it’s time to divert your attention away from the big, dark brews of winter and reach for spring seasonal beers. Here are six to pour into your pint.

## Laughing Dog Brewing Huckleberry Cream Ale

▶ 5.5% ABV ▶ \$9/6-pack, 12oz  
Sparkling and bright golden with an aroma of berries and a bit of breadly sweetness, the flavor is slightly tart, almost sour, but then it mellows out with a crisp, very light bitterness. Don’t let the name fool you; you’ll discover a lot more huckleberry than cream in this refreshing ale.

## 7 Seas Brewing Water Chopper Gose

▶ 4.8% ABV ▶ \$4/pint  
Pucker up for this hazy, golden and refreshingly tart beer and get ready for plenty of fruity sweetness mingling with the salty sourness. This gose starts out juicy, with noticeable citrus flavors like nectarine and tangerine, and a hint of green apple, but then finishes dry and clean.

## Snoqualmie Falls Brewery Spring Fever Belgian-Style Grand Cru Ale

▶ 6% ABV ▶ \$6/22oz  
It glows with a rich, golden-orange hue as hints of ripe fruit waft from the glass. Up front it is fruity with spicy notes imparted by the Belgian yeast, but then more subtle flavors enter the mix, and ultimately a pleasant, robust sweetness lingers but is not cloying.

## Ninkasi Brewing Co. Spring Reign American Pale Ale

▶ 6% ABV ▶ \$4/22oz  
This quaffable ale offers a slightly toasted malt flavor blended with a hoppy citrus character. It is a deep golden beer designed to go down easy, with pleasant malty notes at the beginning and plenty of the hops on the finish releasing twinges of orange and lemon.

## Hopworks Urban Brewery Rise Up Red India Red Ale

▶ 6.1% ABV ▶ \$5/22oz  
Loads of citrus hop notes complement the intricate malt flavors in this rich auburn-colored beer. The sweetness is mild but elaborate, with earthy, toffee and caramel notes giving way to lemon, grapefruit and pine on the finish. If balance is a virtue in beer, this is a righteous brew.

## GoodLife Brewing Brewshed Session Ale

▶ 4.5% ABV ▶ \$10/6-pack, 12oz  
A portion of this ale’s sales goes to funds for both the Oregon and Washington Brewshed® Alliances, two local groups that use beer to help protect wild waters. Dominated by an oat-like, cereal character, this beer is surprisingly malty for its diminutive stature, but finishes dry with pleasant hop bitterness.

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