

What's on Tap: A Guide to Seattle Suds

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Elysian Hits a Home Run and Other Weekend Drinks

This is one of those weekends that I really had no specific plans to drink good beer, but it just seemed to find me.

Friday night found me at **Collins Pub** to see what was left of their Belgian - American fest. There were just a few things on tap still, but I was happy to see they had the *Hale's Coconut Porter* flowing in addition to the Belgian style treats. A few years ago I tried the *Coconut Porter* from **Maui Brewing**, and it remains one of the top beers I've ever had the pleasure of drinking. I love chocolate, vanilla, coconut and coffee; and that beer had all those things going on. The **Hale's** is pretty solid, but not in the same ballpark as the Maui version. It has a bitter finish that clashes with the coconut in the brew. They've got the right idea, but they just need to tweak the recipe a bit I think.

Saturday, I wandered into **Elysian** on Capital Hill for a couple of pints while the girlfriend was at the spa. I wasn't expecting anything crazy to be on tap, but Elysian is often known to surprise me. They had a total of five beers that are specials/seasonals I had yet to try. Here is a quick run-down:

Elysian Barrel-Aged Avatar Jasmine IPA - Many of you have likely had Elysian's Summer-time special *Jasmine IPA*. Here's an unexpected BA version. Aged in white wine barrels, but not sure what kind. Great, big white head on top of golden orange liquid. Fruity, white grape aroma blends nicely with citrus and oak. The blend of lightly bitter citrus, grapes and pronounced oak is truly divine. Nothing overwhelms. It is smooth, balanced and sessionable. Easily the best result I've tasted from a BA IPA; the hops often clash in these experiments it seems. The normal Avatar is a solid summer thirst quencher, but this turns it into a completely different beer. The flowery taste is much more subtle and the barrel flavors are just perfect. They've hit a home run with this one, and I just wish this would become a regular offering...

Elysian Hubris Imperial IPA - Brewed at the Elysian Fields location. Pure citrus and light nug hop aroma. Sticky, sticky malt and hops make for a really bitter, big IIPA. Thick going down. If you like hops, you'll love this beer. Very solid IIPA from Elysian that I'm guessing we won't see repeated. As they said at Elysian, "We'll likely be missing all those hops later this year."

In addition to those 2 gems, they also had the *Razzmataz*, a Hefeweizen brewed with raspberry that was pretty solid. As I was sitting there they added a cask of *Elysian Senior Moment Old Ale* to the lineup, which was a disappointment after the others I'd had. The rarely seen *Golden Fleece Ale* was also on tap, but I did not have a chance to try that one.

I also went home with a couple of bottles I can't wait to try: *Pandora's Bock* and *The Great Pumpkin*, which is their GABF winning imperial version of the *Night Owl*. You can grab limited amounts of these beers in 22oz bottles at the brewpub.

I'd get down there ASAP if you hope to try the two special IPAs....no idea how long they'll last.

Posted by [Geoff Kaiser](#) at February 11, 2008 7:00 a.m.

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