



Matilda Bay's new beer ... It's both the duck's name and the duck's nuts!

September 2008

Australia's original craft brewer, Matilda Bay Brewing Company, is excited to announce the third addition to its out there range - a 750ml dark wheat beer named Sebastian Reserve.

Just like the previous Matilda Bay limited vintage releases MB21 and Grayston Reserve, Sebastian is a dunkelweizen style beer – a dark, complex, beer style traditionally brewed in the winter months and devoured alongside richer dishes with heartier flavours.

Sebastian takes its name from the much-loved pet duck of one of the brewers behind the beer. It's a nod to the tradition, albeit a loose one, of naming this series of vintage reserve beers after a personality in the Matilda Bay family. Last year's Grayston Reserve was named after the first born of another team member and the previous year's MB21 was brewed to celebrate Matilda Bay's 21st birthday. This year, with no offspring in the pipeline and no significant birthdays on the horizon, the next in-line was Sebastian, a three-year-old Indian Runner duck.

This latest vintage reserve beer is brewed with five different malts and two noble hops – Hersbrucker and Tettnang - and fermented using classic Redback yeast. It has distinctive chocolate and banana aromas followed by subtle hints of clove and spice. The palate is characterised by a smooth, round malty body with warming alcohol balanced by low bitterness from the German hops.

Sebastian is an expression of the brewing team's creativity and passion and a welcomed chance to diversify beer's role in dining culture. Brewing these little-known styles gives the Matilda Bay brewers a chance to create a flavour experience that makes these beers so much more interesting than conventional styles and puts it bang in the middle of the meal table.

If kept in a cool dark place Sebastian Reserve will age nicely over several years thanks to the portions of live yeast that remain from keeping the beer unfiltered and un-pasteurised. During this time the beer will develop a softer flavour profile as the original characters give way to more subtle spicy characters.

The crew at Matilda Bay reckon there's no better combination than drinking and eating so they've selected a few top pubs around the country to match with Sebastian Reserve. Sample pairings include Sebastian matched with a selection of soft cheeses at Melbourne's Courthouse Hotel, or with Peking Duck Pizza at The Australian Hotel in Sydney. Other restaurants including Queens Hotel in Perth, and The Breakfast Creek Hotel in Brisbane have also specially matched one of their dishes to suit Sebastian's gourmet pedigree.

From September 7th, Sebastian will be available on draught at select venues in VIC, NSW, WA, SA and QLD. Sebastian 750ml bottles, RRP \$18.99, will be available from limited stockists in these states from October 1st. For stockists or more info got to: www.matildabay.com