

Eric Toft, Brewmaster for Schönram Brewery, on the Origination of Saphir Bock:



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We brewed Saphir Bock for the first time in 2007. I really liked the hop, it was first released in 2002, as it has a lot of aroma and flavor characteristics of some of the popular US-hops, though much more subtle. In a year with intense aroma, like the 2011 crop, you get, in addition to the classic German noble hop character, nuances of mango and passion fruit and almost always you have hints of lavender and lemon grass, which I think also comes through in the beer.

I started helping the German Hop Growers Association market their hops in America in 2007 at the CBC (Craft Brewers' Conference) in Austin, TX, and for that I created the very first Saphir Bock (we called it Sapphire Bock) that I had brewed by my friends at Victory in Pennsylvania, much easier than brewing it here and sending over. The point was to make Americans aware of this new and to them unknown hop variety and demonstrate that German hops can offer an alternative to the American varieties used in craft beer. I brewed it in Schoenram that year in the fall and we've brewed it ever since. We were definitely the first brewer to brew a beer using 100% Saphir and the first brewer to use Saphir in a Bock beer.

I like to brew beers using 100% of any hop variety to really see and show what a single variety can do in all facets of flavor and aroma. My inspiration for the beer were the Belgian strong ales and tripels and by employing an intense mashing, we achieve a high attenuation to simulate the use of sugar in the boil – common practice in Belgium - which we can't and wouldn't do; I wanted to demonstrate that the Reinheitsgebot is not restrictive, the only restrictions are in brewers' heads. I think the flavor is much more similar to a Belgian strong ale or tripel than it is to German pale bock beers, this can be attributed in part to the process we employ but primarily to the Saphir hop.

I am not a fan of dark bock beers, I find them too cloying, and pale bock beers often seem a bit one dimensional and sweet, lacking hop character. So, the Saphir Bock is loaded with hops and IBUs are at 48. The background body and slight sweetness comes from the high alcohol content. ”

ABV 8.0%

20/btl case 0.33 ltr
UPC: 4 036328 000138

30.0 ltr One-Way Dolium
Keg

