

Beginner's Guide To Beer

The word "beer" is often used as a generic noun to describe a cold refreshing beverage. However, for those with more than a passing interest in the drink, a single word is far from sufficient to describe it.

When it comes to types of beer, there are many, many options to choose from. It's impossible to say which type is best, because they all have very different characteristics. You'd be surprised at how a pilsner can differ from a porter, or how a stout stands out from a cider.

Most beers, particularly those sold commercially, are processed using similar methods. However, there are enough slight variations on the basic brewing process for each type of beer to have individual characteristics. Taste, appearance and aroma are just some of the qualities that make different beers unique.

Some common favorites include these:

Lager: Some of the world's most popular beer brands are lagers. These include American styles including basic lager, all-malt lager, light lager, double pilsner, malt liquor and low-alcohol or "light" beers. Germany and the Czech Republic are seen as the international leaders in the production of them.

Ale: American amber, brown ale, porter, strong, sour and wild ales are also common American beers. Other variations are ales brewed with local techniques from Belgium, Ireland, Finland, Scotland and France.

Cider: Not a beer in the strictest sense of the word but most beer drinkers wouldn't mind it being called so. Cider brewed from traditional English farms is a particular favorite of many.

Hybrids: Combining different beer styles or ingredients create this "experimental" beer. Sub-categories include smoked, spiced, fruit and vegetable beer.

Those are the essentials that every serious beer drinker should have already ticked off their beer list. Remember that variety is the spice of the life; you're severely limiting yourself by always being loyal to one brand. There is a world of options available to you, so try something new next time you're in a beer drinking mood.

About the Author

Luke Porter is a [home beer brewing](#) expert, and you are invited to discover the simple secrets of brewing world class beer from the comfort of your home by visiting his website: <http://homebeerbrewingsecrets.com/>

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