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Reed's Raspberry Ginger Brew Review

January 15th, 2011

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Today I'm going to look at a libation from Reed's, who pride themselves on brewing soda the "old-fashioned way". This entails brewing soda flavors out of fruit juices, herbs, and spices, and allowing the finished product to age. To be truly old-fashioned, this would also entail using yeast to carbonate the beverage, but Reed's site does not specify whether or not they do this. But the phrase "naturally brewed" would lead me to believe that they do.

I dig old-school "home-brewed" sodas a lot, to the point that I have even turned my own kitchen into a soda brewery multiple times. But I have also found that sometimes the brewing process can bring in less than ideal flavors. Getting a naturally brewed soda to meet or exceed all your flavor expectations really is a master craft. So I'm curious to see how this raspberry brew measures up.

Scent: Off goes the cap, and out comes a spicy ginger aroma with a background of tart berry and citrus scents. There is also a significant honey presence.

Taste: This brew has some very deep and complex flavors going on. First, there's the ever-present ginger bite. This fades into a big blend of fruit juice flavors that all want to stand up and be counted. Perhaps the most prevalent fruit note is the tart lemon, followed by the various berry flavors. It finishes slightly dry and astringent, without a lot of lingering sweetness. Its curious combination of tart/dry lemon and fruity berry/apple/pear flavors makes this land right in the middle of the spectrum, somewhere halfway between a true dry and a sweet ginger ale.

Health Factor: Points for all-natural ingredients, 20% real fruit juice, and a generous dose of fresh ginger. However, there is still a significant sugar presence of 37.4 grams per 12 oz bottle, just slightly under the sugar content of your average Coke can. So use this occasionally as a refreshing tonic or pair it with a spicy meal, but don't guzzle it like it's water.

Rating: 4.0 out of 5 – A pleasing blend of natural flavors with a ginger kick

-Danithius-

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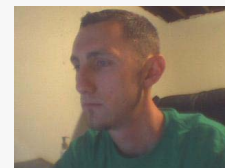
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