



# New year, new beer

It's a brand new year, so why not resolve to try some new brews? **GREG THOM** has some suggestions

## Icon 2IPA

NSW craft brewer Murray's has created what it claims is the "hoppiest" beer in the southern hemisphere.

An award-winning, limited-release categorised by the brewers as an "extreme" brew, Icon Imperial Indian Pale Ale is a hybrid of Imperial and American IPA beer styles.

At 7.5 per cent alcohol and with the intense hopping imbuing, 2IPA has a strong citrus character and is not a beer for the faint-hearted.

Those who take the plunge will be rewarded with a complex and interesting brew. It tantalises the tastebuds with a wonderful mix of sensations that range from peppery to passionfruit.

**www.murraysbrewingco.com.au**

**Otaru Export**

The importers of Otaru went to great lengths to source this unusual beer from a remote Japanese fishing village of the same name.

The beer is the first to be imported by Boutique Alpine Brews, a new venture established to put niche beers from alpine regions around the world in the hands of Australian drinkers.

A European-inspired, pilsener style, the 5 per cent Otaru Export was originally developed for distribution from the village brewery to nearby Tokyo and has previously been unavailable outside Japan.

Using local water considered by centuries of seafarers to be the purest of any port in Japan, this beautiful beer has a highly distinctive aroma and a taste that conjures images of pear and almonds. **Email:**

**brews@boutiquealpinebrews.com.au**



### **Feral White**

This unfiltered Belgian-style witbier, which hails from WA, was awarded Champion Specialty Beer at the 2007 Australian International Beer Awards and it's easy to see why.

With a beautiful Hoegaarden-like cloudiness, the 4.5 per cent drop rewards drinkers with a wonderfully citrus taste bordering on the spicy, courtesy of a hint of orange peel and cracked coriander seeds. More like a refreshing tonic than a beer.

[www.feralbrewing.com.au](http://www.feralbrewing.com.au)

### **Crackenback Pale Ale**

The flagship beer from Snowy Mountains Brewery, Crackenback is a delicate, 4.9 per cent pale ale tailor-made for Australian palates.

Named after the mountain range in the Kosciuszko National Park, Crackenback makes use of a great combination of Chinook hops to achieve a "soft" bitterness and Amarillo and Cascade hops for slightly spicy flavour. It's a fruity, medium-bodied drop that's best described as delicious.

[www.snowymountainsbrewery.com.au](http://www.snowymountainsbrewery.com.au)

### **London Best**

Australians traditionally like their beer cold, but West Australian brewers Gage Roads felt it was time to bring a touch of English bitter Down Under.

If the Union Jack on the label leaves you in any doubt about what's to come, one sip of the 4.4 per cent drop is enough to mentally put you at a bar in the Old Dart.

A beautiful copper colour that pours with a glorious creamy head, London Best is a well-balanced, easy-drinking English bitter with a slight bite.

[www.gageroads.com.au](http://www.gageroads.com.au)

