

# India Pale Ale Beer Cast

The origin of India pale ales begins with establishment of the British East India Company and other British traders in India in the 1700s. These corporations would have huge number of employees who, along with the British troops garrisoned there, were desperate for beer from their homeland. Unfortunately, the long journey around the African Cape of Good Hope was usually too arduous for the beer and it would arrive flat and unpleasant.

The English brewer George Hodgson of the Bow Brewery tackled the transportation problem for exporting beer to East Asia and developed a variation of his pale ale recipe to combat the problem. Hodgson increased both ingredients in beer that act as natural preservatives, hops and alcohol. Alcohol acts as a defense against airborne microbes and hops prevents the growth of bacteria. So, Hodgson excessively hopped his ale and increased the alcohol content, yielding a noticeably bitter and powerful beer. His recipe worked and the beer was an overwhelming success on the India subcontinent.

India Pale Ales are most often amber, but can be golden pale to deep bronze. These beers are obviously bitter with a pronounced hop aroma and flavor. To balance the bitterness, however, is a strong malt profile with a bready or biscuit-like flavor and caramelly sweetness. The IPA should have a nice hop aroma often accompanied with a malt or fruity presence and a full, lasting head. True to history, India pales should have alcohol content between 5 and 7.5%.

No one in the brewing world makes an IPA in the traditional sense. English brewers produce an IPA that is generally much less bitter than the original recipe, and with a lower alcohol presence. The English version is characterized by a solid malt profile, reserved bitterness, and sweeter, less hoppy aroma. The American interpretation is probably closer to the original design, usually brewed with a wallop of high-alpha hops and strong alcohol presence. The IPA has enjoyed a huge increase in popularity in the States and some version is offered by nearly all microbreweries.