

NW Red Ale

Style Overview

The key to a NW Red Ale is the space where citrusy hop flavor joins with sweet caramel malt. A truly great NW Red will have a character that shows off the hops to advantage but the malt is so closely knit into the flavor as to make the two virtually inseparable. Northwest hop aromas and flavors should be prominent in this style, a malty beer but malt should not mask hop character.

Two Brewer's Association sub-styles fit the bill as a NW Red Ale:

American-Style Amber/Red Ale

American amber/red ales range from light copper to light brown in color. They are characterized by American-variety hops used to produce the perception of medium hop bitterness, flavor, and medium aroma. Amber ales have medium-high to high maltiness with medium to low caramel character. They should have medium to medium-high body. The style may have low levels of fruity ester flavor and aroma. Diacetyl can be either absent or barely perceived at very low levels. Chill haze is allowable at cold temperatures. Slight yeast haze is acceptable for bottle-conditioned products.

Original Gravity (°Plato) 1.048-1.058 (12-14.5 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.012-1.018 (3-4.5 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 3.5-4.8% (4.5-6%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 30 - 40 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 11-18 (22-36 EBC)

Imperial or Double Red Ale

Imperial or Double Red Ales have intense hop bitterness, flavor and aroma. Alcohol content is also very high and of notable character. They range from deep amber to dark copper in color and may exhibit a small amount of chill haze at cold temperatures. The style may use any variety of hops. Though the hop character is intense it's balanced with complex alcohol flavors, moderate to high fruity esters and medium to high caramel malt character. Imperial or Double Red Ales have a full body. Diacetyl should not be perceived.

Original Gravity (°Plato) 1.080-1.100 (19.3-23.7 °Plato) • **Apparent Extract/Final Gravity (°Plato)** 1.020-1.028 (5-7 °Plato) • **Alcohol by Weight (Volume)** 6.3-8.4% (7.9-10.5%) • **Bitterness (IBU)** 55-85 • **Color SRM (EBC)** 10-15 (20-30 EBC)

Commercial Examples

Widmer Brrr, Hopworks Galactic, Big Time Scarlet Fire IPA, Ninkasi Believer Double Red, Hopworks Rise Up Red, Lompoc Proletariat Red