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BrewCats: Winter IPA for the perfect sick day off

Stephanie L. Smith | Staff Reporter | Posted: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 8:15 pm

Hoppy Brown Ale

With fall semester finally dwindling down, most students are ready to ignore classes and homework and take a few “sick days.” Toss in a bottle or two of Long Trail Brewing Company’s seasonal Sick Day and it is even more tempting.

Long Trail Brewing Company is located in Bridgewater Corners, Vermont, and started operations in 1989. Long Trail’s beers are mainly distributed on the East Coast with the company entering the Ohio market in April of this year.

Released as a winter IPA last year, Long Trail switched to a hoppy brown ale for this year’s Sick Day recipe — and it is indeed an interesting blend of hops and malts.

The deep, copper-colored ale teases the nose with the familiar aroma of earthy pine from the hops, complemented by biscuit-y brown sugar from the malts.

Initially, pine remains at the forefront flavor-wise, but mingles with spices, picking up more spicy hoppiness and brown sugar and caramel sweetness in the middle. It maintains a nice balance between the malt and hop flavors, ending with a yeasty toast finish and a hearty malt aftertaste.

This is an intriguing take on a winter beer. Most winter ales are known for being heavier beers, most having a whisky or bourbon inspired taste. Sick Day is a lighter beer — and smoother, too. The 6.8 percent ABV is very well hidden, but still has that warm spiciness, standard for winter ale.

Long Trail Sick Day is a brew definitely worth faking illness over.



Sick Day Ale

Long Trail Brewing Company switches up its recipe for the holiday brew, Sick Day, this year, switching from an IPA to a brown ale.