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## Brewcats: Moerlein's holiday options

Stephanie L. Smith | Staff Reporter | Posted: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 9:06 pm

Moerlein Brewing Company's new holiday brews prove that German tradition matters to the company, regardless of the season.

The brewery follows Reinheitsgebot — a purity decree, which limits the ingredients used in the production of beer in Germany. Bavaria adopted the law in 1516 and allows only water, hops and barley as ingredients. After the discovery of yeast, the fungus became the fourth legal ingredient.

While Moerlein's Christkindl looks like a traditional, thick winter warmer with its deep reddish-brown hue, it is actually subtle in aroma and flavor.

One has to inhale deeply to pick up any trace of the toffee sweetness and a pinch of holiday spices, mostly cinnamon and ginger. As for taste, it is malt heavy — faintly toasty, nutty bread is at the forefront with a combination of chocolate essence and a slightly bitter hoppy-caramel middle, with a dry spice finish.

The 6.95 percent ABV is disguised almost too well, to the point of it maybe being mistaken for a session beer.

Yet, it is underwhelming as a winter warmer. Instead, it is suggestive of mildly spicy brown ale. A better representation of the winter warmer style can be found in Moerlein's Shiver Chai Porter.

Holiday Harvest Lager is Hefeweizen influenced, combining elements of the classic German beer — floral yeasty aroma with a wheaty, bready flavor — but winterizing it, making it much heartier.

The breadiness is more pronounced and warm on the tongue, ending with a pleasing blend of spices.

Adhering to the Reinheitsgebot can be a challenge and results in the majority of Moerlein's beers, such as



### Xmas Beer Review

Moerlein's Holiday Harvest Lager is a treat for the season, with floral yeasty aroma and a wheaty, bready flavor. Stephanie Smith | Staff Photographer

Christkindl, are fairly low key. There are a few that are wow-worthy, however, and Moerlein's Holiday Harvest Lager is one.