



## Summer solstice

We must be due a good summer after the last few damp squibs we've had. In anticipation of sunnier times, the Dorset-based Badger Brewery has launched Long Days, a refreshing golden ale that is perfect for the summer months. Produced using water from the brewery's own well and fermented with raspberry leaves, it has a sweet and fruity nose. Available from June to September; badgerdirect.com, £1.69 for a 500ml bottle.

## Viva España!

Tapas fans and Rioja lovers should head to Tapas Fantasticas this summer. The two-day event takes place on London's Brick Lane from 27-28 June and in Manchester's Albert Square on the 25 and 26 July. Chefs from Rioja will be flying in to cook up authentic dishes, and wine expert Susy Atkins will hold free seminars. Entry is free but if you want to savour the tipples on offer you will need to buy a wine glass for £2, which will entitle you to six different samples. winesfromrioja.co.uk



## Pour homme

If you're searching for a Father's Day gift that's not whisky (see our feature on page 111), you could do a lot worse than DeuS. It's a Belgian beer with a difference. Fermented with champagne yeasts, it undergoes the same bottle turning (remuage) and yeast removal (disgorgement) as the famous French fizz. The whole process takes a year and gives anise, malt and bready flavours. It also comes in a swish-looking 75cl champagne bottle, closed with a champagne cork. Make sure your dad drinks it slowly though – it's a whopping 11.5% alcohol. Available at selected Waitrose stores, £12.15.



# Drinks news

Summer beers, refreshing fruity cordial and Spanish feasting, Rebecca Gibb leads the way



## Class notes

The winemakers of Saint-Emilion will be throwing open their doors from 19-21 June for tours and tastings. Saint-Emilion doesn't only make great merlot; it is a Unesco World Heritage Site with beautiful Romanesque churches and narrow, winding streets. If you want to learn to taste like a professional while you're there, the Bordeaux Wine School runs two-hour classes in English every day from June to September. For more information, visit <http://ecole.vins-bordeaux.fr>



## Cordially yours

If you are looking for an upmarket non-alcoholic drink to quench your thirst, look no further than Belvoir's elderflower, gooseberry and muscat cordial. It comes in a 70cl bottle and makes up to eight pints of juice when diluted. From [belvoirfruitfarms.co.uk](http://belvoirfruitfarms.co.uk) and selected delicatessens, £4.15

## Did you know?

In 1954, the winegrowers of Châteauneuf-du-Pape passed a law forbidding UFOs from landing on their vineyards as, at the time, French newspapers were filled with sightings of unidentified craft. The mayor of the Rhône Valley village ruled that any flying saucers (known as flying cigars in France)

would be held in custody. It is still in place today although there have been no recent sightings. The law seems to be working.

