

History's oldest profession may not be what you think it is!

Did you know that the world's oldest brewery is [13,000 years old](#)? Of course, Homo sapiens have been on Earth for much longer, but our love of a good beer has persisted for millennia.

Despite our intertwined history, many people still have a lot of questions about beer. Whether you're a glass pint greenhorn or a craft connoisseur, you might find yourself asking these questions:

What does IPA stand for in beer? What is an APA vs. IPA? What is a hazy IPA, and what makes it hazy?

Fear not, fellow beer-lover! Read on to learn all about hazy IPAs and more.

## What is a Hazy IPA Beer?

As you browse the selection at [your local brewery](#), you might encounter some hazy IPAs. Hazy IPAs are relatively new in the world of craft brewing, but they have earned their place as a mainstay.

The namesake for hazy IPA comes from its looks. Hazy IPAs have gorgeous orange-golden color and distinctly cloudy appearance. Unlike many other beers, you can't see through a hazy IPA.

The distinction between hazy IPAs and other IPAs or APAs is a bit nuanced. We'll dive into further detail to help you understand the science behind your favorite brew.

## What Does IPA Stand For in Beer?

IPA stands for [India Pale Ale](#). This acronym originates from British colonies in India during the 18th and early 19th centuries. Popular history suggests that dark porters and traditional beers did not fare well in India's hot climate, so the British sailors, soldiers, and colonials created lighter beers brewed with more hops to prevent spoiling.

Not all IPAs today are "pale," but most are still rather hops-forward and light-bodied. Generally, IPA beers have an alcohol-forward, citrusy and floral flavor with hints of spice.

## What is an American Pale Ale vs. IPA?

[American Pale Ale](#) (APA) is similar to IPA, but APA tends to be lighter, with fewer spicy notes and more citrus flavor. APAs usually have less alcohol content overall. Both IPAs and APAs use a lot of hops in their brewing process.

## What is a Double IPA vs. IPA?

Double IPA, also called Imperial IPA, is similar to a regular IPA but with a few changes in the brewing process. Double IPAs are brewed with more hops, but when you add more hops, you must add more malt to balance its bitter qualities.

The perfect balance of hops and malt gives double IPAs a more robust flavor and a higher ABV. The alcohol content of an IPA hovers around 5%, while alcohol content in double IPA or Imperial IPA is closer to 8%. Some breweries may even offer a "triple IPA," which has an ABV of 10% or higher.

## What is a Session IPA vs. an IPA?

A session IPA takes the opposite approach to a double or triple IPA. Session IPAs are brewed with less hops and less malt. The result is a lighter beer with lower alcohol content.

Because session IPAs only have about 4 to 5% ABV, they are much easier to drink back-to-back. You can have multiple of these IPA beers in a "session" with your friends.

## What is a Double Dry Hopped vs. a Double IPA?

Doubled dry-hopped beer has a different [brewing process](#) than double IPA. Typically, hops are added at specific times in the brewing cycle to produce different flavors. Double dry hopping is the process of adding hops to the brew after fermentation has already taken place or during a second fermentation.

A double dry-hopped (DDH) beer is bursting with hops flavor. The bitterness of hops is mild in a DDH IPA, but you still get to enjoy its more delicate flavors. DDH beers feature bold notes of tropical fruit, citrus, and juicy herbs.

## What Makes an IPA Hazy?

At the end of the brewing process, most beers are usually filtered. However, a hazy IPA is not filtered before drinking, which leaves the beer with more flavors from hops, grain malt, fruit, and other ingredients. If you filtered a hazy IPA, it would taste more like a regular IPA.

To prevent sediment and other solid materials from ending up in your mouth or sinking to the bottom of your glass, hazy IPAs must be brewed differently than other beers. Hazy IPAs are "hazy" because tiny solid particles from wheat grain and yeast are colloidal in the beer. The brewing ingredients must be in perfect balance and non-clumping to remain suspended.

## What Does IPA Taste Like?

IPAs are traditionally very hops-forward beers, meaning the hops' fruity, [bitter flavors](#) are the most noticeable. Many types of IPAs are available today, some of which we've covered here. Others include:

- Session IPA
- Double or Imperial IPA
- Dry-hopped
- Double dry-hopped
- Belgian IPA
- Sour IPA
- Fruited IPA

Hazy IPA is simply a type of IPA. Hazy IPAs are usually described as juicy, citrusy, or fruity. This is primarily due to the flavors of the hops and any fruit additions. Hazy IPAs have a dense, complex mouthfeel and less bitterness than an average IPA.

## All Praise the Haze

So, what is a Hazy IPA? As Mother always used to say, you'll never know until you try! For a prime example of the perfect hoppy, juicy brew, look no further than our [Pursuit of Juiciness IPA!](#)

Do you have more questions about beer and the craft brewing process? Ready to take your tastebuds on an adventure?

Upstream Brewing Company is Omaha's go-to spot for delicious food and unforgettable brews. Call us at (402)344-0200 or [contact us online](#) to create a reservation!