



Quadruple Party



Berkel-Enschot, near Tilburg (the Netherlands), on a winter's day in November. It is the interim manager Wim Burgemeestre, and not the Trappist fathers, who welcomes us to the party being given for the trade, the press and customers in order to sample the new La Trappe Quadruple. A little later, however, we do see some fathers, since although they no longer work in the brewery themselves, they do still monitor the brewing process and are

the owners of the La Trappe brand name (as you know, the brewery was sold to Bavaria, the third largest brewery in the Netherlands).

Bavaria has since invested heavily in the production machinery. A new clear beer cellar and bottling plant was built with an ultra-modern bottling unit. You should taste that in the beer, which did tend to be a little irregular in the past.





We did justice to a good number of Quadruples, in the pleasant company of the entire staff of Bavaria, with Managing Director Peter Swinkels, Production Manager Ben Van Dieren and his Flemish colleague Eric Meersman. Edwin Neele, manager of Ritzenhoff Benelux, also enjoyed the wonderful beer, which later in the evening was accompanied by a portion of Zeeland mussels.

True to tradition, the burgomaster of Tilburg, J. Stekelenburg, had the honour of receiving the first crate of 2000/2001-vintage La Trappe Quadruple from Abbot Dom Korneel Vermeiren, who proudly showed a new film on the abbey, which is also available on interactive CD-Rom.

- Four beers are brewed under the La Trappe brand name:
- The ruby-red Dubbel [Double] (6.5 % vol. alc.), with a smooth aromatic, fresh character.
 - The Tripel [Triple] (8%); a dark light ale with a fruity, bitter-sweet taste.
 - A fresh, fruity Blond [light ale] with 6.5% vol. alc.
 - The seasonal beer Quadrupel [Quadruple] (10%) which is brewed once a year, in the autumn. This annually decanted beer, with a full, generous taste, can be drunk either soon after bottling or after being kept for a few years.

Your correspondent was planning to do the latter with the bottle of Quadruple he was given when he left. However some nasty bends on the road to Antwerp decided otherwise. The bottle broke in the car boot, and for a whole week the undersigned enjoyed the memory of the wonderful beer, which has now finally evaporated. Ah, the things a beer lover has to go through... (B.V.)

