

# Harbour lights up

Sweden's first brewpub opened 18 months ago, in Stockholm's Old Town. The Gamla Stans Bryggeri ("Old Town Brewery ") is in a 1920s customs shed, right on the harbour.

A smart, copper-clad brewhouse is surrounded by a circular bar. There is a stage for live music (Wilson Pickett has played there), a bistro (with German sausage dishes) and a white-tablecloth dining area strong on fish dishes.

For the moment, the brewery has only one product, Faerskoel ("Fresh Beer"). This brew, with a huge head and good lace-work, is an appropriately fresh-tasting, light-bodied, soft mild, unfiltered golden lager of 5 per cent. It has a gentle, all-Saaz, hop character, and is krausened (partially-fermented wort is blended with the green beer to encourage a second fermentation).

Young brewer Lennart Olsson formerly worked for Spendrups.

The Old Town was established by restaurateur brothers Mikael and Per Alalmberg, both home-brewers. Their financial backer is Jan Stenback, Sweden's Rupert Murdoch.

The threesome lobbied for a law to permit brew-pubs. They were so confident of success that they were building before the legislation was passed.

A new micro will open in the King's Island district of central Stockholm any day now under the name Kungsholmens Kvarter. Partners are entrepreneur Peder Jonsson and star home-brewer Hakan Lundgren. The brewery is in a former textile warehouse. Pilot brews have included the lightly smooth, malty, complex Lundgrens Lager, with American hops, and an impressively dry Blitz Bitter inspired by Hop Back Summer Lightning.

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