

# Belgian monks resurrect beer last brewed 224 years ago

## Norbertines find medieval recipe in abbey destroyed by French troops in 1795

La Croix International staff  
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Grimbergen Abbey in Belgium (Photo: [Wikimedia Commons](#))

Monks at a Belgian abbey are to resume brewing a medieval beer after a hiatus lasting two centuries.

When Grimbergen Abbey was destroyed by French troops in 1795, it was feared its medieval recipes would be lost forever.

But the monks of the Order of Canons Regular of Premontre (also known as Premonstratensians or Norbertines) are to begin brewing once again at their abbey north of Brussels after finding a 12th-century recipe and methods in their archive,

After plans to build a new brewery at Grimbergen Abbey were approved on May 20, the monks hope to produce their first lot of 10.8 percent ales by late 2020, *The Independent newspaper in Britain reported.*

Father Karel Stautemas said the monks believe it is important to maintain the site's heritage and continue its tradition of brewing.

"Brewing and religious life always came together," said the monk, who will be one of six workers at the new brewery.

Marc-Antoine Sochon, an expert at Carlsberg who will be the project's brewmaster, said the brewery will make limited-edition versions of beer already made on a commercial scale under the Grimbergen name.

He said the operation would keep the same yeast, which will bring "all the fruitiness and spiciness," while trying out new methods such as barrel ageing and dry hopping.

The Carlsberg-funded project will aim to use locally produced crops, including hops planted in the abbey's garden.

The monks will follow the rules of Belgium's Trappist beer makers, meaning they will brew within the abbey walls, control the brewing and use profits for maintaining the abbey and supporting charities.

Since being founded in 1128, Grimbergen Abbey has been destroyed by fire and rebuilt three times. It adopted the phoenix as a symbol of rebirth alongside the motto "*ardet nec consumitur*" (burned but not destroyed).

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