ST MAUR ELDERFLOWER LIQUEUR

We received a beautifully proportioned bottle of St Maur, a delicious elderflower liqueur, hand-crafted in Warwickshire with elderflowers gathered by the producers, the Earl and Countess of Yarmouth, in their ancient family-owned woodlands.

When sampled neat, I was immediately impressed with the subtlety of the elderflower notes and the satisfying viscosity of the almost syrupy, but never over-sweet, texture.

Over ice, St Maur was very slightly diluted as the ice melted, but it added another dimension to what was a very easy drinking, smooth liqueur.

An order for St Maur will definitely be going in.



JAKE'S DRINKS

Jake's Drinks is a collection of craft beers and ciders from the Kent-based winemakers at Balfour Winery. As with their wines, their beers and ciders are made with the same skill and pioneering spirit – combining the best local ingredients, a winemakers touch and a vision for producing drinks of elegance and balance.

Elegance was certainly the first adjective that came to mind when I took the samples out of the delivery box. Available in beautifully designed cans, which included stylised images of trees, comprising leaves, fruit and branches, Jake's IPA (4.3% ABV) and Jake's Lager (4.5% ABV) make an immediate impression before you even open the can.

Once poured both the lager and IPA were refreshing and full of flavour. The IPA is a traditional pale ale with a delicious hoppy flavour; the relatively strong lager was smooth and almost delicate, and belied its wolf-in-sheep's clothing strength.

Both the IPA and lager were well received in the Hand Crafted Drinks Magazine's office and are now firmly on our radar.

