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Referring to Monty Python as influential is like calling Einstein smart. Not only have comedians and filmmakers taken cues from Python, it seems the food and beverage industry has found inspiration as well.

The folks behind Spam would have to have been complete dolts not to exploit the inherent marketing potential of Monty Python. And dolts they are not. For coming soon to a Shop Rite near you is Golden Honey Grail Spam.

Our crack team of TH-R taste-testers (uh, actually just our own Mike Dawson) reports that while the smell is reminiscent of Fancy Feast, the flavor is something like honey-roasted ham. True fans of Spam are in for a sweet treat. And the packaging does live up to the Collector's Edition label with Gai-arious graphics and instructions like "Taketh thine Spam slice and fry it thusly for exactly 2 minutes. No more, no less..."

Wicked-awesome, indeed.

Likewise, after the funny fine-print ("Tempered over burning witches") and cool label graphics, the first thing you notice about Monty Python's Holy Grail Ale is that it's foamy. Really foamy. Like, bursting out of the bottle then just sitting there all foamlike foamy. A dark beer, it's not as heavy as a Guinness, but it's pretty thick and really yeasty.

We've found it at Monroe Beer and Soda, Half-time Beverage in Poughkeepsie and K&E in New Paltz, where Bacchus also serves it from behind the bar.

Know of more places that carry it? E-mail us at poptopics@th-record.com and we'll update our list online.

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