

Was trinken die Deutschen? das BIER, die Biere

## 10 FASCINATING FACTS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT GERMAN BEER

With the hazy memories of the beer festivals now increasingly distant, here are ten fascinating nuggets of trivia about German beer to reinvigorate your love for the amber nectar.



Tennis coach Boris Becker and his wife Lilly at Oktoberfest 2016 in Munich.

### 3. German pilsner originated in a town in the Czech Republic

Pilsner, a light beer developed in the 19th century, has the largest market share in beer sold in Germany by quite some distance, but it was invented in a city that's in the modern-day Czech Republic.

Pilsen, or Plzeň in Czech, is a town in western Bohemia, but was part of the German-speaking Austro-Hungarian Empire in the 19th century. When the city decided to build one big brewery in the 1840s, they invited Bavarian brewer Josef Groll to **create a new type of beer** – the result was so good it soon spread across Europe.

The popular Pilsner Urquell beer, although a Czech company, has a German name meaning "The original source of Pilsner".

### 4. Despite the purity law, Germans have many different beer mixers

Since Germans are so strict on what can go into their beer, it may seem a little strange that they have so many different beer mixers - and you can buy many of them pre-mixed.

The most well-known is probably the Radler, which is beer mixed with sparkling lemonade. But if you're in the northwest, it may well be called an "Alster", or a "Panasch" in Saarland, and a "Russe" in Bavaria if it's mixed with a wheat beer.

And that's only beer-lemonades, forgetting cola mixers and the rest. It's now more common to drink a Radler in Germany than in the UK, but it seems that the British 'shandy' has actually been around longer, first written about in the 1850s, according to the Oxford English Dictionary.