

Was trinken die Deutschen? das Bier, die Biere

Mönchsbiere (monastery beers)

monastery, cloister, convent, nunnery: das Kloster, die Klöster
monastery: das Monchskloster, die Monchsklöster

WELTENBURG BEER: A MILLENNIUM IN THE MAKING

Weltenburg Beer—A Millennium in the Making

One thousand years of history and numerous awards make this monastic brew a “must taste” for beer lovers.

A WAITRESS IN TRADITIONAL BAVARIAN DIRNDL SERVES UP HALF-LITERS OF WELTENBURG'S BAROCK DUNKEL, THREE-TIME WINNER OF THE BEST DARK BEER AT THE WORLD BEER CUP AWARDS.

Beer! The word is practically synonymous with Germany, and instantly sparks images of dirndl clad waitresses carting foaming liter-sized mugs through shaded beer gardens amid choruses of “Am Prosit!” And it’s no wonder. Numbering over 1300, Germany boasts more breweries than the rest of the European Union combined. Of those 1300, more than half are located in Bavaria, and many have been brewing beer since the middle ages.

This year, 2016, marks the 500th anniversary of the Reinheitsgebot, the beer purity law first adopted in Bavaria in 1516. The oldest, still-valid food law in the world, the Reinheitsgebot decreed that only water, barley and hops could be used in the brewing of beer. But the Bavarian beer tradition dates even further back than that. Nestled on the banks of the Danube south of Regensburg lies Weltenburg Abbey, the oldest monastic brewery in the world where monks have been crafting fine beers for almost 1000 years. Originally founded in 617 by Irish-Scottish monks, the monastery converted to a Benedictine order around 800. The oldest reference



If you have a craving for the oldest monastic brew in the world, head to Weltenburg and experience it straight from the maturation tanks.

to a brewery on the site comes from a 1035 entry in the Weltenburg Necrology which records that the brewer had died. “Monasteries always tried to provide themselves with everything they needed for living, so you can imagine they already brewed beer here since the founding, but we have official evidence of a brewery here since the year 1050,” said Tobias Funke, sales manager for exports at Bischofshof Brewery in Regensburg.

Except for a 43-year period during the secularization of Bavaria in the 1800s,