

**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**

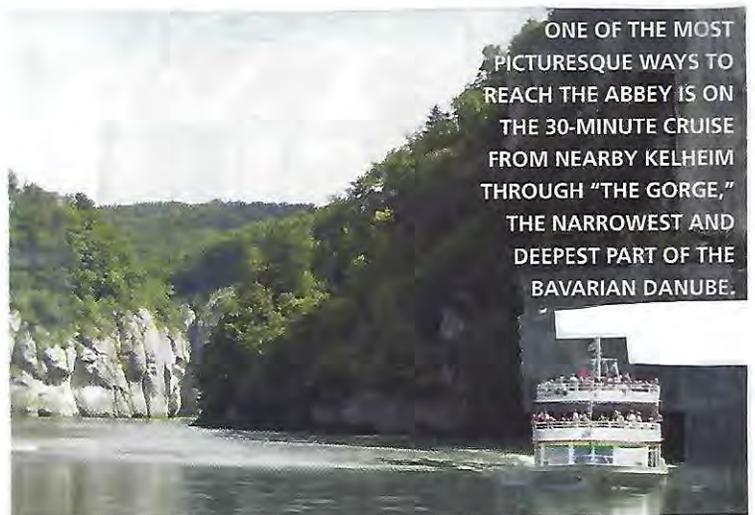
Besides traditional brews such as Pils and Helles beer, Weltenburg also produces several varieties of wheat beer as well as an unfiltered “Keller” beer and a seasonal winter brew. Today, Weltenburg beer is available in 27 countries with new markets on the horizon. “An old schoolmate of mine lives in Shanghai and she recently sent me a picture of our beer on sale there,” said Brother Gebhart. But nowhere does the beer taste as divine as at the abbey itself. “We have a line that goes directly from the maturation tanks in the cave below, through a small filter, and into the tapping tanks under the restaurant,” said Funke. “You cannot get a fresher beer.”

Seated in the beer garden under the chestnut trees with the Danube rushing by mere yards away, visitor Chris Bruhn agreed, saying that downing his first Barock Dunkel was almost a religious experience. “It was like the heavens parted, and a ray of light beamed down right into my glass,” he laughed. Over half a million people visit the Abbey each year. Entry to the grounds and the church is free. By far, the most picturesque way to reach the Abbey is by boat along the Danube. Large ships depart regularly during the summer and fall from nearby Kelheim. The 30-minute journey sails through “The Gorge,” the narrowest and deepest part of the Bavarian Danube, and past stunning scenery with such colorfully named formations as “Napoleon’s suitcase,” “The Cave of the Pirates” and “The Petrified Virgin.” There are even ruins visible of an old hermitage housing a church built in a cave with surviving 15th century frescoes.

While Funke appreciates the rise of microbreweries and the subsequent interest in fine beer across the world, he said that hasn’t altered things at Weltenburg Abbey. “We are not called a craft brewery because we are not doing anything special,” he smiled. “We’ve brewed this way for 1000 years. Nothing has changed.”



**VISITORS LEARN THE PROCESS BEHIND CRAFTING WELTENBURG'S DELICIOUS BREWS DURING ONE OF THE DAILY BREWERY TOURS.**



**ONE OF THE MOST PICTURESQUE WAYS TO REACH THE ABBEY IS ON THE 30-MINUTE CRUISE FROM NEARBY KELHEIM THROUGH “THE GORGE,” THE NARROWEST AND DEEPEST PART OF THE BAVARIAN DANUBE.**

**monastery, cloister, convent, nunnery: das Kloster, die Klöster**  
**monastery: das Monchskloster, die Monchsklöster**  
**convent, nunnery: das Nonnenkloster, die Nonnenklöster /**  
**das Frauenkloster, die Frauenklöster**  
**abbey: die Abtei, die Abteien / die Klosterkirche, die Klosterkirchen**