

## WIE TRINKT MAN BIER? / GERMAN BEER CUSTOMS

### OVERWHELMED BY THE BEER MENU? HOW TO MAKE THE PERFECT BEER ORDER IN GERMAN

#### 2. Picking Your German Beer

##### Biertrinkgewohnheiten (beer-drinking habits):

##### Wie trinkt und bestellt man ein Bier? (How do you drink and order beer?)

- ordering a beer: draft beer vs bottle of beer  
Bier vom Faß (draft beer)  
“eine Flasche Bier“ die Flasche, die Flaschen, Fl (bottle)
- holding a beer mug (Wie hält man einen Bierkrug?)
- drinking a beer and foam
- pouring a beer (Wie gießt man ein Bier?)

I should say upfront that I'm not a beer connoisseur. I know and love a lot of beer snobs—and I asked for some of their input when writing this post—but to me, beer's just beer. That's sacrilege in Germany, I know.

Because in Germany, beer's *not* just beer. There are dozens of different kinds and every part of Germany has its local brews. What you'll find on tap in Hamburg isn't necessarily what you'd find in a village in Bavaria.

The one consensus among my beer-loving friends is that brands bought out by AB InBev are looked down upon. Beck's might like to tell you that it's “the world's number one German beer,” and while it's certainly *available* in Germany, no one seems to *love* it.

I've even heard the argument that since Beck's sold out to AB InBev (a multinational entity with its HQ in Belgium), Beck's isn't truly German anymore, anyway. I won't wade into that argument, but suffice it to say there are Germans who feel strongly about this.

That said, let's get into some types of beer you're likely to find in Germany. This list isn't exhaustive but an overview of the many styles should help you feel less overwhelmed than I was when I first showed up at a German pub.