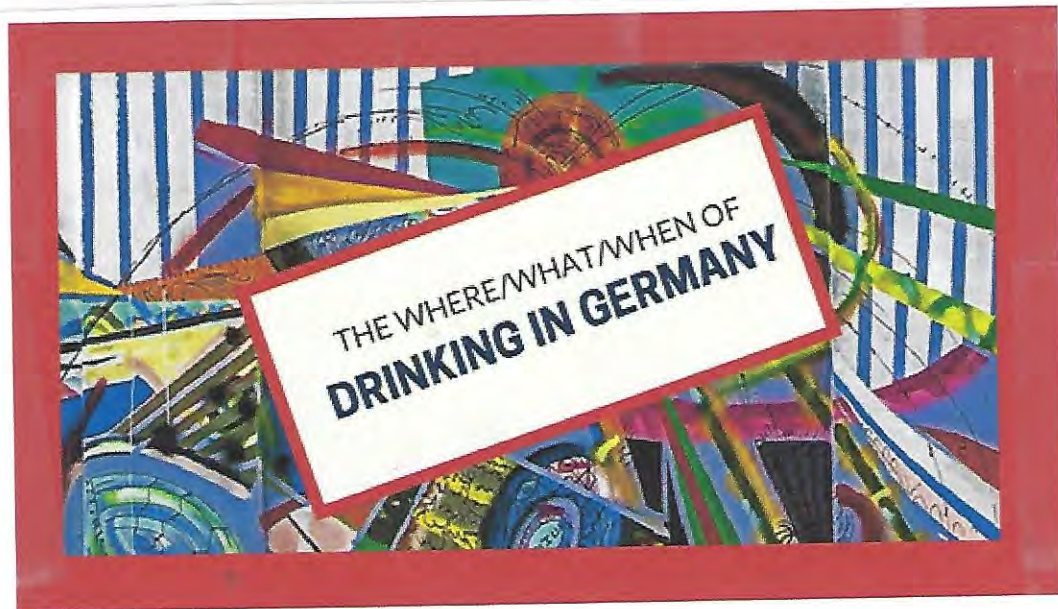


## DRINKING CUSTOMS

### THE WHERE / WHAT / WHEN OF DRINKING IN GERMANY



As Germans, we would like to pride ourselves on knowing a thing or two about beer and drinking. Though the annual celebration of Oktoberfest has resonated so well with the American public, the image of Germans clanging Steins while wearing Lederhosen doesn't quite capture when, where, and what we drink.

Germans like their beer cool, but not ice-cold. It is served either by the bottle (Flasche) or on draft (vom Faß). You order, for instance: "ein kleines Bier" or "ein kleines Helles" or "ein kleines Pils," "einen Halben" or "eine halbe Maß" (half liter), "eine Maß" (one liter), "ein Alt" (dark), "ein Bock" (strong). Average places will usually have only a local or nationally known brand; fancier establishments will serve several well-known brands. "Ein Schoppen" means a quarter of a liter (approximately half a pint) of open wine. 1/2 Fl. means a half bottle.

Germans often drink beer with their meals. They like their beer cool, but not ice-cold. Most are horrified at the American habit of putting beer into the refrigerator, because in German beer this kills the foam . . . and the taste to boot.



"Eine Maß"