



Brauhaus Tegernsee: Insights in Place of a Guided Tour

As guided tours of the Herzogliches Brauhaus Tegernsee are not possible, this summary provides the basis for a deeper introduction by local heritage guide Mr Tegge from Bad Wiessee during dinner on Saturday at Freihaus Brenner.



Herzoglich Bayerisches Brauhaus Tegernsee

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A centuries-old tradition lives on here: today, the brewmaster and proprietor, Her Royal Highness Anna Duchess in Bavaria, continues the Herzoglich Bayerisches Brauhaus Tegernsee in succession to the Bavarian King Max I Joseph. In doing so, she preserves the brewing craft of the former monastery brewery, first brought to Tegernsee by Benedictine monks more than 1,000 years ago.

1,000 Years of Beer History

When Duke Wilhelm IV issued the famous Bavarian Purity Law in Ingolstadt in 1516 - effectively the world's first food law - beer had probably already been brewed on the eastern shore of Lake Tegernsee for some 500 years. As elsewhere in Bavaria, a monastery marked the beginning of the local brewing tradition. Of course, the Benedictines' "brew house" should not be imagined as a large brewery. Brewing beer was only one of the many trades carried out by monks and lay servants at Tegernsee Monastery, in keeping with the rule of Saint Benedict:



“The monastery should, if possible, be arranged so that everything necessary is found within the monastery walls: water, mill, garden and the various workshops where work is carried out. Thus the monks need not wander about outside, which would certainly not be beneficial to their souls.”

Nor was the beer intended for the monks' own consumption. “The brew,” writes Willibald Mathäser, a Benedictine brother and author of the revealing “Chronicle of Tegernsee,” “was intended for guests staying at the monastery hostel and for the monastery’s subjects. At the convent table, wine alone continued to be served: white Austrian wine from the Tegernsee vineyards on the Danube and red Tyrolean wine from the monastery’s own vineyards near Kaltern in South Tyrol.”

The fact that secularisation in 1803 brought an end to Tegernsee’s wine economy, but not to its brewing tradition, is owed to the first Bavarian king - or, more precisely, to his wife. Queen Friederike Wilhelmine Caroline is said to have fallen in love with the valley around the lake and persuaded Max I Joseph to purchase it. From 1817 onward, the royal couple converted the former monastery complex into a royal summer residence, thereby also ushering in the beginnings of tourism at Tegernsee. The old monastery brewery became the “Königlich Braunes Brauhaus Tegernsee,” and King Max I Joseph became the first in a now five-generation line of Wittelsbach brewery owners, among them the widowed Queen Friederike Caroline, herself an exceptionally capable proprietress.

In 1875, the brewery passed to the ducal line of the Bavarian royal house. Following Duke Carl Theodor and Duke Ludwig Wilhelm, Duke Max in Bavaria and his daughter Duchess Anna now guide the fortunes of this tradition-rich brewery. As with each of their predecessors, the wellbeing of the Tegernsee brewery is far more than a business concern for them: it is a matter close to their hearts.



Tegernsee beer. Image: © Herzogliches Brauhaus Tegernsee.



Our Measure Is Quality

“The first time it makes you shudder; but once you have drunk it for a week, you can no longer leave it alone.”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

We do not know which type of beer the great poet once raised to his lips - though it certainly was not Tegernsee's barley brew. The products of the Herzogliches Brauhaus need no shudder of acclimatisation; they convince from the very first tasting.

One reason is that every palate can find a favourite among our beer creations. The flavour spectrum ranges from the crisp, refreshing Helles to the gently spicy Spezial and the impressive Dunkel. With six core varieties plus two seasonal specialities, the range stands for deliberate focus within diversity.

Quality and sustainability rather than quantity: what the Benedictines, the first Tegernsee brewery owners, set as an example still guides our actions today, especially in production. In the beers of the Herzogliches Brauhaus, the monks' traditional recipes are combined with the insights of state-of-the-art brewing technology. High craftsmanship, the finest raw ingredients and a consistently tradition-conscious production philosophy - including classic cold fermentation and long maturation - are key pillars of our self-image.

This self-image applies equally to our business relationships. The Herzogliches Brauhaus aims to be a reliable and successful partner to its customers and friends - for the long term. We set the bar anew every day: through competent and dependable advice, a high level of quality and strong performance across all processes.

Incidentally, the especially mild, soft water - the heart of every Tegernsee beer - comes from the same spring that once supplied the monastery brewery.



Brauhaus production. Image: © Herzogliches Brauhaus Tegernsee.



Lovably Bavarian

Founded as a small “Bräustibl” for thirsty brewery lads, the Tegernsee Bräustüberl has long since become one of Bavaria’s best-known taverns. Above all, it has been shaped by the many layers of its guests, who early on created a unique atmosphere of cherished tradition and tolerant openness. During the reign of King Max I Joseph, locals met European high nobility here; later came summer visitors and artists, the beautiful, the wealthy, the important and the perfectly ordinary.

Almost everyone found their way to the Bräustüberl - and fell in love with it. At least those who appreciate the genuine article. The Bräustüberl and its regulars have never allowed themselves to be bent out of shape. Peaceful, Bavarian, hearty and convivial, this Tegernsee-Old Bavarian temple of tradition has always also been a place of true person-to-person communication: a place where people look at one another and laugh together, regardless of wallet, title, origin or religion.



Herzogin Maria Anna in Bayern und Herzog Max Emanuel in Bayern.

Website: <https://www.brauhaus-tegernsee.de>

Additional source: <https://www.tegernsee.com/a-herzogliches-brauhaus-tegernsee>