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A hearty "Prosit!" to the home country

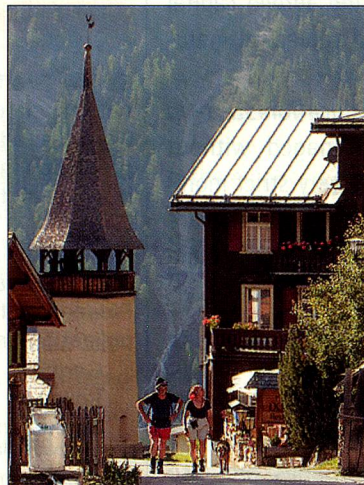
"Last beerstop before heaven!" is the advertising slogan for the "Biervision Monstein", Europe's highest micro-brewery, which is situated on one of the most beautiful sunny terraces of the Grisons. Monstein, a small Davos settlement of 170 souls, is definitely worth a visit. Perhaps when you attend the Congress of the Swiss Abroad?



Photos: Jürgen Steiger

Andreas Ägerter is the proud director of the Biervision Monstein Brewery. Even if you don't like beer, you can enjoy the countryside. Because Monstein (below) is worth a visit.

DAVOS and the Canton of Grisons have an added attraction: a few weeks ago a micro and show brewery was opened in Monstein, a beautiful village situated at an altitude of 1600 meters above sea level. So close to heaven that the beer is said to taste truly wonderful. Small wonder: the Swiss Brewers Research Institute has rated Monstein's water as "excellent" (beer consists of 95 percent water and the water is responsible for 80 percent of the beer's quality). The alpine community, part of the greater borough of Davos, has also managed to preserve its culturally important 100-year-old dairy in which the new brewery has been set up. The joint-stock company aims to produce



around 50,000 liters of different brands of natural beer in its first year of operation and deliver to customers throughout the Canton of Grisons. The Monstein brewery is capable of producing an annual volume of 2000 hectoliters per annum.

"Monsteiner Huusbier" is a natural under-fermented beer produced in a two-mash process with fresh alpine stream water, aromatic Swiss hops and spicy barley, and is best drunk young, at roughly 9 degrees centigrade.

While the Biervision Monstein may be innovative when it comes to marketing its beer, around Davos the art of brewing has a tradition dating back to the 19th century. However, in 1923 the first Davos brewery was bought by Calanda and promptly closed. The variety of Grisons beers continued to decline (nowadays even the Calanda brewery no longer exists). But Monsteiner, they say, is bolder and has more initiative than other Grisons enterprises. Perhaps that is the reason why they now boast the only micro and show brewery in the Grisons.

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Davos: More than a tourist resort

Of course Davos earns its living from tourism. And of course the residents built an infrastructure which was tailored to the needs of guests from all over the world. Against the 13,000 permanent residents, Davos boasts 2.25 million overnight stays (1998/99). But Davos is more than just a tourist resort. In terms of surface area, the community is the second-largest in Switzerland (254 km²)! Yet one can walk in a matter of minutes from the urban agglomerations of "Platz" and "Dorf" to a natural, intact landscape which can be explored via an extensive 450-kilometer long network of hiking trails. Davos's alpine meadows, streams, valleys and mountains await visitors to our congress from 17 to 19 August. And to help you explore and enjoy it to the hilt, Davos offers everything you could possibly want in the way of infrastructure. Thanks to tourism!

gk

Bookmarks

<http://www.davos.ch>

<http://www.biervision-monstein.ch>