

Below are some fun facts to quench America's thirst for beer smarts, brought to you by Pilsner Urquell, the original pilsner beer from the Czech Republic:



- Pilsner Urquell was the number one import beer in the U.S. before Prohibition.
- After Prohibition, communism largely shut off Czechoslovakia and Eastern Europe from the rest of the world, and it wasn't until the Velvet Revolution in 1989 that Pilsner Urquell was able to widely export to the outside world again.
- Beer is such an important part of Czech culture that in 1996, then Czech President Vaclav Havel met with the U.S. President Bill Clinton at a pilsner beerhouse in Prague to talk politics and culture while drinking Pilsner Urquell.
- The Czechs know a thing or two about beer -- the Czech Republic has the largest beer consumption per capita in the world. They consume at a level that is almost double the yearly consumption level of the United States.
- The concept of a beer glass was inspired by the creation of pilsner beer when Josef Groll first brewed Pilsner Urquell. Prior to the invention of golden beer, all beers were dark, heavy and cloudy and were served in ceramic mugs.
- Legend has it that the special yeast used to brew the first golden pilsner, Pilsner Urquell, was originally created at a Bavarian monastery, stolen, and cultivated by a monk. This monk then reportedly gave the yeast to one of the brewers in Plzen as repayment for a debt. This same strain is still used to brew the beer today.
- In a Czech beer house, the bartender will refill your glass every time you empty it – until you place your coaster on top of your glass, signaling that you have had enough.
- Pilsner Urquell, the original pilsner, still uses the same recipe and brewing process today as when the beer was first invented in 1842.