

Els

The Els is a herbal bitter, heavy in wormwood...

Supposedly, the Els goes back to the monks in the monastery of Reichenstein, but it could also have been known for a longer time. Presumably, the first commercial Els producer and trader was Jacob Hirsch & Söhne from Monschau, who had an official concession for "retail trade in spirituous beverages" from 1844.

Els can be produced in two ways: as a "put-on" or "professionally" by making and mixing a distillate; it is not distilled! It was created somewhat curiously from a tea. This herbal mixture was supposed to help the cows against loss of appetite -- and what worked for animals...

The product used to be, and still is, available in almost all inns in Monschau and the surrounding area.

Link: [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Els_\(Kr%C3%A4uterbitter\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Els_(Kr%C3%A4uterbitter))