



South Tyrol – Land of Myths and Legends

Brunico's Rainglocke Bell

One of the emblems of Brunico (Bruneck) is the Church of St. Catherine, known locally as Rainkirche. The church is situated way up high on the castle hill, just next to the castle. Now, Rainkirche really towers above town and the castle hill slopes in such a way that makes the church visible from miles around. From its tower, there is a wonderful view overlooking all of Brunico.

The tolling of the noon bell of Rainglocke Bell, which is very large and very well known and situated inside the tower of Rainkirche Church, is nothing less than splendid.

Legend has it that this bell was once to be sold. The people merrily brought it down from its tower and loaded it onto a truck. Even though the road goes steeply downhill, however, they ended up having to harness six pairs of horses to the cart – and even that could not budge the cart and bell even one step further.

Then, all of a sudden, a piece of paper fell down from the heavens. Apparently, this is what it said:

“Katharina is my name,
I know all kinds of weather.
I drive away all storms,
In Rainkirche I shall stay.”

After that, they took the bell right back to the church tower. On the return trip, though, a single pair of horses pulled that heavy load uphill as if it were as light as a feather.