



News from Germany

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Germans Drink More Wine than Beer!?

The Germans may be known to the whole world as a true beer-loving nation but last year German consumers spent more on wine than on beer. Wine accounted for 32.4% of spending on personal alcoholic beverage consumption, beer for 30.7%. While the sales volume of beer, spirits and sparkling wine declined, wine sales increased by 4.5% (These figures from the Nürnberg-based Association for Consumer Research (GfK)). With a total consumption of 19.7 million hectoliters of wine and sparkling wine in 2004, Germany was the world's fourth largest wine market.

There are 13 German wine growing regions: Rheinhessen, Palatinate, Baden, Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, Württemberg, Nahe, Rheingau, Mittelrhein, Ahr, Hessen, Saxony and Franconia, Saale-Unstrut. The newest figures from the German Federal Office of Statistics show that in 2004, grapes were cultivated on 252,635 acres in Germany with white wine varieties covering 71.3% of the area and red wine varieties, the rest. In general, three quarters of

"Baltic Breezes & Summer Fun"

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EDITOR'S CHOICE

Beach Trivia ...

What's the use of sitting alone in your room when you can go to the beach? A recent beach survey stated that the longest uninterrupted stretch of sand in Germany can be found on the North Sea island of Sylt which also now claims the title as Germany's most luxurious beach, beating out the exclusive resort of Heiligendamm on the Baltic Sea. For summer city denizens, beaches can be found in any number of cities, including Frankfurt, Duesseldorf, Dresden, Berlin, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Mainz, Cologne, Offenbach and even in Saarbruecken on the Potato Island!

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FEATURED STORY

Families Go Museum Crazy in Hamburg!

Hamburg may be home to more bridges than Florence but did you know that Hamburg is home to over 70 museums!? Ranging from the world famous Kunsthalle that possesses works of art spanning seven centuries of art history to the miniature train museum, a doll museum, a spice museum, the dungeons of Hamburg and the "dialogue with the dark museum," there is an experience waiting for Mom, Dad, Aunt Betty, Uncle Max, Grandma and Junior!

Children delight in one of the biggest mock-up railways in the world at the Miniature Wonderland, the train museum. On and around over about 15,000 yards of track, there are over 450 railway carriages with more than 7,000 trailers, 50,000 trees, 30,000 figures, 10,000 cars and so much scenery. www.miniatur-wunderland.com. The "Children Dream Museum" is the home of an unusual collection of more than 650 dolls, doll houses and toys from the past, lovingly arranged in lifelike scenes.

www.kindheits-traeume.de

The Hamburg Dungeons are a scare for all ages. Talented live actors, modern technology and spectacular theatrical effects bring Hamburg's dark past to life. Visitors don't just witness history ... they take part in it. A spectacular ten minute water ride through the dungeons is to remind visitors of Hamburg's horrible flood of 1717.

www.hamburgdungeon.com

"Dialogue with the Dark" brings alive the idea of learning to see anew in a totally dark room. In Hamburg this internationally acclaimed show has now become established for the duration of five years in the Warehouse Complex. Visually impaired or totally blind people will open your eyes in the dark in order to show you a world that isn't any poorer, but different. Familiar things are turned around, things taken for granted will be questioned. You will have to entrust yourself to a complete stranger in order to rediscover your sense

German wines are white wines, the most popular being Riesling which accounts for 20.8% of wine produced.

There are over 1,000 weekend wine festivals – a vast majority of which take place in the Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, Pfalz, Baden and Rheingau regions. Each festival has a style and personality as unique as the wine community itself. All festivals are casual affairs and take place in the evening outdoors. One of the most popular festivals is that in Mainz starting on August 26th when half a million people crowd the streets, gardens and parklands in and around the university city noted for its Romanesque cathedral and its native son, Joannes Gutenberg, creator of the printing press. Check out the festival schedule at www.germanwines.de.

That said, beer is still a popular beverage. Over 79% of German adults drink beer regularly -- 67% of German women and 91% of German men drink beer at least once a month. If Bavaria were a nation, it would be the number one consuming nation in the world. (Right now, the Czechs hold that title.) The town of Wolnzach between Munich and Ingolstadt in Bavaria just opened the German Hops Museum which traces the history of hops far back to before the Beer Purity Law of 1516, which stated that beer may only be brewed with hops, barley and water. Before that, German brews with herbs such as lavender and sage were not uncommon. The newest addition to Germany's 5,000 varieties of beer is the "Pope's Beer." The small Bavarian village of Markt am Inn, where the Pope was born,

of hearing, of smell and your taste all over again. www.dialog-im-dunkeln.de

All ages will enjoy an all-senses experience at the Spice Museum (www.spicys.de) where you can touch, taste and smell over 50 different spices in 500 exhibits. The museum covers the utilization, cultivation, production, quality and the history of spices; where they are planted, where they are exported and how they are used in cooking.

The famous Kunsthalle Museum, www.hamburger-kunsthalle.de with its three interlinked building from 1869, 1917 and 1997, includes the medieval altars of Master Bertram, two famous Rembrandt paintings and an impressive array of Impressionist and Classical Modernism paintings. The beautiful villa in the parkland on the Elbe, the Jenish House www.barlach-haus.de, features upper middle class furnishings and décor from the 16th to 19th centuries and sculptures from Ernst Barlach. The world's largest art nouveau collection is housed at Hamburg's Kunstverein, and the Museum of Hamburg History shows many aspects of the town's history www.hamburgmuseum.de. The foundation of the "Museum für Völkerkunde Hamburg" dates back to 1879. Today it is one of the important ethnological museums of Europe. Its collections comprise more than 350,000 objects covering art and the history of cultures from all parts of the world. Various festivals, markets and concerts make it a lively meeting point for members of different nations. www.voelkerkundemuseum.com. For more information on Hamburg's museums, go to www.hamburg-tourismus.de.

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REGIONAL FOCUS

World Cup Host City: Hannover

Hannover is the city of castles and royal gardens. In the city center, striking modern architecture has been successfully integrated with the lovely Old Town. The Herrenhausen Royal Gardens are Europe's only surviving intact Baroque gardens, established in 1666. The "Niedersachsen-Stadion" Hannover is home to the "Hannover 96" soccer club. Major remodeling is currently underway including installation of a new roof, new flood lights as well as a heating system for the grass field. www.hannover-tourism.de

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Rheingau Music Festival, near Frankfurt

June 25th-September 3rd, 2005

The Rheingau Music Festival, one of the biggest classical music festivals in Europe, provides you with a unique overview of Bach's varied works against an atmospheric backdrop of vine-covered hillsides, romantic castles and palaces and the Rhine. www.rheingau-musik-festival.de

20th Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, Kiel

July 9th-August 28th, 2005

This year, the spotlight is on Japan. This prestigious international music festival features around 120 concerts, staged in more than 40 venues throughout Schleswig-Holstein and Hamburg. Almost half the concerts focus on Japan, using compositions and renowned musicians from all over the world. Its mixture of enchanting countryside, traditional architecture and sophisticated music makes this musical summer between the North Sea and the Baltic a unique cultural event. www.sh-tourismus.de

Klezmer Festival, Weimar

July 23-August 18th, 2005

Celebrating its fifth anniversary, the annual Weimar Klezmer Festival will begin in the beautiful surroundings of Ettersburg Castle. This year's program has a number of different themes with an emphasis on Yiddish song, dance and even Yiddish courses. The festival promotes the building of bridges between different cultures and this year's unique workshop will explore the intersection of Yiddish and Smyrnaic vocal music. www.klezmer-wochen-weimar.de

