



News from Germany

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German National Tourist Press Office



The New Wines...

The color of the new wine is cloudy white, it has a prickly fresh taste –“Federweisser.” The name of the sweet grape, “Must”, owes thanks to the small “feather white” bits of yeast that begin to settle during the fermentation process.

Depending on region, the tasty drink is available from the beginning of September to the end of October.

Occasionally some cellars also use the red grape, so that the color of the wine is not whitish, but purple. In the jargon, it is called “Roter Rauscher” (Red Must).

In many places during this time “Federweisser booths” sell the pleasant specialty on the street.

Many wine festivals offer the new wine from this year’s harvest and toast the arrival of Autumn. For example, at Neustadt in the Palatinate, the “German Grape Harvest Festival” will take place from October 1st to the 11th this year. Among the highlights on the wine festival calendar is the “Rüdesheim End of

"Fall Festivals Full of Fun!"

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EDITOR'S CHOICE

Beethoven Comes Alive

For all those music and festival lovers who are not attending the Oktoberfest, the Bonn Beethoven Festival is where it is at in Germany from September 17 to October 10! This year, the theme is “Bohemia,” a bow to Germany’s neighbor, the Czech Republic. Beethoven had many ties to the Czech Republic traveling to Prague several times and taking the waters at Bohemian spas of Teplice and Karlsbad. The Bamberg Symphony will open the festival under the direction of Johnathan Nott. A total of 37,500 concert tickets will be sold. The festival’s eight venues include many atmospheric and historically significant buildings, and castles and palaces on the Rhine. For more information, go to: www.beethovenfest.de.

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FEATURED STORY

Baden Wuerttemberg Honors Tradition!

Baden Wuerttemberg, home to Germany’s Black Forest, the Swabian Alps, rolling hills, vineyards and exclusive spas, is, above all, a land of tradition! The people of Baden Wuerttemberg treasure and preserve their traditions from festivals to craftwork and even their clothing.

The women of Baden Wuerttemberg wear their “Bollenhut” hats - with their distinctive pompons. Each Bollenhut is handmade and weighs up to four pounds. Bright red pompons are worn by girls and unmarried women and signal: I’m still available. Depending on the occasion they also decorate their braided hair with two mirrors, ribbons and bows. Married women are easily identified as their hats boast black pompons.

For centuries, glass blowing has been synonymous with the Black Forest, which has always provided these craftsmen with all the raw materials they needed. Several glass museums vividly demonstrate the importance and tradition of glass blowing in the Black Forest. With the help of skilled artisans, you can even try creating your own vision in glass.

The “German Clock Route” passes through countless historical sites where glass blowers and clock merchants have plied their trades for centuries. Neither the nightingale nor the lark: it had to be the cuckoo. Thus decided by Franz Ketterer in 1730. A hundred years later the cuckoo clock had become the bestselling export article from the Black Forest. For more information, go to www.tourismus-bw.de or www.cometogermany.com.

Festivals also are a part and parcel of Baden Wuerttemberg’s traditions. In August, the

Autumn" in the Rheingau. From 29 to 31 October 2004, the town, which is part of UNESCO World Cultural Heritage "Upper Middle Rhine Valley", welcomes visitors. www.ruedesheim.de or for those who speak German: www.federweissertage.de

Schäferlauf (Shepherds' Race) in Markgröningen near Stuttgart is the oldest Swabian country festival with parade and traditional shepherds' race. In September, wine festivals throughout the state abound featuring young wines and tasty onion tarts.

The Cannstatter Volksfest, Stuttgart's Beer Festival runs from the 25th of September to October 10th. Originating in 1818, today five million people visit the festival and the drinking starts as soon as the Lord Mayor of Stuttgart taps the first barrel of beer on the place called "Cannstatter Wasen" and the three obligatory gun salutes are shot into the festival sky. For more information, www.cannstatter-volksfest.de.

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REGIONAL FOCUS

Trabis Live On!

The former East German Trabis were made in Zwickau, about one hour south of Dresden, in the state of Saxony. The Trabi was serially produced in Zwickau starting in 1958 and although production stopped in 1991, the Trabi legend lives on. Today, visitors can see the Trabant monument in Georgenplatz, participate in the annual June Trabant meeting in Zwickau that attracts over 20,000 visitors and over 70 Trabant clubs. You can also see the August-Horch-Museum with its variety of Trabi models. The best of all, however, is that in Dresden you can actually participate in Trabi Rally and drive your own Trabi. For more information visit: www.trabi-safari.de.

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FESTIVALS & EVENTS

OKTOBERFEST!

Munich's famous Oktoberfest launches officially on the 18th of September and rollicks on to the 3rd of October. Known by the locals as the "Wiesn." This year is the 171st year for Oktoberfest and Munich expects over 6 million visitors to drink about 5 million liters of beer and consume over 200,000 pairs of pork sausages. To get a reservation at Oktoberfest, one has to make the reservation directly with the management of the beer tent. Each guest is obliged to pay in advance for a half roasted chicken and two litres of beer. Generally, it is easier to get a table during the week (Monday-Thursday) than on weekends. For more information, go to www.muenchen-tourist.de or www.oktoberfest.de.

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SPECIAL DEALS

Four Nights for \$444! Book Now!

From November 10 to February 28, 2005, Nordique Tours and Picasso Travel are offering roundtrip airfare for \$444 from New York to Frankfurt, Munich, Berlin and Dusseldorf including six days and four nights & daily breakfast. Extra nights only \$99 per night per person. Five star Kempinski Hotel available from \$159. Other German Cities available for an extra \$75. Restrictions apply. For more information, go to www.nordiquetours.com.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

