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The Official Press Newsletter of  
the German National Tourist Office

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## History Comes Alive in Germany's Castle Museums

Welcome to our April Press Newsletter: History Comes Alive in Germany's Castle Museums. We do respect your privacy. Should you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please scroll down to unsubscribe. Thank you.

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### Editor's Choice: Asparagus Season in Germany

Asparagus is Germany's "King of Vegetables" and its harvest is an eagerly anticipated sign of spring. Local farmers pick and sell the white asparagus from April to June and this season is traditionally a time of celebration and festivals around the country and especially along Germany's two asparagus routes: One in the southern state of Baden-Wuerttemberg from Schwetzingen to Scherzheim for 125 kilometers, and the second in Lower Saxony, connecting in a circle for 1000 kilometers. Schwetzingen, Europe's self proclaimed "asparagus capital" situated near Stuttgart, is known for its asparagus celebration, traditionally held every first Saturday in May (this year May 3) and is a huge celebration with food-stalls, a peeling competition and the crowning of the asparagus king. Europe's largest asparagus festival is held in Bruchsal, also near Stuttgart, which lies on the Upper Rhine plain. Visitors to Bruchsal can also admire the baroque palace with its magnificent Balthasar Neumann staircase.

›[www.cometogermany.com](http://www.cometogermany.com)

### Feature: History Comes Alive in Germany's Castle Museum

Germany's castles are monuments to the past, but also museums in the present. Many castles can be explored and contain beautiful museums

### Special Deals

#### Picasso Tours: German Classics & Berlin

Travel until October 11 and take advantage of this offer from Picasso Tours. Germany boasts magnificent architecture, great museums and fascinating cultural events. Visit the exciting cities of Dresden, Leipzig, Berlin, Hamburg and Frankfurt or travel through the Mecklenburg lake district. Special highlights of this package are eight nights deluxe in 1st class & superior tourist class hotels, daily breakfast, welcome & farewell dinner as well as a professional bi-lingual tour guide. Rates start from \$1499 double occupancy.

›[www.picassotours.com](http://www.picassotours.com)

#### Moated-Castle Stay near Münster

Enjoy a two night stay in an original Westphalian castle near the historic city of Münster. This offer includes two night's accommodation with a large breakfast buffet

with world renown collections of art. Others host unique exhibitions that give the visitor an exquisite insight to a royal past.

Directly in Munich, the Residence Palace hosts one of Europe's most significant collections of decorative arts. For five hundred years the facility in the middle of the old town was the residence and center of power of the Bavarian dukes, electors and kings of the Wittelsbach dynasty. Today the 130 rooms of the Residence have been filled with furniture and oil paintings, tapestries and porcelain from the best artists of their time. The treasury holds a collection of jewelry and gold from the Medieval Ages to the classical period. [www.muenchen.de](http://www.muenchen.de)

Located in the outskirts of Munich, Nymphenburg Palace was the summer residence of the Wittelsbach dynasty. The palace, together with its 800 acre park and large artificial pools and lakes, is now one of the most famous sights of Munich and a museum that portrays the glamour of the royal life. The palace also hosts the famous Porcelain Collection from its own manufactory. [www.muenchen.de](http://www.muenchen.de)

Home to the most powerful royal dynasty in Germany is Castle of Hohenzollern near Stuttgart. The medieval castle is one of the most famous and impressive buildings in Europe. Since the 11th century it has been the ancestral seat of the Hohenzollern. The family split later and formed two branches: One ruling Prussia and later Germany as kings, the other one in Baden-Wuerttemberg holding the ancestral seat and the nearby Sigmaringen Palace. Since 1954 Castle Hohenzollern, still in family possession, hosts a valuable collection of arts and memorabilia of the Hohenzollern's reign such as the crown of Prussian kings.

[www.preussen.de](http://www.preussen.de)

The family of Thurn and Taxis is known for establishing the first international postal system in Europe. Having a history reaching back to the 12th century, the main seat of the family is the beautiful baroque palace in Regensburg in northern Bavaria. It houses a branch of the Bavarian National Museum and the Treasure Chamber. Great treasures from the princely collection, valuable furniture and fine porcelain captivate the visitor with the glamour of one of the most important dynasties of the European aristocracy. The carriage museum, which is amongst the best in Europe, houses an extensive collection of carriages, sleighs, and sedan-chairs from the 18th and 19th centuries. [www.thurnundtaxis.de](http://www.thurnundtaxis.de)

The castle monastery in Luebeck, founded in 1229, is the most important medieval monastery in northern Germany. After the Reformation it was used as a poorhouse until the end of the 19th century, when it was converted to a courthouse. During the "Third Reich" period, the building complex witnessed Nazi injustice as a prison. The Castle monastery is thus a monument from the Middle Ages as well as reflecting recent history. The museum hosts exhibitions about the history of the Hanseatic League and the Baltic region, contemporary history and the Jewish Life in Luebeck. [www.luebeck-tourism.de](http://www.luebeck-tourism.de)

The castle Marienburg with its many turrets dominates the rolling hills of the valley of the River Leine near Hannover. It is considered one of the most important neo-Gothic historical buildings in Germany. A variety of different facades and turrets cast a spell on the visitor making them part of fairy tale life. A museum-tour allows glimpses into the grand halls and historical rooms as well as in the state and private rooms of the royal family. To finance a renovation and the creation of a museum of the brothers Ernst August, husband to Caroline of Monaco, and Christian of Hannover hosted a ten-day-auction in 2005. They sold 20,000 items, dating back to the 17th century for the record breaking sum of 53 million US\$. [www.schloss-marienburg.de](http://www.schloss-marienburg.de)

### Regional Focus: Saxony's Castle Museums

The state of Saxony has played a vital role in the cultural life of Germany

and one four-course dinner. Prices start from €260 per person double-occupancy until December 30. [www.schloss-wilkinghege.de](http://www.schloss-wilkinghege.de)

### Candlelight Dinner in the Rabenstein Suite

In the heart of Franconian Switzerland, the more than 800-year old Rabenstein Castle awaits its guests. The fortress hotel with grand salons offers an ideal place for celebrations and has 22 individually-decorated, comfortable rooms. Cultural- and culinary evening events take place here regularly. Connoisseurs can book an exclusive package including a festive four-course gourmet meal and one night in the luxurious Rabenstein Suite. The next morning begins with a large castle breakfast. The "Candlelight Dinner" package starts from 180 Euro per person. [www.burg-rabenstein.de](http://www.burg-rabenstein.de) (German only)

### Jazzahead! in Bremen

Visit this international jazz festival in Bremen from April 17 until April 20 and take advantage of this fantastic deal. Two nights accommodation in a double room with buffet breakfasts and a guided tour of the city center (English) can be booked for just 89 Euro.

[www.jazzahead.de](http://www.jazzahead.de)

### Special Events

#### Spring Festival, Heidelberg

Apr 1 - Apr 25

The 'Heidelberger Fruehling' (spring) started in 1996 and has become one of the main festivals for classical and contemporary music in the Rhine Neckar Area over the last few years. The Festival offers concerts as well as numerous side programs and workshops. The combination of world-famous musicians and newcomers as well as the themes and topics offer perfect conditions for fascinating meetings of artists and audience.

[www.heidelberg.de](http://www.heidelberg.de)

### International Bodensee Festival, Bodensee

since more than 1000 years. The House of Wettin ruled the former kingdom, and its castles in Dresden stand witness to their former greatness and many of their treasures can be found in Saxony's museums.

In the Residential Palace of the Wettin monarchy, in Dresden's city center, the famous "Grünes Gewölbe" (Green Vault) created by August the Strong is one of Europe's greatest chambers, with one of the most impressive jewelry collections in the world. The museum contains among other priceless items the treasures of the Saxon Monarchy and the ten rooms were recently restored to their former glory. Another of the Wettin's famous buildings is the nearby Zwinger Palace which holds twelve various world class collections. The Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister (old master's paintings gallery) for example shows an outstanding collection of high-ranking masterpieces by Raphael, Giorgione, Rembrandt and Rubens. No porcelain collection in the world can claim higher quality and greater magnitude than the Dresden Porzellansammlung (Porcelain Collection) with 20,000 pieces of Chinese, Japanese and Meissen porcelain. US-architect Peter Marino designed the interior of the exhibition building. [www.skd-dresden.de](http://www.skd-dresden.de)

Just outside of Dresden lies Pillnitz Castle. The former summer residence of the Saxon royal court today is home to a Museum of Decorative Arts. The museum shows the range of regional and international artwork from five centuries such as the throne of Saxon's King August. But not only the museum is worth the visit: The surrounding park is deserving of particular attention, as it combines the strict forms of the baroque period with those of an English landscape garden. Alongside many rare trees the over 200-year-old Japanese camellia is a particular magnet for visitors. [www.skd-dresden.de](http://www.skd-dresden.de)

But not only Dresden and its castles are home to cultural treasures and museums. More than 30 palaces and castles in Saxony are open to the public, each of them with a unique history and special features. Lichtenstein Palace in the southeast of Saxony near Chemnitz for example hosts one of the largest collections of wood sculptures in the world. Over 700 pieces from Asia, Africa and Europe form an exotic contrast to the palace's classical interior. [www.schloesserland-sachsen.de](http://www.schloesserland-sachsen.de)

### Heritage Feature: German Beer and its American relatives

As Mark Twain has once stated: "German beers are as different as hens in a farmyard." Beer lovers can choose between about 5,000 product names coming from more than 1,200 breweries. In the Northern parts of the country, the light Pilsner with a little hops content is usually favored. In Cologne, people drink the light yellow Kölsch which is brewed with lots of hops. Further down south the Rhine a lager with more malt is dominant. The southern regions, especially Bavaria, are also home of the Weissbier (White Beer), a light, highly effervescent, top-fermented beer made with wheat. In Eastern regions, the very old black beer is regaining some of its former popularity. [www.cometogermany.com](http://www.cometogermany.com)

With the German immigrants also came their favorite beverage to America. Today millions of Americans drink the various sorts by the major companies Anheuser Busch and Miller - both originally German.

The beers of the Anheuser Busch Company today are part of everyday American life. The success story started in 1842 when the native German Eberhard Anheuser emigrated to the United States, took over the Bavarian Brewery Company and renamed it Eberhard Anheuser and Company. Later Anheuser was joined by his son in law Adolphus Busch, also a German immigrant. After the death of Anheuser the company's name was changed to Anheuser Busch Company. The company's success came when Busch found a method to pasteurize the beer so it kept fresh and could be shipped all over the world. Today Anheuser Busch operates as the world's third largest brewing company. [www.germanoriginality.com](http://www.germanoriginality.com)

Apr 19 - May 11  
The International Bodensee Festival takes place for a month around the lake in Germany's south near Munich and offers a colorful range of concerts, literary events, exhibitions and theater performances. This year's theme is "Fairytale, Myths und Legends."

[www.bodenseefestival.de](http://www.bodenseefestival.de)  
(German only)

### Spring Beer Festival, Stuttgart

Apr 12 - May 04  
Stuttgart Spring Beer Festival is by far the largest and most popular festival of its kind in Europe. Every year large numbers of visitors flock to this mammoth 23-day event.

[www.stuttgart-tourist.de](http://www.stuttgart-tourist.de)

### Art Cologne, Cologne

Apr 16 - Apr 20  
Germany's leading art fair on the Cologne exhibition ground offers a comprehensive overview of 20th and 21st-century art - from classical modernism to the very latest contemporary works. It serves as an international market where artists and connoisseurs from all over the world meet to inform themselves about the latest art movements and to buy and sell art.

[www.artcologne.com](http://www.artcologne.com)

### Castle Festival, Schwetzingen

Apr 25 - Jun 10  
Held for over 50 years now, the Schwetzingen Festival takes place every spring in the palace gardens, which are magnificent at this time of year with the flowers in full bloom. The festival aims to blend old and new, so expect to encounter works from past centuries, as well as new operas and concerts, composed specifically for this spectacular occasion. More than 50 events ensure there is something to suit the tastes of every music lover.

[www.swr.de](http://www.swr.de)

Another famous American brewery also has its roots in Germany: Miller Beer. Frederick Miller was born in Riedlingen, Baden-Wuerttemberg in 1824. He gained the experience to run a brewery successfully by working in various departments of his uncle's brewery and had also leased the royal brewery of the Hohenzollern. It was just before his 30th birthday when he moved to America in order to escape political unrest. After living in New York City for a year, he traveled west to Milwaukee, where he bought the local Plank Road Brewery. In the year 1855 he brewed his first barrel of beer in his new hometown. That was the foundation of the Miller Brewery, today one of Americas most famous beer-companies.

»[www.germanoriginality.com](http://www.germanoriginality.com)

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