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September Events

By Tamala Malerk

EDITOR'S PICKS

Summer is winding down and so is the air temperature. The kids are back in school and settled into the new school year schedule and habits. Escape from the mundane routines this month with "Dubbeglasorden," horses, Trekkies, antiques and more.



Horsica Sept. 2 to 4, Kassel

Shop equestrian fashion, learn from lectures, see hundreds of different breeds of horses and watch, or even participate in, competitions. Stick around for an evening horse theater show.



Street Food Festival Sept. 2 to 4, Stuttgart

Indulge in three days of all the street food you can consume including vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options.



Berlin Beer Week Sept. 2 to 11, Berlin

Gear up for Oktoberfest with this 10-day celebration with "brews" cruises, BBQ and a tasting session featuring over 90 different beers from 45 breweries.



©HARTWIG KLAPPERT

The International Literature Festival Sept. 7 to 19, Berlin

Participate in a roundtable discussion with a Nobel prize winner or take part in a workshop at this event occurring in museums, theaters and concert halls across Berlin.



©MELANIE HUBACH PHOTOGRAPHIE

Dürkheim Sausage Market Sept. 9 to 13 and Sept. 16 to 19, Bad Dürkheim

Participate in the "cult event," grab a new "Dubbeglasorden," or special dimpled wine glass, for your wine glass collection and watch fireworks at this festival that has existed in some form for over 600 hundred years.



©DESTINATION STAR TREK

Destination: Star Trek Germany Sept. 23 to 25, Dortmund

For all you Trekkies, have Scotty beam you up to the "official Star Trek event of Europe" for this three-day event filled with costumes, props and celebrity guest appearances.



Cannstatter Volksfest Sept. 23 to Oct. 9, Stuttgart

Don your traditional Württemberg lederhosen and dirndl, jump on thrilling rides and take part in the opening ceremony, family days or traditional Sunday parade at this annual festival. This year you get an extra treat of the agricultural fair, which only occurs once every four years.



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Antique and Flea Market Sept. 25, Ottweiler

Pick up some knick-knacks, trinkets and antiques in this last antique and flea market of the season in Ottweiler. While you are there you can also visit the Saarland School Museum and grab something to eat at one of Ottweiler's 21 restaurants and cafes.

PLAN AHEAD

Zwiebelmarkt / Onion Market Oct. 7 to 9, Weimar

Who will be crowned "Onion Queen" this year? What does an onion cake taste like? Why do some people say "Zippelmarkt" rather than "Zwiebelmarkt?" Find out the answers to these questions and more at the Weimar Onion Market. ■

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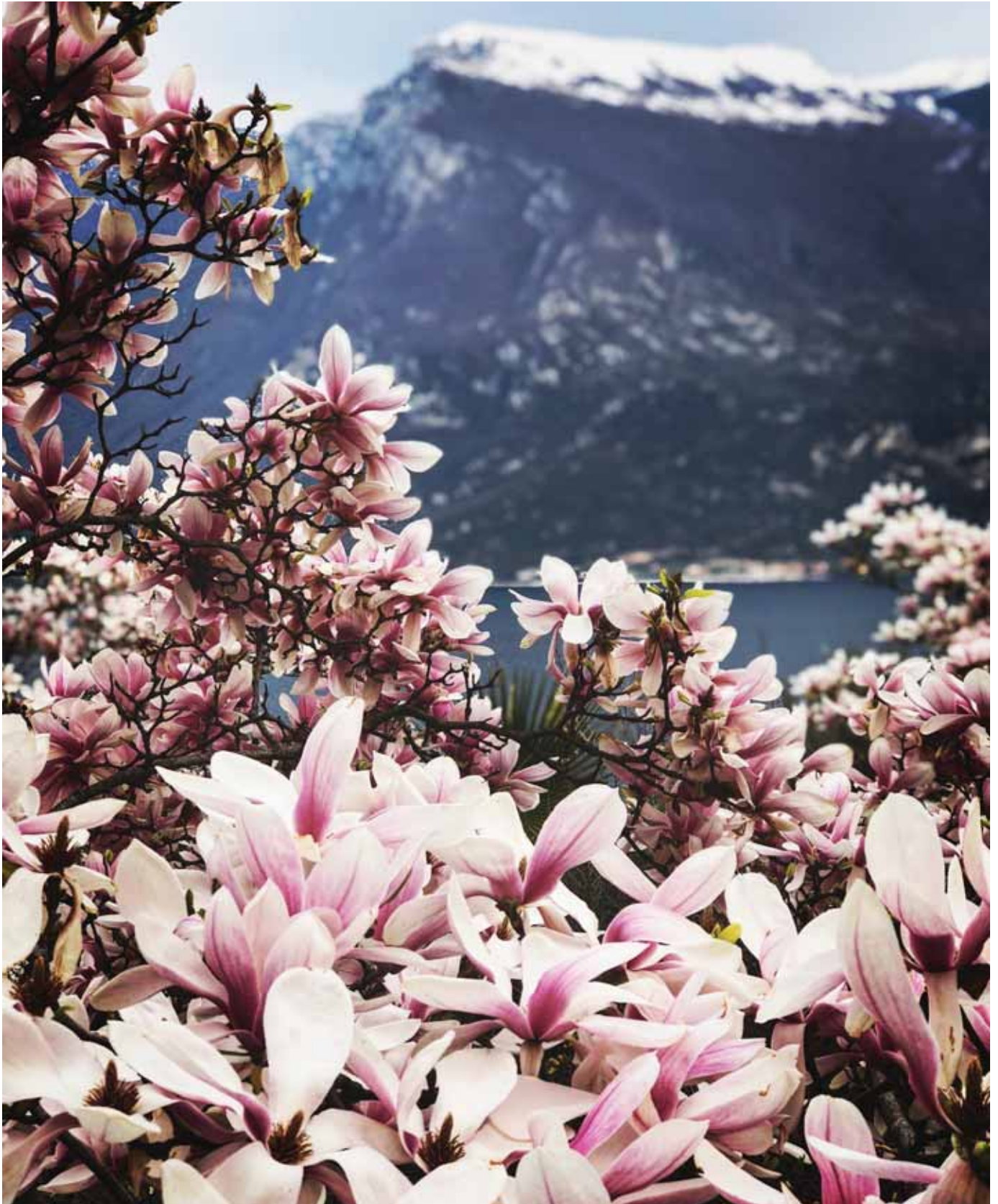


PHOTO of the month

Italy's largest lake, Lake Garda, entices visitors for tranquil moments like this one. Located between the Dolomites of northern Italy, the lake is known for its turquoise blue waters surrounded by beautiful and historical villages. Its location also gives it its unique climate, which can change quickly and you can experience multiple seasons in one day.

Photo by Leah Geier.

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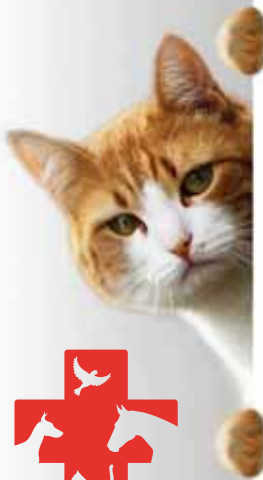
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a day at

Linderhof Palace

By Tamala Malerk

One of the things that Europe is most known for is its wealth of palaces and castles. What may be less well known is the fact that “castle” and “palace” are not interchangeable terms. The main difference between the two is that a castle is fortified. One of the unfortified structures that recently caught my attention is Linderhof Palace, located in the mountains of Graswang Valley in Ettal, Bavaria.

Construction of Linderhof began in the 1860s during the reign of King Ludwig II, who was known for fantasizing and “living” at night and sleeping during the day to escape the doldrums and boring life of administrative rule and work. This is the smallest of Ludwig’s three palaces, and the only one he lived long enough to see fully constructed. In the modern era, there is so much to see and do before you even enter the palace.



The total area of the park and gardens is 58 hectares, or in more familiar terminology, 580,000 square meters. Terraced gardens, stunning fountains, a music pavilion and statues greet you on the outskirts and entrance to the palace. Explore one of Ludwig II’s “escape castles” or the “Moroccan House,” which was acquired by the Paris World Exhibition in 1878. Find out why there is a gate known as the “Forbidden Gate,” and take a stroll around Swan Pond. As you meander around, you will spot the 300-year-old linden tree and Neptune’s Fountain. Step inside the Venus Grotto, a breathtaking artificial cave with a lake and a waterfall. Stop in at the oldest building on the complex, St. Anne Chapel, built in 1864.

Once inside the palace, you will begin your tour in the vestibule where you can marvel at the statue of King Louis XIV of France, whose palace of Versailles helped inspire the construction of Linderhof. The tour then takes you through two

tapestry rooms, a lavish “Audience Room,” Ludwig’s large bedroom adorned with his symbolic royal color blue, several cabinet rooms and a dining room. The tour ends in the opulent Hall of Mirrors where the combination of constant reflective glass and lighting create “magical” illuminating effects. Throughout the palace, you can view classic portrait paintings, several statues and busts, numerous chandeliers and antique furniture.

So much exploring and learning can really work up an appetite. Thankfully, Ludwig’s Bistro and Gifts, which has been run by the same family for 65 years, is right there to satiate your hunger and quench your thirst. From the bistro, you have a clear view of the beautiful Temple of Venus as you chow down on some pretzel, sausages or strudel and sip on your choice of standard drinks, regional coffees and teas and traditional “Hofbräu München” beers.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Keep in mind that you can only visit Linderhof Palace as part of a guided tour, so make sure to book your reservations online prior to going. If you happen to be staying at Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, it is an easy drive. Once there, pay plenty of attention to your surroundings. Photography and video recording is not allowed inside of the palace. Feel free to bring your dog along because they are allowed to walk around the park. ■





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'TIS THE SEASON FOR

By Stacy Roman

Oktoberfest

As the summer starts to slowly fade and the breezes feel crisper, Volksfeste begin to pop up in villages around Germany. Tis the season ... Oktoberfest season! Whether you've been here for years or just a few weeks, Oktoberfest is one of those festivals you should experience at least once during your time here. And if you decide to brave the crowds and hit up the original in Munich, here's a little history and things to know before you go.



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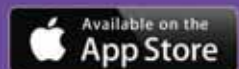
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A Little History

Oktoberfest has always been a festival for the people. On Oct. 12, 1810, Crown Prince Ludwig (who later became King Ludwig I) married Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen. To celebrate, the newlyweds invited the citizens of Munich to join festivities in the fields outside the city gates. The event was such a success, that the decision was made to hold the festival annually. Thus, Oktoberfest was born.

The first carnival rides were added in 1818, with beer and food booths popping up shortly after. Due to the exploding popularity in the beer stalls, the first beer tent was erected in 1869. Initially only held over a few days, more and more events were added to the festival. Spanning between 17 and 18 days, Oktoberfest was gradually shifted from October into September to accommodate the more temperate weather. What started as a local wedding festival has now grown into a behemoth event with nearly seven million visitors each year.



Statue of Ludwig I, king of Bavaria on the Odeonsplatz, Munich, Germany.

Minor Details

Congratulations! You've made the decision to head to Munich for the world's largest Volksfest! It's time to start getting prepped, my friend. Actually, you probably should have started making arrangements a few months ago. But don't fret—there are still plenty of options available and plenty of time to get it figured out.

Lodging and Transportation. Look into places farther from the city center, close to S-Bahn or U-Bahn lines. Oktoberfest is located in the heart of Munich with no less than seven U-Bahn stations surrounding Theresienwiese (the festival ground). We stayed on the outskirts of the city and took the U-Bahn to Goetheplatz. We followed the sea of Lederhosen straight to the fest in less than 10 minutes. Don't drive. There is no parking in the area, and the sheer volume of taxis creates massive traffic jams and delays.

Be Prepared. Be sure to bring only what you need. Bags and large backpacks won't be allowed, and there will be a lot of security checks when you enter the fest grounds as well as the tents. When purchasing your garb, check to see if it has pockets. I was lucky that my Dirndl had them. All I brought was enough cash for the day, my ID and my phone.

It's Not Cheap. The prices at Oktoberfest are borderline extortion. When you add up the average cost of a Maß of beer, food and transportation, one visit can cost upwards of 50 euros. Bring plenty of cash, as credit cards may not be accepted in all locations. Carry extra if you're planning on riding the rides or playing midway games.

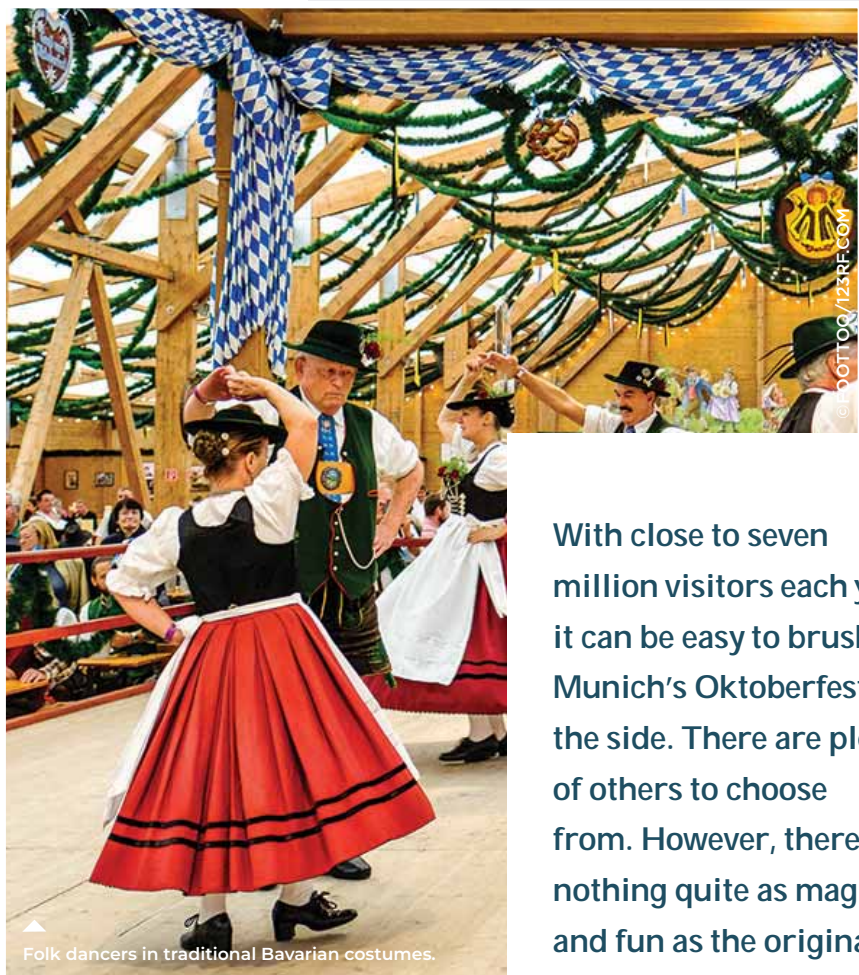
Timing is Everything. If you can, plan on going between Monday and Thursday. It'll be busy, but not nearly as crazy as it is on the weekends. During the week, you won't have much difficulty finding a spot at unserved tables or benches. However, if you have a large party and plan on going over a weekend, you may be out of luck. Tables are often booked well in advance. If you didn't make reservations, split your party into



Waiter with traditional costume serving beers in a glass stein, also known as a "Maß."

smaller groups, and designate a time and meeting place. Just remember the earlier you go, the more luck you'll have in getting a spot.

Family Matters. Oktoberfest is quite family friendly. Tuesdays are family days, and special discounts on rides are offered to families. If you bring your kids into the tents, a parent or guardian must be with them at all times. Children must leave the tents by 8 p.m. Teens between the ages of 16 and 17 may be served beer, but no hard alcohol. Those 18 and older have no restrictions.



▲ Folk dancers in traditional Bavarian costumes.

With close to seven million visitors each year, it can be easy to brush Munich's Oktoberfest to the side. There are plenty of others to choose from. However, there is nothing quite as magical and fun as the original.

The Unwritten Rules

Now that you've gotten the nitty-gritty details figured out, it's time to have some fun! Hang on ... there are a few unwritten rules you should brush up on.

- ▶ **Know your limits.** It's easy to get caught up in the atmosphere and get a little crazy. Think of it as a marathon and not a sprint. Stay hydrated (with water), and be respectful of yourself and others. If you get too crazy and start acting like a disrespectful jerk, the beer proprietors will have no problem tossing you out.
- ▶ **Dancing is encouraged.** But whatever you do, don't dance on the tables. The benches, yes. Tabletops, no. Unless you want security to escort you out, keep it off the table.
- ▶ **What is imbibed in the tent, stays in the tent.** Unless you've bought a stein (be sure to have your receipt handy), do not take the tent stein home with you. These aren't free souvenirs, so please don't assume you get a five-finger discount. Staff will often check bags on the way out, so just leave the stein on the table.
- ▶ **Eat all the things.** The fest food is fantastic. Roasted chicken, savory "käsespätzle," succulent pork knuckles and "knödel," "pommes frites" and of course, the doughy goodness of pretzels. The only item I wouldn't recommend are the gingerbread cookies. Those are more decorative than anything.
- ▶ **Be nice and tip.** With close to seven million visitors, the servers in the tents are going to be busy. An ounce of kindness and patience go a long way. The kinder you are, the more attentive the service. This is also one of the few times when tips are expected, usually about 10 percent.
- ▶ **You'll make friends fast.** When you sit down, you'll likely be sitting at a table with people you've never met. In our first tent, we sat with a lovely couple from Augsburg on their honeymoon and a man that was already two liters in. In our last tent, we toasted with an elderly couple that didn't speak a word of English, but who managed to converse with us in our broken German. ■

10 THINGS

TO KNOW ABOUT LISBON

By Mary Del Rosario

Portugal's capital, Lisbon, is known for colorful tiles, locals persuading you to try cherry liqueur, sunshine and laid-back vibes. Though some may find the city to be dated, Lisbon's underrated charm is what makes the city unique and beautiful. Here are a few things to know before exploring this unmissable part of Portugal.



No. 1

Coming in after Athens, Lisbon is the second-oldest capital city in Europe.



Two

If you hear melancholy music consisting of the guitar or mandolin, it's **Fado**, Portugal's traditional folk music.

3

Tram 28 is the yellow tram you'll want to look out for in order to get the best sneak peeks of Lisbon's popular landmarks. The starting point for the tram is at Praça Martim Moniz.



IV

Belem Tower, Jeronimos Monastery, São Jorge Castle, Lisbon Cathedral and Praça do Comércio are some of the recognizable landmarks.



5



The city can be hilly, so it's best to bring comfortable walking shoes.

You know those yummy olives and bread sitting on the table at your desired restaurant? **Be aware that you will be charged if you eat them**, so double check the bill after you've eaten.

6



7

Should you find a cafe nearby, be sure to eat all the **pastel de nata**, a delicious Portuguese egg custard, you can find.



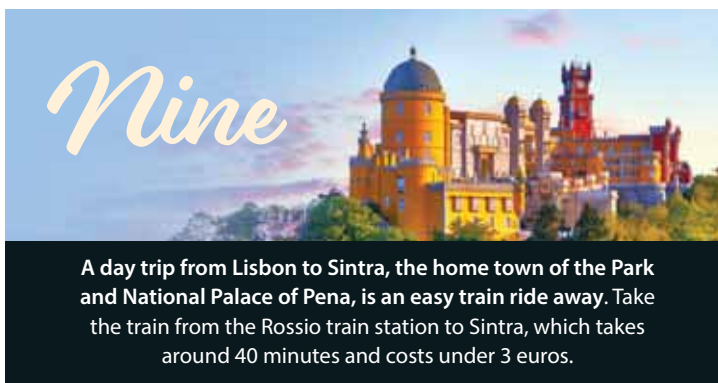
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Memorable souvenir finds are azulejo tiles, Port wine, ginjinha, pastel de nata and sardines. **If buying sardines, head to The Fantastic World of Portuguese Sardines.**



Nine

A day trip from Lisbon to Sintra, the home town of the Park and National Palace of Pena, is an easy train ride away. Take the train from the Rossio train station to Sintra, which takes around 40 minutes and costs under 3 euros.



X

For a traditional feel of the city, visit **Alfama**, Lisbon's oldest neighborhood, which is peppered with shops and restaurants. ■



Oktoberfest Eats:

Semmelknödel, Bavarian Bread Dumplings

By Anna Leigh Bagiackas

It's Oktoberfest season and you've got your schnitzel and your wurst (sausages), Hefeweizen beer and Riesling wine. A lesser known, but no less delicious German dish to try is Semmelknödel, or Bavarian bread dumplings. As we celebrate the season donning our lederhosen and dirndl and yelling our fair share of "Prost!" we look to Bavaria and Munich's legendary festival to inspire our cooking.

This dumpling is one of many regional dumplings you can find throughout Germany. It can be a comforting and warm main or side dish, especially during the fall and winter months. While this dumpling is primarily made up of bread, other variations can include potatoes or meat, and it is often served with red cabbage. These dumplings are distinctly remembered because of their size, which is generous; they are hearty and are perfect for sopping up a delicious sauce. Deepen your German culinary repertoire by making your own batch of these classic Bavarian dumplings this Oktoberfest season.



Semmelknödel

Serves: 4

Start to finish: 1 hour

1 lb. stale white bread slices or bread rolls
2 cups whole milk, warmed
1 tablespoon butter
1 onion, finely diced
1 medium bunch parsley, finely chopped
2 eggs, whisked
1 tablespoon sour cream or crème fraîche
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour, plus more as needed
Salt and pepper to taste

Slice or rip bread into 1-inch pieces. Add to bowl, pour in warm milk and cover. Soak for 30 to 40 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat the butter in a pan on medium heat. Add onions and sauté until softened, about 8 minutes. Off heat, stir in parsley and set aside to cool.

Whisk together eggs, sour cream, nutmeg, salt and pepper in medium bowl. Pour over the soaked bread and stir to combine. Then stir in the cooled onion and parsley mixture into the bread and eggs. Knead until the dough is well combined.

If the dough is too wet and sticky, gradually add flour until you have a firm dough

that is easier to work with. Form the dough into eight balls using lightly floured hands.

Bring a large pot of salted water or vegetable broth to boil. Reduce to a simmer and add the dumplings. Cook for 15 to 20 minutes or until done. The dumplings will float to the surface when they are done.

Using a slotted spoon, remove the dumplings and place on a paper towel-lined plate to strain.

Serve and enjoy! ■

(This recipe was adapted from "Das German Cookbook" by Franz Schulmeister.)



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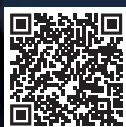
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