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GERMANY

Rock am Ring | Nürnberg | June 7–9

This large music festival features headliners and bands such as Green Day, Corey Taylor, Of Mice and Men, 311, Beartooth, Queens of the Stone Age, Mudvayne and Neck Deep.

Bachfest 2024 | Leipzig | June 7–16

Osthafen Festival | Frankfurt | July 20–21

Africa Festival | Böblingen | July 26–28

Bamberger Sandkerwa | Bamberg | Aug. 22–26

Museumsuferfest | Frankfurt | Aug. 23–25

Local History and Wine Festival | Cochem | Aug. 22–26

Dürkheimer Wurstmarkt 2024 | Bad Dürkheim
Sept. 6–10 and 13–16

Make your way to the world's largest wine festival. Drink some wine, eat sausage, go to a concert, get on rides and so much more. Flip to the end of the magazine for our seven tips for fun at the Wurstmarkt Wine Fest.

International Literature Festival | Berlin | Sept. 5–18

Cannstatter Folk Fest | Stuttgart | Sept. 27–Oct. 13

Jazzfest Berlin 2024 | Berlin | Oct. 30–Nov. 2

Frankfurter Buchmesse | Frankfurt | Oct. 16–20

Festival of Lights | Berlin | Oct. 10–19

Tollwood Winter Festival | Munich | Nov. 26–Dec. 31

THE NETHERLANDS

Holland Festival | Amsterdam | June 6–29

Come out for this international dance, music and theater festival. Performances that have already been announced include a 50-piano concert, a dance performance by Trajal Harrell, Armenian folk tales and an adaptation of "Hamlet."

Julianadorper Dweil Festival (Music) | Julianadorp
June 30

Dutch Wooden Boat Festival | Den Helder | July 2–3

World Festival Parade | Brunssum | July 4–7

Corso Zundert 2024 (biggest flower parade in the world) | Zundert | Sept. 1–2

Fringe Festival | Amsterdam | Sept. 5–15

Dickens Festival | Deventer | Dec. 14–15

Amsterdam Light Festival | Amsterdam
December–January

Dutch Ice Sculpture Festival | Zwolle
December–February

POLAND

Good Beer Festival | Wrocław | June 21–23

Jewish Culture Festival | Krakow | June 23–30

Open'er Festival | Gdynia | July 3–6

This multi-day music festival features popular bands from different genres. Headliners this year include Foo Fighters, Dua Lipa and Doja Cat. The final call for ticket sales is June 11. You can buy one, two and four-day tickets. Go to opener.pl/en/tickets for more information.

Shakespeare Festival | Gdańsk | July 26–Aug. 6

International Chopin Piano Festival | Duszniki-Zdrój
Aug. 17–Sept. 8

Warsaw Autumn International Festival of Contemporary Music | Sept. 15–23

ESTONIA

Estonian Fashion Festival | Tartu | June 6–9

Grillfest | Valkikääru aas | June 7–8

Tallinn Old Town Days | Tallin | Jun 7–9

Tallinn Craft Beer Weekend | Tallin | June 14–15

Juu Jääh Festival (Island Culture Festival) | Muhu
July 4–7

Festival Klaaspärlimäng / Glasperlenspiel (Based on Herman Hesse Novel) | Tartu | July 4–9

Hanseatic Fair | Tartu | July 6–7

Maritime Festival: The Tall Ships Races | Tallin
July 11–14

Viljandi Folk Music Festival | Viljandi | July 25–28

Birgitta Festival (Musical Theater) | Tallin | Aug. 8–11

Opinion Festival | Paide | Aug. 9–10

Leigo Lake Music Festival | Leigo | Aug. 9–10

Tallinn Fringe Festival | Tallin | Aug. 18–Sept. 18

Estonian Bread Day and Autumn Fair | Tallinn | Sept. 15

The Festival of Lights | Tartu | Sept. 30–Oct. 6

LUXEMBOURG

Luxembourg Pride Week & Street Fest
Esch-sur-Alzette | July 6–14

Blues Express | Niederkorn | July 13

Medieval Festival | Vianden | July 27

e-Lake Festival | Echternach | Aug. 9

Medieval Festival | Koerich | Sept. 7

SWEDEN

Sweden Rock Festival 2024 | Sölvesborg | June 5–8

Summer On Festival 2024 | Båstad | June 14–15

Uppsala Reggae Festival | Uppsala | July 26–27

Way Out West 2024 (music) | Göteborg | Aug. 8–10

Culture Festival | Gothenburg | Sept. 1–3 ■

June 2024

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Wiesbaden Family
and Morale, Welfare
and Recreation



Celebrating history, friendship and more in June

Berlin Airlift Event

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden and the State of Hesse will host a 75th Berlin Airlift Commemorative Event on the Clay Kaserne airfield on June 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. The event will feature food stalls, historical aircraft, live music and more. In addition to the public event on June 16, there will be a workforce day June 15 open to DoD ID cardholders. For more information visit <https://home.army.mil/wiesbaden/berlinairlift>.



Biking Challenge

Can you ride 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) before Aug. 31, 2024? Join the 2024 Army Outdoor Recreation Cycling Challenge. Ride outdoors on roads and trails. The registration fee is \$50 which includes biking jersey and safety inspection. Register at Outdoor Recreation on Clay North or call civ (0611) 143-548-9801 for details.

Adult/youth golf lessons

Youths are invited to learn the sport of golf during Youth Golf Academy lessons throughout the summer. Cost is \$15 per session. Adults can get more comfortable with the game of golf during Spice Up Your Golf lessons throughout the summer. Cost is \$25 per session. Call civ (0611) 143-548-5485 for more information.

Career Café

The Employment Readiness Program hosts outreach tables to help job seekers learn about local job openings and preparing for a job interview. Get your questions answered from 1:30-3 p.m. on June 5 at the Hainerberg Exchange Food Court.

Berchtesgaden Trip

Travel to the Alps to explore World War II history and enjoy spectacular vistas



during Outdoor Recreation's trip to Berchtesgaden June 14-17. Cost is \$459 per person ages 12 and above; \$399 for children ages 3-11 or \$299 for infants up to age 2. Registration deadline is May 13. Visit Outdoor Recreation on Clay North or call civ (0611) 143-548-9801.

Home Based Business Info Sharing Session

Join this get-together to share ideas about what kind of businesses would be successful here in Wiesbaden. This Home Based Business Information Sharing Session will be held in the Army Community Service Conference Room on June 6 at 10 a.m.

Micheal B. Riley Hero WOD

The Wiesbaden Sports and Fitness Center hosts the Micheal B. Riley Hero WOD (Workout Of the Day) on June 22 starting at 10 a.m. Join this workout event to honor U.S. Army Special Forces Operator Master Sgt. Micheal B. Riley who was killed during combat operations in Afghanistan on June 25, 2019. The workout events include a 400-meter run with a 60-pound ruck, 10 power cleans at 135 pounds, five strict pull-ups X2 and 10 burpees X2. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9830 for details.

Four-Person Scramble

The Rheinblick Golf Course holds Four-Person Scrambles throughout the year. Upcoming Four-Person Scrambles

are: June 15 and July 13. Make your own team for this scramble format event. Shotgun start is at 9 a.m.

Summer Reading Events

The Wiesbaden Library hosts virtual and in-person summer reading events June 23 to Aug. 4 (except July 7). On June 23 a tour of the Mechtildshausen Domaine organic farm will be featured. Stop by the library or visit <https://usag-wiesbaden.beanstack.org>.

Couples Communication

Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program hosts a Couples Communication Class every first Friday of the month. Learn how to enhance your relationship by better expressing your feelings and concerns. Couples Communication meets at ACS in Building 7790, Hainerberg Housing.

Military Appreciation Meal

Active Duty Service Members (U.S. and Allied), Veterans and First Responders (U.S. and Local National) are invited to the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center every second Tuesday of the month (next one is June 11) for free food, bowling and soft drinks (or water) from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The meals are courtesy of the Gary Sinise Foundation (no federal endorsement implied). The free bowling includes free shoe rental.



Spotlight On



Gorges du Verdon

By Kat Nickola

The milky turquoise water flowing through Gorges du Verdon, or Verdon Gorge, in southeastern France contains minerals from the surrounding limestone and lends a tropical island vibe to this special destination. Carved by the Verdon River, the 25-kilometer-long gorge has sections up to 700 meters deep. It empties into the Lake of Sainte-Croix, which was created by the construction of a hydroelectric dam in 1974.

The gorge is popular in the summer. Visitors come to rent paddleboats, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards and motorboats for leisurely treks up the gorge. Small beaches dot the inner gorge and lake, which make wonderful spots for long picnic lunches and dips in the water to cool off. Motorboats are not typically allowed at the beaches, so those with fast-paced craft just drop anchor and swim off their boat. ■

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Eat • Stay • Love

SPEYER BREZELFEST

By Stacy Roman



EAT

Every July, the city of Speyer is transformed into a love letter to the humble Bretzel. Raucous floats rumble along the cobblestone streets to the soundtrack of live brass oompah bands. However, it isn't your usual sit-back-and-watch-demurely kind of parade. After all, what kind of Brezelfest would it be if giant pretzels weren't thrown from the floats?

This festival is dedicated to the unofficial German national food, the pretzel. There are plenty of flying pretzels and enough produce thrown from parade floats to make a small side salad. However, I don't recommend eating the thrown pretzels. They make better weapons than food. Instead, hit one of the local pop-up Brezel stands. Most offer a variety of hot, fresh, doughy goodness. My favorite was the Käsebrezel, or cheese pretzel, which was as big as my head. If you need a good brew to wash it down, Eichbaum is an excellent choice.



STAY

Although Speyer is an easy day trip from Wiesbaden and Kaiserslautern, take your time and enjoy this enchanting city with a weekend stay. Hotel Domhof is a charming hotel in the heart of the Altstadt near the Speyer Cathedral. The accommodations are quite comfortable and feature air conditioning, a plus in the stifling July heat. However, the proximity to the cathedral equates to loud bells ringing all day and night.

Hotel Speyer am Technik Museum is a wonderful, family-friendly choice. Located on the museum grounds, visitors can book a package deal that includes tickets to the nearby museum and SEA LIFE Speyer.



LOVE

After being stationed in Louisiana, Mardi Gras ruined us. That multi-week affair consisted of overindulgence in king cake and gumbo, extravagant balls hosted by local Krewe's, and parades filled with fabulous floats, marching bands, and an impressive haul of plastic beads and foam toys. It wasn't until we moved to Germany five years later that our faith in parades and festivals was renewed when, needing a break from unpacking our sea of cardboard boxes, we made our way to Brezelfest in Speyer.

There is so much to love about Speyer and Brezelfest! Constructed in the 11th century, the Speyer Cathedral is a UNESCO World Heritage site and is the final resting place of former German emperors. The nearby Technik Museum pays homage to the technical marvels of the past century. For budding marine biologists, take a visit to SEA LIFE Speyer. This aquarium features a vast array of coral from around the globe and an exhibit dedicated to aquatic life in the North Sea.

However, the Brezelfest funfair and parade are the true highlights. The parade typically begins later in the afternoon, leaving plenty of time for rides, games and delicious German fair food! Once you've had your fill, stake your spot along the parade route in the Altstadt and prepare to be peppered with pretzels!

The Speyer Brezelfest takes place July 11–16. For more information, visit www.speyerer-brezelfest.de. ■



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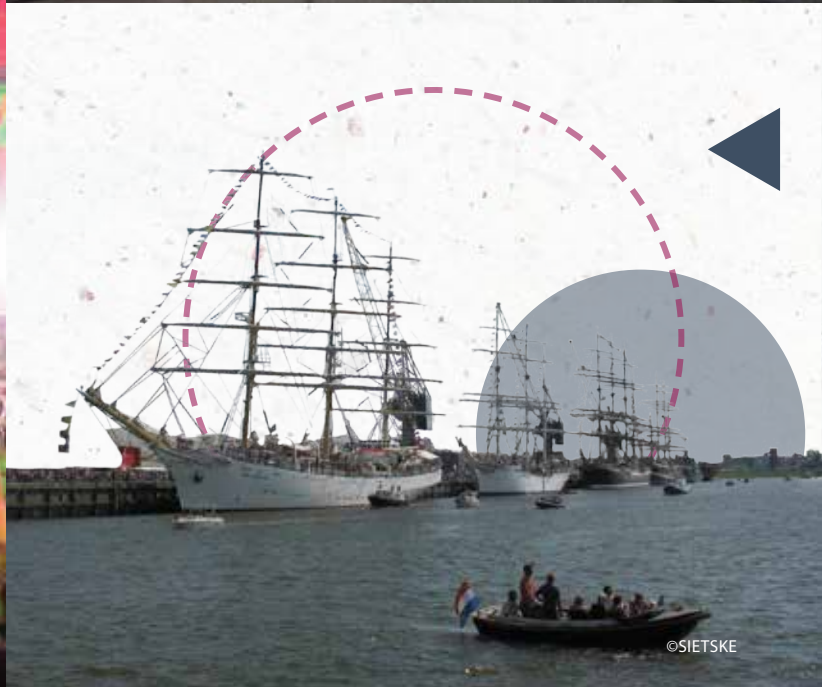
By Kat Nickola

From unique to traditional, trendy to unconventional, the variety of festivals in Europe is worth experiencing. Summer in Germany is festival season, so don't miss your local carnival (kerwe) or the nearby castle's medieval fair. But, if you are ready to move beyond the small fairs and onto some extravagant events, plan to visit one of these top European festivals.

Madrid Orgullo (MADO)

Madrid, Spain
June 28 – July 6, 2024

Otherwise known as Madrid Pride, MADO is the largest LGBTQIA+ event in Europe. The weeklong event begins in the Chueca neighborhood, an area of Madrid known for its embracing of LGBTQIA+ -run businesses. The festival opens on July 3. There are plenty of street parties and with bands of six stages throughout the area there is no way to miss out on the fun. Beyond that, however, MADO aims to open dialogue with exhibitions, political discussions and cultural displays. The pinnacle event here is the massive Pride parade of floats, businesses and people sprawling through downtown Madrid on Saturday, July 6. It usually starts in the evening and runs for hours late into the night, and with two million people in attendance last year it will be hard to miss! Visit www.madridorgullo.com for more details.









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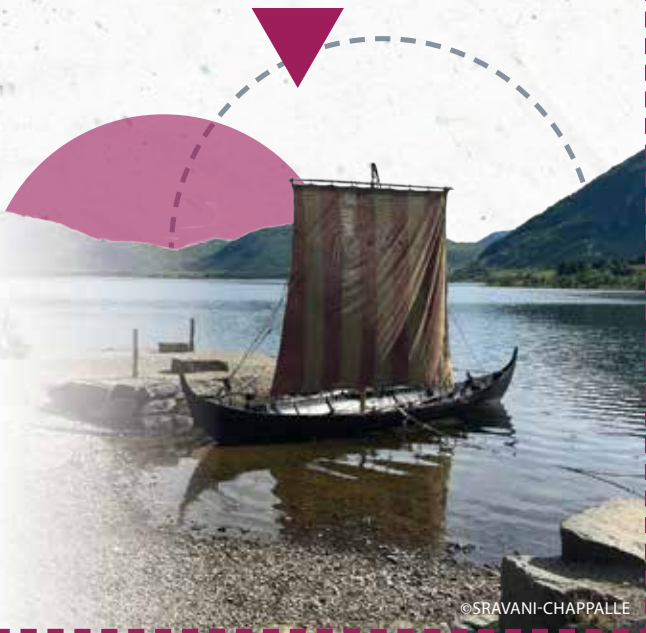


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Lofotr Viking Festival

Lofotr Viking Museum, Norway
Aug. 8-11, 2024

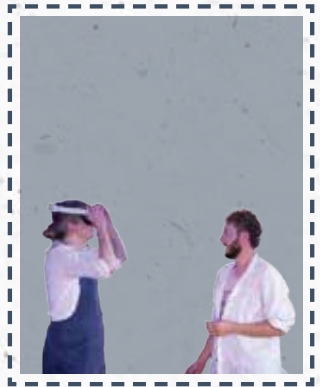
Held at the site of the largest Viking longhouse ever excavated, the Lofotr Viking Festival is special in its full immersion into Viking life. The Lofotr Viking Museum hosts the festival, so you get to enjoy the longhouse, the Viking feasts and boats in addition to festival events. The festival program aims to be as authentic an experience as possible with numerous reenactors who camp on-site and participate in craft demonstrations of everything from wood carving to making clay pots, and beer brewing to Iron Age cooking. There are musical performances and theater events, plus special Viking boot camps for kids who can even ride the horses. The market area has vendors from all over the Viking world ready to sell you a new mead horn or fur-lined cloak. The museum also offers its regular activities like sailing and rowing on a Viking ship, archery and axe throwing. Then, of course, are the fighting shows that bring everyone to battle ground to see who will win. Tickets for the museum and Viking dinner are available online at www.lofotr.no/en, festival passes must be purchased when you arrive.



Delfsail | Delfzijl

Netherlands
June 13-16, 2024

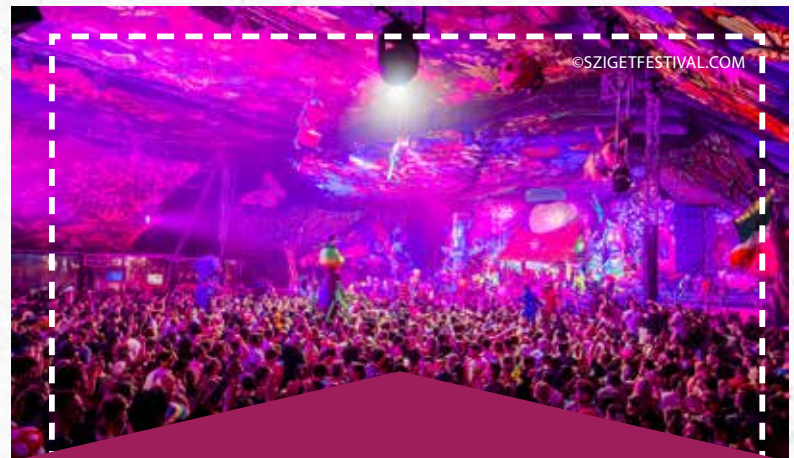
This tall ships get-together is only held every five years, so if sailing aboard a historical vessel is on your bucket list, plan to attend this rare event. Roughly half a million people attend the most recent DelfSail festival in 2016. Held on the local harbor, entrance is free. The area is full of vendors, nautical employment and training information, food and drink, and lots of entertainment on the massive stage. The highlight, however, is seeing all the historical and exotic tall-masted sailing ships and their crews from around the world. There are also options to get out on the water. You can book a ride around the harbor on a ferry-style motorized craft to see all the tall ships or take a two-hour cruise aboard an authentic sailing ship. Visit the website delfsail.nl (Dutch), and book sailings by clicking "Arrangementen | Stap aan board."



British Science Festival

University of East London
Sept. 11-15, 2024

This festival is huge and is a gathering of scientists, innovators, inventors, researchers and artists with a goal of bringing their work to the general public. Run by the British Science Association, 2024 marks the 193rd anniversary of the gathering. This historic event was where the terms 'scientist' and 'dinosaur' were first used, where a wireless transmission was first demonstrated and the discovery of electrons was first announced. The Science Festival is held at different locations each year, typically on a university campus. There are talks about cutting-edge research and exhibitions to enjoy, plus plenty of activities and interactive elements to try. The entire experience is geared toward people 16 years old and older, and especially visitors without a scientific background. The festival is free, but you will need to book tickets ahead of time for most of the individual events. Visit britishsciencefestival.org for booking.



Sziget Festival | Budapest, Hungary
Aug. 7-12, 2024

One of the largest music festivals in Europe, the Sziget (pronounced sig-et) Festival bills itself as an island of freedom and it is, in fact, on an island. Óbuda island lies in the middle of the Danube River as it flows through the northern part of Budapest. There are 60 stages across the island, with artists coming from across many musical genres – from rock and reggae to pop and techno. The entire island is consumed with the music festival, and attendees become "Szitzens" with many people choosing to camp or glamp on the island for the six-day event. Beyond the music are other artistic venues like circus and traditional performances, a museum and high-adrenaline rides. Book three or six-day passes at szigetfestival.com/de/



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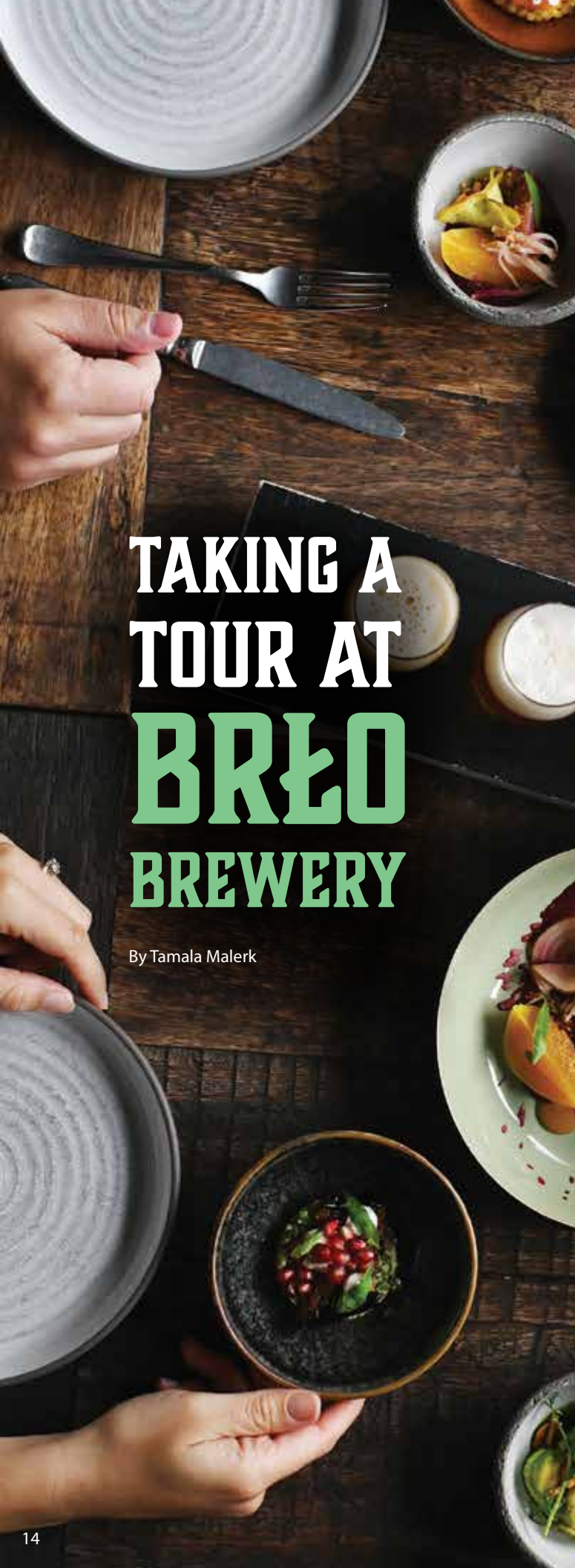
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TAKING A TOUR AT BRŁO BREWERY

By Tamala Malerk

I don't like beer. I know that is hard to believe, especially living in Germany, "the land of beer." But, I don't. I was told that I had to "develop" a taste for it, and, honestly, I've never been sold on the idea of adjusting to enjoy something; I expect to just find it tasty. However, what I do like is going on brewery tours. I love learning "behind-the-scenes" about how things work and how the sausage (or, in this case, beer) is made. On a recent trip to Berlin, I had the opportunity to tour the BRŁO brewery and do a craft beer tasting and food pairing, and I actually discovered there is ONE type of beer I do find tasty.

For those, like me, who don't speak good (or any) German, fear not, BRŁO does English-language tours. We were able to book our spot on the tour online. You can book via their website brlo.de. They offer two options, one with a small bites pairing, offered several times a week; or one with food prepared from their award-winning kitchen that is only offered once a week. We went with the first one due to time constraints.

The tour began with meeting our guide and fellow tour-goers in the tasting, and then being escorted behind the bar area to where the magic happens—where the beer is brewed. There were a few high-top tables where we were instructed to sit and were provided with some water to start with.

Our guide introduced himself and explained how the evening would go. BRŁO is a small brewery, unlike other breweries I have toured in Germany such as Griesbraeu in Bavaria, and so there wasn't a lot of time going room-

to-room since all of the equipment was in one room. Since the brewery and our tour group were both small, we had plenty of time to ask in-depth questions. Our guide shared the history of the brewery but also some industry information, such as the surprisingly high up-front costs of brewery equipment. Some of the tanks cost upwards of five to six figures alone. After the tour of the room with the brewing materials, we returned to our high-top table and began the tasting portion of the evening.

Typically, when I go on brewery tour and tasting I take a polite sip of each beer and then hand it off to my husband who gladly consumes it for me. However, the thought behind the food pairings with each beer intrigued me and I found myself only handing off three of the five beers. The first was a white wheat beer paired with green apples, which was my favorite of all the pairings. I discovered that in my decade-plus search for tasty beer, white wheat is my beer of choice. The guide did not simply hand us the beer and food and tell us to enjoy; he took the time to walk us through the science of the flavor profiles and why each specific beer paired was paired with a particular food. There was a concentrated garlic paste that completely changed the flavor of its paired beer and added a sweetness to it.

After the tour and tasting, the restaurant portion of the brewery was packed so we couldn't grab a seat inside. However, we were able to find some space in the outside beer garden where we found some great food and gelato. We also got 10 percent off the T-shirt we bought because we participated in the tour.

If you are looking for a fun, educational and tasty evening in Berlin, I highly recommend checking out the BRŁO Brewery. ■



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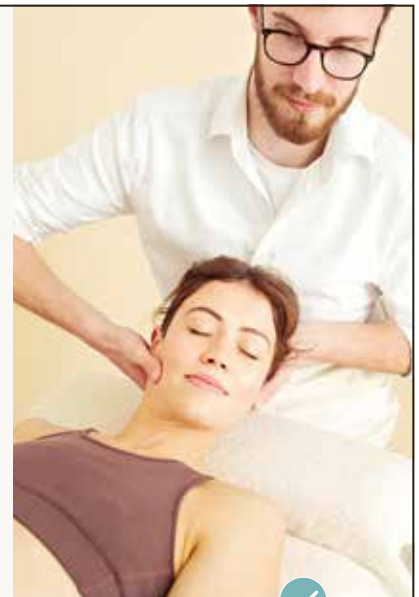
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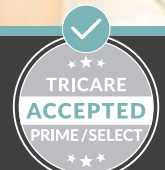
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7 Tips for Fun at the Wurstmarkt Wine Fest

By Genevieve Northup

My favorite annual event, the Dürkheimer Wurstmarkt, opens Sept. 6. The “sausage market” is the world’s largest wine fest, held in the spa town of Bad Dürkheim on the German Wine Route (Deutsches Weinstrasse). After several autumns in Germany, I still count down the days to this harvest celebration, which conveniently takes place around the same time as my birthday. This year’s Wurstmarkt is Sept. 6–10 and 13–16. To ensure you love this fest as much as I do, bring plenty of euros and remember these tips.

- 1. Take the train, stay overnight or find a designated driver.** The point of attending this fest is to drink the region’s famous wines. More than 300 varieties are available, poured in the traditional Pfälzisch Dubbeglas — every serving is a pint of wine! It takes 1.5 hours by train or 50 minutes by car to reach the Wurstmarkt from Kaiserslautern. We usually take the train for the afternoon, which is plenty of time for rides, food and beverages.
- 2. Go straight to the Wine Village.** The Weindorf sets the Wurstmarkt apart from the hundreds of beer and wine celebrations in Germany. This

area is less crowded, with a laid-back, quieter atmosphere. Twelve small wine tents provide cover from rain and sun, with small fest tables for groups and families. Most wineries have staff providing table service. There is no need to hold on to a table all day for a couple of people, but large groups should claim spots and take turns wandering off for food, games and rides.

- 3. Choose a Weinschorle.** It’s a spritzer of sparkling water and wine. Stay hydrated and pace yourself by sticking to these.
- 4. Enjoy rides before you eat.** There are some crazy theme-park-worthy attractions for fellow daredevils. I’ve done the reverse bungee jump only once because it is terrifying ... I mean, awesome! It is a giant slingshot, and you’re inside the ball being flung toward the sky. I didn’t see the Transformer on this year’s docket, but it involves being spun upside down several stories above the ground. And the King is a pendulum that swings and spins simultaneously. Have just one glass of wine and strap in before you eat, or you’ll regret it afterward.
- 5. Dine at the gourmet tents.** It’s easy to get distracted by the creperies, candy vendors and sizzling bratwursts. However, the best food is at the fine dining tents in the Wine Village,

where local chefs prepare restaurant-quality dishes in tiny makeshift kitchens. Watch the bustle of culinary magic as you wait for your grilled shrimp skewers and salad, mason jar tiramisu, dessert platter with two chocolate mousses and crème brûlée, rump steak in mushroom sauce, pumpkin cream soup—you get the picture. Note that menu prices do not include the deposit (pfand) that you must pay for using real cutlery and china. You will receive this deposit back (a couple of euros) when you return the dishes, so make sure you bus your table.

- 6. Get a photo in front of the Dürkheimer Riesenfaß.** Built in the 1930s as a tribute to the area’s vineyards, this wine barrel is one of the largest in the world. It could hold 1.7 million liters of delicious wine but houses a unique restaurant instead.
- 7. Arrive and depart early.** No matter how you’re getting there, arrive before 3 p.m., spend a few hours and depart no later than 9:30 p.m. Around then, the fairgrounds become a wall of people, and the fest is suddenly less enjoyable. Do not end up on one of the last trains (11 or 11:30 p.m.) because you will be standing. If traveling by car, leave before 11 p.m. to avoid the mass exodus. ■

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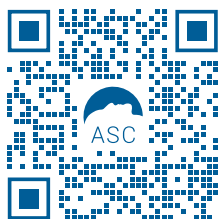


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