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September Events

By Tamala Malerk

EDITOR'S PICKS

The weather is starting to turn a little cooler, but it maintains that beautiful sunlight.

Enjoy these wonderful weather days with markets, festivals, races and more. Always check with an event's website before traveling.



Tattoo Convention Fulda 23 Sept. 9-10, Künzell

Get tattooed by one of 50 international tattoo artists. If you aren't looking for more ink, you can also shop from various vendors, view art or get a new piercing.



Berlin Beer Week Sept. 1-10, Berlin

Across Berlin, celebrate craft beer with cruises, festivals and BBQ. The first of the cruises takes off Sept. 2 and 3 with beer tastings on the water. There is a "uniquely brewed beer" festival as well as a "beer, bourbon and BBQ" festival.

©BERLIN BEER WEEK/BEERWEEK.DE



Kessel Cup Sept. 9-10, Grimmen

"Fahrer, starten Sie Ihre Motoren!" (Drivers, start your engines!) Spend the weekend watching stock car races, going to the after-race party and seeing who wins the Kessel Cup and the caravan annihilation races.



Teddybär Welt (Teddy Bear World) Sept. 2-3, Wiesbaden

Come here for two days of stuffed animal fun for the entire family. Toy innovations from the Nuremberg Toy Fair are present along with exhibitors from all over the world. Get your favorite teddy bear fixed by the teddy bear doctor. See antique teddies and more.



WeinYOGA Sept. 22, Cologne

Can you keep hold of your wine glass as you do your vinyasa flow? The goal is to put the wine glass down as little as possible. The vinyasa flow is designed in a way so students feel as if they are almost dancing while they do yoga.



Camper Camp Sept. 8-9, Hamelin

Have you ever thought about starting a travel blog? How about living in an RV or tiny home and influencing others? Camper Camp is a two-day convention where you can learn the latest camping techniques and utilizing social media, video recording and photography to tell your story.



13th Berchtesgaden Land Hiking Festival Sept. 22-24, Berchtesgaden

Whether you're a casual mountain hiker or a sports extremist, this is a festival for you. There are 12-hour and 24-hour options so you can push yourself to your limit. You can scale the mountains or do a moonlit hike.



Dürkheim Sausage Market Sept. 8-12 & 15-18, Bad Dürkheim

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. Scan to read our "Day at Bad Dürkheim" article for more to do while you're in town for the market.



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Tell Your Story!

Did you attend a previous Editor's Picks event? We want to hear all about it! Please share something memorable about your experience in about 50-70 words and you could be featured here. Send your submissions to contentteam@stripes.com. ■

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76 YEARS

PHOTO of the month

Take a water taxi from Venice, Italy to the islands of Murano and Burano for this gorgeous view. Burano is known for its colorful buildings and homes while Murano is known for glassmaking. Both islands are small enough that you can squeeze a trip to both in one day.

Photo by Alexia Clark

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Oktoberfest Survival Guide

By Emma Bareihs and Kat Nickola

Oktoberfest is the largest folk festival in the world. It brings thousands of people together in celebration of a wedding. In 1810, the event was held to mark the wedding of Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig I to Princess Therese of Thuringia. Nowadays, beer is the center of attention. For over two weeks, you'll find massive tents full of songs and beer, parades, carnival rides and food. Most events take place at the Theresienwiese, or Therese's Meadow, often shortened to "Wiesn" or just "the meadow."

Munich Oktoberfest 2023:
Sept. 16 – Oct. 3

What to expect

There are 17 big beer tents in the "Wiesn," each with a different atmosphere. The Schottenhamel is where the first beer of the season is poured. The Ochsenbraterei prides itself in honoring each ox grilled on the huge rotisserie. The Armbrustschützenzelt was founded by the crossbow guild and still has shooting competitions. There are also 21 smaller tents that tend to be more orderly and themed around foods like Alpine cheese or wild game.

Tables inside the tents are shared, so get to know the people sitting next to you. There will be a server to take your drink or food orders. For those without a seat, there are lines at booth windows for ordering. Beer is only served in a one-liter "Maß", not a stein. The camaraderie is often focused on drinking songs and toasts, and "Ein Prosit" is a great one to learn. Locals typically attend on weekdays as it is less crowded than weekends.



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Crucial Know-Hows

- **Download the Oktoberfest app.**
The app has tent descriptions and a handy map. Find a link to the official app via oktoberfest.de.
- **Public transportation is your best friend.**
If you drive, utilize a Park + Ride (P+R) station like the one in Lochhausen and take public transit to one of the many train stations that surround the fest.
- **Bring cash!**
Oktoberfest is a cash-only event, and it is expensive. Beer prices range around 13 euros, rides range from 3–9 euros while a pretzel will be around 3 euros. General entry is free, however the “Oide Wiesn” historical area costs 4 euros to enter. If you don’t have cash, there are 12 ATMs dispersed around the grounds.
- **Security is tight.**
The entire festival is fenced with controlled entry points and monitored by police. Bags must be less than 3 liters in volume and smaller than 20 cm x 15 cm x 10 cm (approximately 8 in x 6 in x 4 in). Do not bring glass, knives or sprays of any kind. There is large bag storage for a fee. Lost and found is in the service tent.
- **Pets are not allowed.**
- **Table reservations are a big plus.**
To guarantee a seat, go to oktoberfest.de to reserve table space. Reservations open in spring. No reservation? Fear not! 25 percent of tables are usually set aside for walk-in guests. However, you will want to arrive early to snag a spot. On the weekends most tents fill prior to 11 a.m.
- **Wearing Tracht (traditional Bavarian clothing) is the norm.**
Dirndls and lederhosen abound at Oktoberfest, and while tourists are not expected to dress up, many do. Be sure to wear closed-toed shoes to protect yourself from broken glass and spilling drinks.
- **Hotels in Munch sell out a year in advance.**
Dachau, Nuremberg, Bamberg and Augsburg have good train connections, or book in one of the smaller towns around Munich and use P+R.



Alternative Oktoberfest

Munich’s Oktoberfest is world-renowned but try one of these alternatives and you may come away with a more authentically local experience.

1. **Cannstatter Volksfest, Stuttgart, Sept. 22 – Oct. 8, 2023**
This is another enormous event that combines a fair with markets, parades, shows, and eight beer tents to choose from. www.cannstatter-volksfest.de/en
2. **Vienna Oktoberfest, Sept. 21 – Oct. 8, 2023**
Austria’s biggest beer festival is known for its long lineup of modern folk bands that play on the outdoor stage, plus three big beer tents. www.kaiserwiesn.at
3. **Züri Wiesn, Switzerland, Sept. 21 – Oct. 14, 2023**
Reservations are a must at this beer festival held at main hall of the Zurich train station. www.zueri-wiesn.ch
4. **Frankfurter Oktoberfest, Sept. 6 – Oct. 8, 2023**
Your entry fee includes drink credits and table seats at this huge fest hall south of the city. www.frankfurter-oktoberfest.de
5. **Spreewiesn, Berlin, Sept. 15 – Oct. 28, 2023**
Berlin’s Oktoberfest is set up in a tent adjacent to the eastern painted section of the Berlin Wall and features traditional weekends and themed weekday nights. www.spreewiesn-berlin.de

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TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

It is likely to have been mentioned in your school textbooks as the capital of the sprawling Roman Empire. Well, Rome is all that and more. The complex story of the Roman civilization has a multitude of lessons to teach us about power, people and life in ancient times, which is what fascinates its many visitors every year. Nowhere in the world will you get a more concentrated explanation of how the Romans changed the world than in the heart of the “Eternal City.”

For the best experience, I recommend visiting in the tourist off-season, but then again, I’m not a fan of the summer heat or heavier crowds. With a bit of planning and prioritizing what you want to see, you can take full advantage of your time in the city.

ALL ROADS LEAD
TO
ROME

By Erica Fowler

COLOSSEUM & ROMAN FORUM

Tickets: www.coopculture.it/en

You’ve seen it in movies and depictions of everything Italian but standing on the arena floor of the massive Colosseum of Rome will still have you feeling awestruck. The best view of the Roman Forum right next door is from the Palatine Hill terrace. If you have the time, seeing all three sites is possible with a little planning. It is now required to purchase your tickets online and you run the risk of tickets being sold out if you try to book them on the same day. You can also use a tour company that can take care of it for you and in the meantime check out the website to decide what you’re most interested in seeing. Do you want to explore the hypogeum (underground portion) or actually walk out onto the arena floor as the gladiators did? You can add on the S.U.P.E.R. pass, which stands for “Seven Unique Places to Experience in Rome.” This allows you to check out some historically significant and magnificent spaces.

BONUS STOP



BASILICA DI SAN CLEMENTE

Tickets: basilicasanclemente.com

A perfect example of the literal layers of history in Rome is the Basilica di San Clemente, a six-minute walk from the Colosseum. An ornately painted and gilded interior of a 12th-century basilica welcomes you just past the cloisters. The magnificent display is just the start of your journey backward through time as you walk down steps through a simple side door. You can gain access to the archeological site underground by booking online for 10 euros. This allows you to view the fourth-century basilica and even further down, the remains of a first-century alleyway of former shops and even a temple of Mithras.

The Roman Forum

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TREVI FOUNTAIN

Relatively youthful compared to the many ancient sites of Rome, the Trevi Fountain is a quintessential place that many have put in their travel photo albums. It is an eight-minute walk from the Pantheon and free to gaze at, so why not walk over and toss in a coin? (Over your shoulder of course.) If you want a photo without the ridiculous crowds, go early in the morning. Nighttime will still be crowded. Remember that Italian businesses stay open late and dinnertime is even later in the evening, so Romans and tourists alike will still be out and about.

BONUS STOP



VICUS CAPRARIUS

Tickets: www.vicuscaprarius.com/en

If it wasn't for its discovery in the 1990s, this first-century residential complex would still be buried under the affluent neighborhood of Trevi. You can reserve a guided tour or explore through the underground archways and hear the trickling pools of the still-active Virgin Aqueduct, hence the nickname the "City of Water." The water feeds into the Trevi Fountain nine meters above.

PANTHEON

Tickets: pantheonroma.com

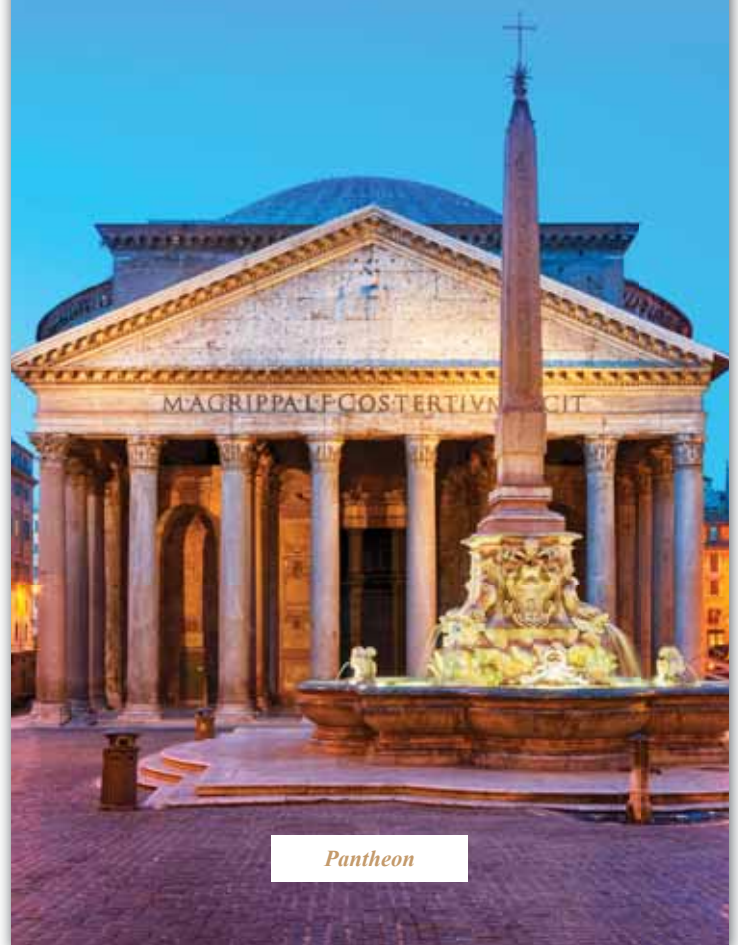
The Pantheon is a brilliantly engineered structure that was built as a Roman temple to all gods in the first century. It served as a Christian church and was an important burial site for several famous Italians during the Renaissance and even into the 19th century. Its design has been replicated as a model of impressive power across the world, as any classical rotunda of a capital building or monument will show you. The massive spherical dome has an opening at the top, the "oculus," which beams sunlight (or rain) into the massive space. A guided tour is recommended here because there is so much to learn about its history.

BONUS STOP

WELCOME TO ROME MUSEUM

Tickets: welcometo-rome.it

This museum is an interactive visualization of Rome's construction and changes over time. Watch the short film to get a solid foundation of the city's 2,700-year-old history. This is a great first stop if you have the time, especially if you are going without guided tours to popular sites.



Pantheon

EXPERIENTIAL VISITS

VILLA TORLONIA

Tickets: www.museivillatorlonia.it/en

Villa Torlonia is a park built in the 1800s filled with visual masterpieces. In the Museum of Villa Torlonia, collections of sculptures and stained glass also attract a living community of artists participating in workshops and art shows throughout the year. The Casina Delle Civette is a castle manor on the grounds of the park, with a quirky combination of architectural styles. Every room and surface appears to go on its own tangent of embellishment, some of it in art nouveau and some medieval. This structure is lucky to have come back from its destitute years of fires and disrepair. It was once occupied by American troops toward the end of World War II. In the 1990s, it was restored to its former glory.

EYES OF ROME

Tickets & Tour Options: eyesofrome.com/our-tours/rome-vatican

There is something romantic and thrilling about strolling through Rome at night. Take an evening tour of the city center or a ghost tour. Tour the ancient city passages underground or the Vatican, the world's smallest country. Reach out to a reputable private tour company like this one for options that will fit nicely into your itinerary.

CAPITOLINE MUSEUMS

Tickets: www.museicapitolini.org

One intriguing museum hub in the city is on top of Capitoline Hill, the smallest hill of the seven in Rome. The Campidoglio links the gallery-filled palazzos as an elegantly designed outdoor square, a creation of Michelangelo. The web of buildings displays not only Roman, but Greek, Egyptian, medieval and Renaissance art and sculptures. It was conceived partially as an alternative location for pagan symbolism from the Vatican and to house the many artifacts of the Roman Empire.

IMPORTANT TIPS

- Pre-book your admission tickets for these tourist sites online to save yourself time so you don't have to wait in as many long lines and to guarantee you'll be able to see the places you're most excited about.
- Get the Roma Pass for free or discounted entry to certain sites and local public transportation. For more details, visit romapass.it/en. ■

"There is something romantic and thrilling about strolling through Rome at night."



Villa Torlonia



Vatican City

Volunteering with a Community Spouse Club

By Tamala Malerk

Volunteering can be such a fulfilling activity. This year, we are highlighting a new organization or event for those who are looking to learn more about the services and resources available to them as well as for those who are looking to give back to the community.

This month, we are featuring the Bavaria Community Spouses' Club (BCSC) and Hohenfels Community Spouses' Club (HCSC). I spoke with BCSC President, Leslie, her daughter/volunteer Quin, and HCSC Treasurer, Jacklyn.



“**We are not just the spouses' club... it's [a] community and spouses' club**”



Grafenwöhr/Vilseck

Quin, a middle school-age volunteer, is working with the club to help earn volunteer hours for her Girl Scout troop. Quin enjoys pricing items at the thrift shop, helping with events and the fall bazaar. She has the most fun helping to set up events. She thinks other volunteers her age can take away the “enjoyment in helping with the thrift store and other events.”

Leslie has been with the BCSC since June 2022 where she oversees operations with the spouse club and works at the thrift store. Through the club, Leslie has “found [her] tribe.” Leslie noted that all the proceeds from the thrift store and the fall bazaar go right back into the community, espousing, “Community is the biggest thing.” She stated that “We are not just the spouses' club... it's [a] community and spouses' club We have all walks of life in the club. Everyone from retirees who live here now to civilian spouses, to active-duty spouses, and their children... and everyone in-between.”

As you can see from Quin's involvement, you do not have to be a military spouse to volunteer with the club, and they could use your help. There is no age limit to help out with events; however, you must be at least 12-years-old to volunteer with a parent/guardian at the thrift store. If you are interested in volunteering with the club, go to their Facebook page [facebook.com/BavariaCommunityandSpousesClub](https://www.facebook.com/BavariaCommunityandSpousesClub) or just walk into either the Vilseck or Grafenwöhr thrift store.

Hohenfels

Jacklyn has been with the community club since June 2021. Raised with a “philanthropic foundation,” she signed up for the “community portion” of it. She wanted to learn about her new community and give back to it.

As treasurer, her most fulfilling moments with the club are seeing where all of the proceeds from their fundraiser events go firsthand. The club was able to provide over \$20,000 in scholarships and grants in the Spring of 2023. She stated that, “We do everything from supporting the Boy Scouts going on their camp trainings [to] the band in the school, the athletic teams in the school, other organizations, Girl Scouts... Pretty much anyone who is eligible to access the base is pretty much eligible to apply for a scholarship or grant within the organization parameters.”

You do not have to be a member to volunteer with the club, but membership gives you chances to join sub-clubs (such as the running club or wine club), join a committee and sit on their board. According to Jacklyn, volunteering with the HCSC allows someone to gain professional networking experience, build their resume and connect with their community. You do not have to be a military spouse to join. You must be a DoD ID holder and be 18 or older to volunteer. Children and young adults ages 12 and up can volunteer with a parent/guardian. For those interested in volunteering with the club, go to [hohenfelscsc.org](https://www.hohenfelscsc.org). ■

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FALL COBB SALAD

By Anna Leigh Bagiackas

Many of us know the classic Cobb salad—lettuce, tomatoes, chicken or turkey, eggs, avocado, cheese and, of course, bacon bits. It is a classic for a reason—it's delicious! But this combination of greens, vegetables and protein can also be changed up, depending on the season and what you have in your fridge.

Introducing, the fall Cobb. The recipe below is a loose set of guidelines, including more autumn-inspired roasted vegetables and an herby mustard dressing. For this version, maybe you have butternut squash instead of sweet potatoes, or carrots and parsnips instead of beets?

The Cobb salad concept is adaptable and flexible, guided by your taste buds and what is available. For this version, you could also roast the chickpeas for some added crispiness or include some cooked sausage or bacon bits.

You can even change up the role this salad can play in your meal planning. Hearty enough for a main dish, you could add sauteed chicken if you want more protein or serve it with a lighter fall soup for a soup-and-salad kind of night. You could also have this as a side dish to complement something else on the menu.

Note that roasting times will vary depending on the type of vegetable you're using, so don't walk away from the oven for too long. ■

FALL COBB SALAD WITH ROASTED SWEET POTATOES AND BEETS

Start to finish: 45 minutes

Serves: 4–6

3 medium sweet potatoes, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
Kosher salt and black pepper
4 medium beets, peeled and quartered
3 to 4 heads romaine lettuce or other greens, cut into 3/4-inch ribbons
1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
2 avocados, pitted, peeled and cubed
1 cup canned chickpeas, rinsed and drained
1 recipe Mustard-Herb Vinaigrette

Preheat oven to 425°F (218°C). On one large baking sheet, toss cubed sweet potatoes with 2 tablespoons olive oil, 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper. On a second baking sheet, toss beets with 1 tablespoon olive oil, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Bake vegetables for 25 to 30 minutes, turning vegetables and switching pans halfway through. You may need to bake the beets slightly longer, so keep an eye on both vegetables. You can use a fork to test the doneness of the vegetables.

Divide lettuce or greens between bowls and top with roasted vegetables, tomatoes, chickpeas and avocado. Drizzle with vinaigrette and serve.

MUSTARD-HERB VINAIGRETTE

Start to finish: 10 minutes

Makes: 3/4 cup

1 garlic clove, minced
1 small shallot, minced
1 tablespoon grainy Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1 teaspoon dried parsley
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
1/2 cup olive oil
1 tablespoon shredded Parmesan cheese

Combine garlic, shallot, mustard, oregano, parsley, pepper, salt and red wine vinegar in small bowl or jar. While whisking, slowly pour in olive oil. Lastly, add in Parmesan cheese.

(This recipe was adapted from What's Gaby Cooking)





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