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DEAR
SUBSCRIBER

August 26, 1993

Worth a Journey?

Possibly you can tell by the tone of this month's lead story that Bamberg is a town with which we fell immediately in love. In the sense that we have been traveling regularly to Germany, Austria and Switzerland since the '70s, and only now have gotten around to seeing it, Bamberg is in a category with Graz and Freiburg im Breisgau. These are towns that when we first walked their streets we found ourselves asking each other, "where have we been all these years?".

Admittedly, our selection process of travel destinations is haphazard. A recommendation from a friend took us to Bamberg; Graz was on the way to somewhere else; and we drove off the autobahn one afternoon looking for a hotel room and wound up in Freiburg.

So how does one go about choosing where to go and what to see in the course of an all-too-brief two or three week vacation? First-time travelers understandably want to see towns like Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Salzburg, Munich, Nürnberg, Vienna, Lucerne, Grindelwald and Geneva. But after the first or second tour, attention shifts to less well-known attractions. Some of which, like Bamberg, have as much history and charm as the better-known stops.

Probably the best resource for planning a trip is the *Michelin Green Guides*. There's at least one for each

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GEMÜTLICHKEIT

The Travel Letter for Germany, Austria, Switzerland & the New Europe

BAMBERG

Undamaged by war and chock full of great buildings, Bamberg is one of Europe's most appealing little cities. In addition, we find six comfortable, reasonably-priced hotels in the center of the old town.

Put Bamberg near the top of our list of favorite European towns. It has nearly everything one could ask for in a medium-sized European city: Germany's largest preserved old town with narrow, winding cobbled streets untouched by war, a great cathedral, 10 breweries and 40 different beers to slake the thirst of its 70,000 inhabitants, an acclaimed symphony orchestra and a handful of interesting, moderately-

priced hotels. And a river runs through it — the Regnitz, which gives Bamberg much of its character and charm.

Everywhere one turns in Bamberg there are clock towers, coats of arms, intricate scrollwork, steep roofs with dormer windows, wooden galleries, picturesque corners and antique stores crammed with chandeliers and highly polished furniture. More than 2,000 of the town's buildings have been

The Knight of Bamberg

deemed historically or architecturally significant. Try to walk the town at twilight when there is still light in the sky but the illumination on the old buildings and statuary is just beginning to take effect. In your stroll you may cross and re-cross this smaller fork of the Regnitz on one of several bridges. You will be charmed by the illuminated buildings which seem to float on the river. The *Altes Rathaus* (Old Town Hall...note the funny, little half-timbered house hanging on the back of the much larger stone building) is one and a hotel we will recommend to you, the St. Nepomuk, is another.

On a hill above the town is the Gothic cathedral, built in the first half of the 13th century. In the church is

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OKTOBERFEST

For those headed for Munich in the next few weeks, here is a schedule of Oktoberfest events and an update on some of the city's hotels.

Grand Entry of Oktoberfest Landlords & Brewers

Saturday, September 18, 1993

11 a.m., lasts about 45 minutes. Horse-drawn wagons of the Munich breweries, waitresses on decorated floats and all the beer tent bands — about 1,000 participants. Route of entry: Sonnenstrasse - Schwanthalerstrasse to the Oktoberfest ground. Grandstand seats in the Sonnenstrasse: DM 37 (\$22) plus 5% booking fee.

Oktoberfest Folklore International

Saturday, September 18, 1993

In Circus Krone, Marsstrasse 43.

8 p.m. to about 10:30 p.m. Wide variety of festive costumes and attractive performances combine for a unique folklore evening. About 600 performers. Admission: 12 DM to 28 DM (\$7-\$17) plus 10% *Continued on page 7*

DEAR SUBSCRIBER

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country in Europe. Michelin's ratings may not square completely with your own idea of what constitutes a great destination, but the *Green Guides* are nonetheless the best way to ensure you'll get to the cities and sights you really ought not to miss.

Michelin puts towns and sights in four categories: "worth a journey," "worth a detour," "interesting" and "see if possible." Care to guess which cities and towns in Germany, Austria and Switzerland Michelin says are "worth a journey"?

Austria:

Salzburg
Vienna

Germany:

Berlin
Cologne
Dresden
Garmisch-Partenkirchen
Hamburg
Lübeck
Munich
Potsdam
Rothenburg

Switzerland:

Arosa
Basel
Berne
Davos
Geneva
Grindelwald
Interlaken
Lucerne
Lugano
St. Moritz
Wengen
Zermatt
Zürich

As always, Michelin works in mysterious ways. Bamberg, I believe, should be in the "worth a journey" category. And I can't fathom including Interlaken or St. Moritz on the "journey" list. We love the *regions* in which those towns are located — both are definitely worth a journey — but the towns themselves are not at all special. (Remember, we are talking only about cities and towns. The guide also lists numerous regions and sights — the Mosel, the Bernese Oberland and the Grossglockner Road, for example — as being "worth a

journey.")

You'll have your own arguments with Michelin. Let us know what towns you like best and why they are your favorites.

Decline in Travel to Germany

It's soapbox time — again. As long-suffering *Gemütlichkeit* readers can attest, once or twice a year I have to huff and puff over something or other. Like *Sixty Minutes'* Morley Safer saying Americans should stay away from Europe's great sights because they are being ruined by tourists; or last summer's wire service scare stories about astronomical prices in Europe caused by a weak dollar.

Now, a year later, we are told how cheap things are in Europe and how Americans are traveling in record numbers. Except to Germany. There tourism is down 14%. The reason given is racially motivated violence. Newspaper headlines and network news shows would lead readers/viewers to conclude the violence is daily, widespread and that the country is poised to elect an ultra-right wing government. Few stories fail to make reference to the horrors of the '30s and early '40s, thereby connecting what happened then with what is happening now. One must read beyond headlines and lead paragraphs to learn that the number of neo-Nazis in Germany, a country with a population of 77 million, is in the hundreds.

Those who won't go because they are worried about personal safety or, on moral grounds, are boycotting what they perceive to be a bigoted Germany might consider the following:

- Most of the violence has been in the eastern part of the country near the Baltic

seaport of Rostock. We know of no violence in the principal tourist regions such as the Black Forest, Bavaria, Franconia, the Rhine or the Mosel. Traditionally left-leaning Berlin has, in fact, been the site of massive demonstrations *against* racial violence.

- Americans concerned for their safety might consider that they come from the land of drive-by shootings, car-jackings and serial killers. In Oakland, California (pop. 350,000), whose downtown buildings I can see from my window as I write this, there were more than 300 murders last year. I'll take my chances in Germany. Given the violence this year against German and Japanese tourists, those chances would seem to be substantially better than a foreign visitor's in the U. S.

- To those appalled by Germany's racism I would point out that in the U. S. racial violence is a common, *everyday* occurrence. Germans must get a good laugh when they hear Americans are boycotting Germany because of its racism. Imagine our reaction if the thousands of Germans who vacation in Miami every year stopped coming because of anti-semitism in the U. S.

The foregoing doesn't excuse or make right what is being done by a handful of Germans but a holier-than-thou boycott makes little sense.

Victoria Jungfrau Correction

A separate letter recommending the special **Gemütlichkeit Getaway** package exclusively offered to *Gemütlichkeit* readers by the **Grand Hotel Victoria Jungfrau Hotel** in Interlaken contains an error. The approximate cost is \$143 per person, *per day*. The cost for the four-day, three-night package, including

breakfasts and five-course dinners, for two persons, is 1,290 Sfr. or about \$860.

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August, 1993

GEMÜTLICHKEIT

The Travel Letter for Germany, Austria, Switzerland & the New Europe

Editor & Publisher: Robert H. Bestor, Jr.
Associate Editors: E. Schiller, L. Troop
Contributing Editors: C. Fischer, R. Holliday
Design & Composition: Paul T. Merschdorf
Consulting Editor: Thomas P. Bestor
Subscription Dept: N. Badely, K. Steffans

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- Rating Key - Hotels**
- I Basic accommodations of a hotel that underachieves. Suitable only for stays of one or two nights.
 - II Good hotel, typical of its class. Suitable for a longer stay.
 - III A cut above other hotels in its price category.
 - IV Excellent accommodations.
 - V A great hotel, world-class, could be a memorable experience.

Restaurants

- ❖ Acceptable meals, but *only* if the price is right.
- ❖❖ Good food but not good value, overpriced.
- ◆ Serves good, plain food, typical of the region.
- ☆ A cut above other restaurants in its price category.
- ☆☆ Outstanding food and service.
- ☆☆☆ A great restaurant in every respect

Special Designations

- G By virtue of location, decor, special charm, warmth of management, or combination thereof, an especially pleasant establishment.
- Offers significant value.



Stay away.

BAMBERG

Continued from page 1

a statue of a soldier on a horse — The Knight of Bamberg — that we would have passed with no more than a glance but which *Michelin Green Guide* gives three stars. It is one of seven pieces in the cathedral. Michelin calls “masterpieces of German Gothic sculpture.”

Because Bamberg has survived 1000 years of European wars intact, its architecture ranges from medieval to Romanesque to Gothic to Baroque to Renaissance. Inside the cathedral one can see how the main arches became ever more pointed and Gothic as construction continued from east to west.

The cathedral is clustered with other impressive buildings. By standing in the center of the Domplatz, and turning 180 degrees to the right, you'll get a fast panorama of 800 years of European architecture. The church is Gothic, the Old Residence is Renaissance and, finally, the buildings of the New Residence which face the Domplatz are Baroque. Nearby is a lovely formal garden overlooking the old town.

One has to admire small towns that can do big things. Green Bay has the Packers and Bamberg has a symphony orchestra among the best in the world. Until now, however, it has been virtually inaccessible to visitors because its concerts were played in a small facility. But soon a new, much larger hall will be ready and tickets will be set aside for out-of-towners.

Perhaps the best thing about Bamberg is that it is relatively off the beaten tourist path. There are, of course, many visitors roaming its byways, but nothing like the swarms attracted to Salzburg or Rothenburg.

Before we move on to discuss Bamberg's hotels and restaurants we'll leave you with a “do” and a

BAMBERG

Population: 70,000

Elevation: 792 feet

Approximate distances from:

Munich	232 km	144 miles
Berlin	405 km	251 miles
Nürnberg	61 km	38 miles
Frankfurt	212 km	131 miles

Tourist Information

Tourist Office

Geyerwörthstrasse 3
Postfach 12 01 63 8600 Bamberg
Hours Mon.-Fri. 9 am-7 pm
Sat. 9 am-5 pm
Phone: 0951/87 1161
Fax: 0951/87 1160


Recommended publications in English at tourist office:

- *Bamberg a View Into History*
A map with self-guided walking tours of the city's 25 major sights. Includes information on admission fees, addresses, phone numbers and hours of operation.
- *Zauberhaftes Bamberg*
Color brochure of major Bamberg sights.
- *Romantisches Bamberg*
Another color brochure. 1 DM.

The revised *Michelin Green Guide for Germany* (new in 1993) is also highly recommended for Bamberg sight-seeing.

Miscellaneous

Bamberg Beer Seminars

Amateur brewers can attend five-day seminars on brewing beer. The per person price (double occupancy) is 446 DM (\$262) and includes hotel accommodations, breakfasts and certain other meals. The program is conducted in German. Seminars are scheduled for October and November. Contact the Bamberg Tourist Office (see above). 

“don't.” First, forgo the river boat that leaves regularly from the center of the old town for tours of the Regnitz. Except for the first half mile of the trip, views from its deck are mostly unattractive industrial installations featuring cranes, barges and rusty dockside equipment.

Do not fail, however, to stop at the **Brauerei Schlenkerla** (Dominkanerstrasse 6) for a half-liter or two of the famous *Rauchbier* (smoky beer). Someone said it tastes like “liquid ham,” a less than appealing but accurate description. Nonetheless, the beer is very good. Sit at one of the long wooden tables in the first room on your left as you enter. Both nights we were there we found it full of townspeople who had obviously included a stop at the Schlenkerla on their after-dinner walk. The fresh beer is poured the old-fashioned way directly from small, dark barrels and costs 2.8 DM (\$1.65) for a half-liter. Servers are very friendly and the atmosphere in the rather small, rustic, low-ceilinged room is definitely *gemutlich*.

HOTELS

Each of the six hotels reviewed is centrally located enough so that exploration of the town on foot is possible. If you're arriving by rail, however, the station is too far — more than a kilometer — to walk to any of them with luggage. The hotels are listed in price order, most expensive to least expensive. Prices may have increased by the time this is published.

Bamberger Hof-Bellevue

In terms of traditional luxury, the 48-room Bamberger Hof-Bellevue, located across from a little park, is the best of these six. Some of its newly remodeled rooms — such as Number 115 which rents for 250 DM (\$148) are quite opulent with marble tiled floors and large, sumptuous bathrooms with huge curving bathtubs.

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BAMBERG

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The hotel's stately, high-ceilinged public rooms have such flourishes as crystal chandeliers and ornate wood moldings.

The Bamberger Hof has the feel of a big city hotel which seemed to us slightly out of place in this historic small town.

There is no doubt, however, that you will be comfortable at the Bamberger-Hof.

To park in the hotel's garage is a pricey 25 DM (\$15) per night.

Bamberger Hof-Bellevue, Schönleinsplatz 4, phone 09 51/9 85 50, fax 09 51.98 55 62. Singles 135 DM to 185 DM (\$79-\$109), doubles 190 DM to 280 DM (\$112-\$165). Major cards.

Bamberger Hof-Bellevue: II

Hotel-Restaurant St. Nepomuk

The 35-room St. Nepomuk sits squarely in the middle of the Regnitz, a charming location inasmuch as most rooms have river views and an open window lets in the comforting sound of rushing water.

The hotel recently acquired the adjacent Gästehaus Steinmühle and now operates it as an annex. Our immaculate corner room, Number 216, was in the Steinmühle and offered a fine view down river to the old town. It was nicely furnished, rather small, and came with a standard issue, fully-tiled bathroom which had its own window; always a pleasant feature. At 220 DM (\$130) it might be a shade overpriced. A third person in our party had a single of similar size and amenities which cost 140 DM (\$83).

Parking in the hotel's ingeniously designed little garage was free.

Hotel-Restaurant St. Nepomuk, Obere Mühlbrücke 9, D-8600 Bamberg, phone 09 51/2 51 83, fax

09 51/2 66 51. Singles 120 DM to 160 DM (\$71-\$94), doubles 170 DM to 240 DM (\$100-\$141). Major cards.

Hotel St. Nepomuk: III

Hotel Weinhaus Messerschmitt

Perhaps the most atmospheric of the Bamberg hotels we saw is the Romantik Weinhaus Messerschmitt. With its yellow, almost Rococo facade, and painted scrollwork around its windows and gray shutters, the Messerschmitt stands out from surrounding buildings.

Each of the 13 guest rooms is unique in size and decor. The most appealing double is Number 21 (185 DM/\$110) which has a cozy, separate sitting area with small couch and upholstered chair. A comparable single, Number 31 (115 DM/\$68), has a wonderful wood canopied bed with matching armoire.

The Messerschmitt, one of the Romantik hotels group, is so "old world" it has no elevator. It does, however, have a good restaurant which we cover later in this story.

Romantik-Hotel Weinhaus Messerschmitt, Lange Str. 41, phone 09 51/2 78 66, fax 09 51/26 1 41. Singles 75 DM to 115 DM (\$44-\$68), doubles 185 to 215 DM (\$109-\$126). Major cards.

Romantik-Hotel Messerschmitt: II

Hotel Brudermühle

It is said that buildings in the Baroque style can always be identified by their steep, layered roofs. If that is so, the Hotel Brudermühle is a classic. The lower layer of its roof is so steep as to be almost vertical. Projecting from it are several dormer windows. Another arresting exterior feature is the elaborate religious sculpture attached to the corner of the building beneath the eaves.

Inside, the 14-room Brudermühle is rustic and simple. One guest room stands out. Number one, a bright, twin-bedded corner room

which rents for 150 DM (\$88), is perched above a place where the river falls several feet creating roaring rapids, a favorite spot for kayakers. The room has three windows, one looks over the rapids and the other two provide a good close-up look at the *Altes Rathaus*.

There is no elevator.

Hotel Brudermühle, Schranne 1, D-8600 Bamberg, phone 09 51/5 40 91, fax 09 51/5 12 11. Singles 105 DM (\$62), doubles 150 DM (\$88). Major cards.

Hotel Brudermühle: II

Hotel-Gasthof Wilde Rose

The 29-room Wilde Rose provides solid comfort and good value. Most of its rooms are of moderate size, have good furnishings and most of the usual amenities. Room Number one, for example, has a double bed with two comforters, writing desk with chair, a small table, upholstered chair and small bath with shower. There is also a radio, TV and minibar. At 130 DM (\$77), it is one of the better values we found in Bamberg.

If you wish to dine on carp, one of Bamberg's traditional dishes, a good place to do it is in the Wilde Rose's rustic restaurant. Half a baked carp *mit Kartoffelsalat und Salatteller* goes for about 17 DM (\$10).

Hotel-Gasthof Wilde Rose, Kesslerstr. 7, D-8600 Bamberg, phone 09 51/2 83 17, fax 09 51/22071. Singles 65 DM 80 DM (\$38-\$47), doubles 130 DM to 140 DM (\$76-\$82). Major Cards.

Hotel-Gasthof Wilde Rose: II \$

FOOD

Here is a look at two Bamberg restaurants. Neither merits raves but at both you will eat well in attractive surroundings. The Messerschmitt is the better restaurant.

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READERS' FORUM

Hotel Near Geneva Airport

May we suggest for an overnight stay near the Geneva Airport the **Hotel-Restaurant du Port** in Yvoire (74140 Douvaine [France], tel 50 72 80 17, fax 50 72 90 71). This small hotel has been a favorite place for us to recover from jet-lag since 1988. Unfortunately, since our first stay there they have refurbished and added, in our opinion, such unnecessary as TVs and minibars — with an appropriate raising of rates, of course!

We preferred the hotel when it was a simpler place but a recent visit assured us that it is still one of our favorites. Our room was small but pretty, with a lovely view of Lac Léman and the owners/staff gracious as ever.

If you have never visited the charming village of Yvoire you are missing a real treat, and this only a 40-minutes — but light years away — from Geneva!

We have recently returned from six weeks of driving the backroads of Northern Italy and Austria with a detour to see Ludwig's castles on the way back through the Appenzell and to Zürich airport. We had a delightful time and were charmed (as you were) by **Pension Heim**.

At your urging we recently spent three nights in room Number 20 at the Heim in Seeg (near Füssen in Germany, tel 08364/258) and found it to be exactly as you described it. Thank you!

We were much less enchanted by the **Hotel Hecht** in Appenzell (Switzerland, tel 071/87 47 80, fax 071/87 10 47) which we thought rather ordinary but adequate for a one-night stay. The desk clerk who booked us had a surly attitude, "if

you're afraid of heights, don't look out the window!" — this for \$100 per night. Anyway, it was clean and we like the sound of church bells all night.

Lee & Caroline Jordan, San Rafael CA

Redemption

We were about to lose all faith in your concept of *Gemütlichkeit* when we, on your advice, booked into the **Des Vignes** in Sion (Switzerland, tel 027/31 16 71, fax 027/31 37 27) for three days. The accoutrements were superior, but the severe, cold modern exterior was not what we expected. We left after two nights and went to the **Waldhotel Doldenhorn** (Kandersteg, Switzerland, tel 033/75 18 18, fax 033/75 18 28), reviewed in the same issue. You redeemed yourself here. Although it doesn't have the view of the valley of the **Hotel Bellevue** (tel 033/75 12 12, fax, 033/75 13 33), it has *Gemütlichkeit* which I thought was what your newsletter was about.

Elizabeth Little, Mill Valley CA

(Ed. note: We agree with Ms. Little, the Doldenhorn is the more gemütlich of the two hotels but we'll stick with our recommendation of Des Vignes. Not every hotel we review is cozy and kitschy, a type not so prevalent in French-speaking Switzerland (Doldenhorn is in the German-speaking part). Readers should also know that the high-season rate for a double room at the Royal Hotel Bellevue is 290 Sfr. to 600 Sfr. [\$193-\$400] vs. 180 Sfr. to 230 Sfr. [\$120-\$153] at the Doldenhorn.

Lived in Switzerland

Gemütlichkeit helped me while living in Switzerland for a year. I started reading it almost a year before we went, and it helped planning my sabbatical and trips throughout Europe. We lived in Lausanne where our children attended schools. It was a wonderful family experience.

Most of all, we enjoyed one of your recommendations **L'Auberge De Chernex** (tel 021/964 41 91, fax 021/964 6857) above Montreux. Your description is very accurate, and we

enjoyed a lovely meal in this charming and very friendly inn. Christine Demen, our lovely hostess, welcomes everyone with the friendliness of a good neighbor. We enjoyed it immensely.

Many of your recommendations are truly classic Swiss hotels. The **Romantik Hotel Santis** (tel 071/ 87 87 22, fax 071/87 48 42), in Appenzell, and the **Hostellerie Bon Accueil** (tel 029/463 20, fax 029/451 26), Chateau-d'Oex, are so different, yet so appropriate for their respective locations in Switzerland.

Robert R. Sfire, Grosse Pointe Farms MI

Dreamer

I don't know why I am doing this, renewing my subscription and even subscribing to *First Cabin*. During all the years of subscribing to your newsletter I had only once the time to go to Europe, and that was just a few weeks ago. I guess I like just to dream about all the places I want to go to someday — if I only just had the time.

Here are a few impressions of my experiences.

Lauda Air: The absolute best. Cabin attendants were very friendly and helpful. Food was quite good considering it was airline food. Plenty of leg room in coach class.

Vienna: Stayed at the **Hotel de France** for a week. It was o.k. but there must be better. We went with a group and the room we had was marked to cost normally 5000 AS (\$420) a day, way too much. The best place we found to eat was **Landsman**. The food was good and so was the service. In our desperation and liking Mexican food we even went to a Mexican restaurant. Big mistake. The absolute worst food ever.

Schloss Fuschl: This was the nicest place we stayed. The location is absolutely beautiful and the grounds were well kept. The food, service and decor in the restaurant were perfect. This, in combination with the view from the restaurant overlooking the lake, made it a once-in-a-lifetime

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READERS' FORUM

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experience. Dinner for two with two glasses of wine and one calvados cost 1659 AS (\$144).

Berchtesgaden: Stayed at the **Hotel Geiger** and decided to remain an extra night. The location with its view is really outstanding. The restaurant is also good.

Romantikhotel Lindner in Bad Aibling: My wife and I were not quite as impressed as you were. We stayed at the new annex in room Number 28. The furniture was like post-World War II and had no charm. Not what we expected from a Romantikhotel. The restaurant, however, was very nice and rustic also the food was very good. The service was something else, I had to wait 55 minutes for my dessert. I would go back for the food but for a room I don't know. By the way we had plenty of room to park, this was no problem as one of your readers had mentioned.

After many years not having been in Europe I found driving much easier now. Drivers seem to be more disciplined and courteous while the situation here in Southern California seems to get worse. Heinz Schneider, Palos Verdes Estates CA

(Ed. Note: Michelin Main Cities Red Guide lists the highest price for a double room at the *Hotel de France* as 3700 AS [\$314]).

Avoid Füssen in Summer

We have just returned from a week in Germany (via Zürich on **Swissair**, excellent arrangement, and thanks to *Gemütlichkeit* the best buy for travel).

Worth passing on: avoid Füssen in July-August. Traffic and crowds (lines everywhere) make seeing **Neuschwanstein** a real bore. Very worthwhile: Rothenburg ob der Tauber; Ulm; Schwetzingen (near Heidelberg); the **Drachenburg Hotel** in Gottlieben (CH-8274 near

Konstanz, tel 072/69 14 14, fax 072/69 17 09); **Zum Wolfbrunnen**

Restaurant (in Schlierbach near Heidelberg, tel 06221/80 37 58); and the **Transport Museum** in Sinsheim. In Freiburg im Breisgau the **Colombi Hotel** (tel 0761/210 60, fax 0761/314 10) is not to be missed.

Would like to see a feature on road signs in Germany, both their version of the international symbols as well as the signs in German with American equivalent. (I soon learned *Nur Fußgänger* in Heidelberg.)

John D. Mears, Newbury MA

Report from a Regular

We have had two visits to Germany since my last report. Mr. Geiger and his son at the **Hotel Geiger** in Berchtesgaden (tel 08652/50 55/96 53, fax 08652/5058/965400) are gratified by *Gemütlichkeit's* high rating. This June we had an unusual fine stay (our 17th) in Room 305 on a newly-constructed third floor in the "new" wing. The view of the Alps is superb because of the slightly higher vantage point. The staff is still very cordial and nicely dressed in local garb. For my money, this is my favorite place to go hide in the entire world and I only hope that you don't send so many people there that the place will become so full that my wife and I cannot escape from reality. I doubt Mr. Geiger will share my concerns in this regard, however.

I recommend a place about 90 minutes from Frankfurt Airport along the Main River. It is in a small town near the Odenwald called **Der Schafhof** (in Amorbach, tel 09373/80 88). This is an old monastery converted into a sheep farm and now converted into a nice small inn, but with a few sheep remaining on the farm. The rooms are a bit pricey (DM 350/\$206) for a nice, big room, but this includes a good breakfast in a cheerful, quiet setting.

Last fall we returned again to **Le Rosalp** (tel 026/31 63 23, fax 026/31 10 59) in Verbier, Switzerland. The room was outstanding and not too expensive considering the neighbor-

hood (Sfr. 275/\$183 including breakfast, but not inside parking.).

We discovered two new things about Munich and there is one "old" fact which I think may be useful. We were customers for years of **Der Königshof am Karlsplatz**, but have been disappointed by the continued escalation of prices, the proliferation of "extra" charges, e.g. breakfast, morning paper and other items. We have switched to the **Vier Jahreszeiten** on the Maximilianstrasse; this is not as conveniently located, but is really all right. The prices are subject to reduction through the **Six Continents Club of Inter-Continental Hotels**; this group can be joined at an annual fee of \$25 and there are all sorts of perquisites derived from this in the form of room upgrades, free breakfasts, late checkouts and extra attention of all sorts.

The other "new" information is that near the Vier Jahreszeiten is a fine restaurant, but a bit on the touristy side. It is next to the **Hofbräuhaus** and called **Der Haxnbauer**. They have wonderful rotisseried Bavarian meats such as Schweinshaxen and Kalbshaxen. They have either fixed-priced meals or charge by the gram for meats.

For quaffing, the "old" news is to recommend the **Matthäuser Bierstadt** on the Stachus (Karlsplatz). It is friendlier than the **Hofbräuhaus** and the music more upbeat. The cost for a liter of fresh beer is the same, but the ambience is superior.

The only negative of this report relates to the **Hotel Bareiss** in Mitteltal in the Schwarzwald. This was formerly called Kurhotel Mitteltal and I recommended it. The service in the dining room has consistently gone down the tubes and there is generally a bad attitude conveyed. We have visited this site five different times and my wife has previously enjoyed it a great deal, but she concurs in the present assessment. Keep up the good work.

Victor P. Obninsky, Tiburon CA 

OKTOBERFEST

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booking fee.

Oktoberfest Costume and Riflemen's Parade

Sunday, September 19, 1993

10 a.m. to about noon. Folk costume groups, historical uniforms, marching bands, riflemen, thoroughbred horses, oxen, cows, goats and the decorated wagons of the Munich breweries, historical coaches and decorated floats exhibiting local traditions. Some 7,000 participants. Route of the parade: from Max II Denkmal through the streets of the city center to the Oktoberfest grounds. Grandstand seats: DM 57 (\$34) plus 5% booking fee. Enclosed standing area at Odeonsplatz, DM 17 (\$10) + 5% booking fee.

Concert of Oktoberfest Bands

Sunday, September 26, 1993

11 a.m. on the steps of the Bavaria statue. (Weather permitting, otherwise concert will be postponed to Sunday October 3, 1993.)

Bavarian Central Agricultural Fair in Munich

On the south side of the Oktoberfest grounds. Organizers: Bavarian Farmer's Association, Max-Joseph-Str. 9, 80333 Munich.

Getting to the grounds

There are no parking spaces in the vicinity of the Oktoberfest ground, so take the bus and/or Underground.

U-BAHN: U4 and U5 to Messegelände or Theresienwiese (heavy traffic).

S-BAHN (rapid transit) lines S1 - S8 to Hackerbrücke.

TRAM: 18 and 19 to Her-

Gemütlichkeit Recommends...

MUNICH HOTELS

(Listed in order of preference)

Expensive

Vier Jahreszeiten Kempinski, Maximilianstrasse 17, Munich 22, phone 089/23 03 90, fax 089/23 03 96 93. Rating: **IV**

Hotel Palace, Trogerstr. 21, Munich 80, phone 089/4 70 50 91, fax 089/4 70 50 90. Rating: **IV**

Hotel Prinzregent, Ismanninger Str. 42 - 44, Munich 80, phone 089/4 16 05-0, fax 089/41 60 54 66. Rating: **IV**

Bayerischer Hof u. Palais Montgelas, Promenadeplatz 2-6, Munich 2, phone 089/2 12 00, fax 089/2 12 09 06. Rating: **III**

Excelsior, Schuetzenstr. 11, Munich 2, phone 089/55 13 70, fax 089/55 13 71 21. Rating: **III**

Moderate to Expensive

Hotel Opera, St.-Anna-Strasse 10, D-8000 Munich 22, phone 089/225533, fax 089/225538. Rating: **IV**

Hotel Exquisit, Pettenkoflerstrasse 3, D-8000, Munich 2, telephone 089/5519900, fax 089/55199499. Rating: **III**

Hotel Domus, St.-Anna-Strasse 31, D-8000 Munich 22, phone 089/221704, fax 089/2285359. Rating: **III**

Platzl Hotel, Sparkassenstr. 10, Munich 21, phone 2089/ 37 03-0, fax 089/23 70 3800. Rating: **III**

Preysing, Preysingstr. 1, Munich 80, phone 089/48 10 11, fax 089/4 47 09 98. Rating: **I**

Moderate

Olympic Hotel, Hans-Sachs-Strasse 4, D-8000 Munich 5, telephone 089/231890, fax 089/2318 9199. Rating: **III**

Hotel Adria, Liebigstrasse 8a, D-8000 Munich 22, phone 089/29308183, fax 089/227015. Rating: **III** \$

Hotel Kraft, Schillerstrasse 49, D-8000 Munich 2, phone 089/59482324, fax 089/5232856. Rating: **III** \$

Hotel an der Opera, Falkenturmstr. 10, Munich 2, phone 089/2 90 02 70 fax 089/29 00 27 29. Rating: **II**

Hotel Müller, Fliegenstrasse 4, D-8000 Munich 2, telephone 089/266063, fax 089/268624. Rating: **II**

Uhland, Uhlandstrasse 1, D-8000 Munich 2, phone 089/539277, fax 089/531114. Rating: **II**

Hotel Bavaria, Gollierstr. 9, D-8000 Munich 2, phone 089/501078, fax 089/5026856. Rating: **II**

Splendid, garni, Maximilianstr. 54, Munich 22, phone 089/29 66 06, fax 089/2 91 31 76. Rating: **II**

Hotel St. Paul, St.-Paul-Strasse 7, D-8000 Munich 2, phone 089/530104, fax 089/534652. Rating: **I**

Hotel Ariston, garni, Unsoeldstr. 10, Munich 22, phone 089/22 26 91, fax 089/2913595. Rating: **I**

Adler, Kohlstrasse 9, D-8000 Munich 2, phone 089/22399192, fax 089/2289437. Rating: **I**

Key:

Expensive = Cheapest room more than 240 DM (\$142)

Moderate to Expensive = Cheapest room 160 to 240 DM (\$94-\$142)

Moderate = Cheapest room less than 160 DM (\$94)

Based on published rack rates. 

mann-Lingg-Str.

BUS: line 31 to Messegelände Sud, line 32 and 62 to Messeplatz, line 58 to Georg-Hirth-Platz und Goetheplatz. There are taxi stands all around the Oktoberfest grounds.

Information, brochures, accommodations

City of Munich Tourist Office, 80313 Munich.

Information offices: (1) in the Main Railway Station, at the Bayerstrasse exit, (opposite Platform 11) open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sundays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., tel 089/23 91 256-256; (2) at the airport, open Monday to Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sundays and holidays 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., tel 089/975-9 28 15; and (3) at the Rindermarkt/Pettenbeckstrasse, open Monday to Friday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, tel 089/23 91-272.


For tickets

Münchner Verkehrsverein-Festring e. V. Pestalozzistr. 3A, 80649 Munich, phone 089/60 81 34 and at the following booking offices:.

Hieber-Kartenverkauf, Liebfrauenstr. 1, 80331 Munich, phone 089/22 65 71

Veranstaltungsdienst Mayr, Poccistr. 8, 80336 Munich, phone 089/7 25 80 95

Circus Krone, Marsstr. 43, 80335 Munich, tel 55 81 66 (tickets for Oktoberfest Folklore International only)

Table reservations in the beer tents can only be made with the landlords on the Oktoberfest grounds. Beginning September 1 the Oktoberfest beer tents can be reached by telephone (for the numbers  call 089/260 8134).

BAMBERG

Continued from page 5

Weinhaus Messerschmitt

Dinner in the enclosed garden of the Romantik Hotel Weinhaus Messerschmitt turned out to be a wet but pleasant experience. The little patio is open to the sky and only a few tables are under cover. Since it rained during dinner it was fortunate ours was one of the few.

There is a small fountain in the patio. Walls are pale yellow with Russian-style pillars decorated in white and pale blue and bas-reliefs depicting bacchanalian delights. Each table had a pot of impatiens. Inside, the decor relies heavily on dark wood paneled ceiling and wainscoting.

We started with an excellent cold soup of cucumber puree topped

with sprouts and served with sliced French bread and herb butter.

A venison stew — *Rehgoulash* — with mushrooms and a sliced dumpling was rich and very good.

Another venison entree, medallions of *Reh*, had a heavy wild taste and needed the two stewed mini-apples (the size of cherry tomatoes) to balance the taste. The dish also came with *spatzle* and a compote of diced apples and currants to help cut the flavor. The medallions were tender and cooked medium rare, just a little too wild for our taste buds.

Desserts were run-of-the-mill: *Erdbeerbecher* — vanilla ice cream, strawberry ice cream, fresh strawberries, whipped cream; and the ubiquitous *Coupe Danemark*, which disappointed because of weak chocolate sauce.

Romantik-Hotel Wein-

haus Messerschmitt, Lange Str. 41, phone 0951/2 78 66, fax 0951/26 1 41. Major cards. Moderate.

Weinhaus Messerschmitt:
☆

St. Nepomuk

Its location in the middle of the Regnitz makes dining in the restaurant of the Hotel St. Nepomuk feel like being on a boat. The room has windows on three sides and offers a good view not only of the river but of the *Altes Rathaus* and a flower decked bridge, the *Bischofsmühlbrücke*.

Upstairs, is a banquet room whose noise drifts down to the dining room. When it is loud upstairs it can spoil the dining room's atmosphere.

The meal started with a little gift from the kitchen, an aspic of dill and small shrimp in a light sour cream-based

sauce. Cold *gurken* soup — a thin broth with chunks of cucumber — was a bit too sharp for our taste.

A pair of entrees, veal medallions in a light mushroom cream sauce, served with a small mixed salad and excellent *rösti*, and an entree of *Pfifferlinge* (sliced mushrooms), were served in what seemed to be the same sauce. It tasted fine but such things make one wonder what other shortcuts are being taken in the kitchen.

Without beverages or dessert, the dinner for two cost 72 DM (\$42).

Hotel-Restaurant St. Nepomuk, Obere Mühlbrücke 9, D-8600 Bamberg, phone 09 51 / 2 51 83, fax 09 51 / 2 66 51.

Major cards. Moderate.

St. Nepomuk: ☆ 

Next Month:

Pontresina

Vienna Opera Schedules

Vienna State Opera September 1993

1. Aida
2. Madama Butterfly
3. Die Zauberflöte
5. Das Rheingold
6. Madama Butterfly
7. Abduction from the Seraglio
8. Die Walküre
9. Aida
10. Die Zauberflöte
11. Abduction from the Seraglio
12. Siegfried
13. Aida
14. Ballet: A Mid-Summer Nights Dream
15. Abduction from the Seraglio
16. La Bohème
17. Ballet: Ein Sommer Nachtstraum
18. Salome
19. Götterdämmerung
20. Ballet: Ein Sommer Nachtstraum
21. Madama Butterfly
22. L'Elisir d'Amore (Elixir of Love)
23. Salome
24. Ballet: Sinfonie in D/Enas/Letzte Leider
25. Tosca
26. Fidelio
27. NO PERFORMANCE

28. La Traviata
 29. Capriccio
 30. Ballet: Sinfonie in D/Enas/Letzte Leider
- October 1993**
1. La Traviata
 2. La Bohème
 3. Fidelio
 4. La Traviata
 5. Ballet: Sinfonie in D/Enas/Letzte Leider
 6. Arabella
 7. Ballet: Sinfonie in D/Enas/Letzte Leider
 8. La Bohème
 9. L'Elisir d'Amore
 10. Ballet: Sinfonie in D/Letzte Leider
 11. No Performance
 12. L'Elisir d'Amore
 13. Arabella
 14. Ballet: Ein Sommernachtstraum
 15. L'Elisir d'Amore
 16. Die Zauberflöte
 17. Die Hochzeit des Figaro
 18. No Performance
 19. Die Hochzeit des Figaro
 20. Maria Stuarda
 22. Il Trovatore
 23. Tosca
 24. Il Trovatore
 25. Lucia di Lammermoor
 26. Il Trovatore
 27. Il Barbiere di Siviglia
 28. Il Trovatore
 29. Maria Stuarda
 30. Il Trovatore
 31. Lucia di Lammermoor
- November 1993**
1. Die Zauberflöte
 2. Ballet: Ein Sommernachtstraum
 3. Il Trovatore

4. Lucia di Lammermoor
 5. Madama Butterfly
 6. Capriccio
 7. Il Trovatore
 8. La Bohème
 9. Lucia di Lammermoor
 10. Die Zauberflöte
 11. Il Trovatore
 12. L'Elisir d'Amore
 13. Madama Butterfly
 14. Ballet: Manon
 15. La Bohème
 16. Il Barbiere di Siviglia
 17. Madama Butterfly
 18. Ballet: Manon
 19. Carmen
 20. La Bohème
 21. Don Giovanni
 22. Ballet: Manon
 23. Carmen
 24. Il Barbiere di Siviglia
 25. Don Giovanni
 26. Ballet: Manon
 27. Carmen
 28. Ballet: Manon
 29. Il Barbiere di Siviglia
 30. L'Elisir d'Amore
- December 1993**
1. Ballet: Manon
 2. Die Zauberflöte
 3. Il Barbiere di Siviglia
 4. Carmen
 5. Fidelio
 6. Ballet: Der Nussknacker
 7. Ariadne auf Naxos
 8. Fidelio
 9. Die Zauberflöte
 10. Maria Stuarda
 11. La Traviata
 12. Ballet: Der Nussknacker
 13. Maria Stuarda
 14. Capriccio

15. Ballet: Sinfonie in D/Twilight/Voyage/Letzte Leider
 16. La Traviata
 17. Tosca
 18. Ballet: Der Nussknacker
 19. La Traviata
 20. The Tales of Hoffmann
 21. Der Rosenkavalier
 22. Die Hochzeit des Figaro
 23. The Tales of Hoffmann
 24. Closed
 25. Die Hochzeit des Figaro
 26. Ballet: Der Nussknacker
 27. The Tales of Hoffmann
 28. Die Hochzeit des Figaro
 29. Der Rosenkavalier
 30. Ballet: Der Nussknacker
 31. Die Fledermaus
- Vienna Volksoper
September 1993**
1. Die Fledermaus
 2. Wiener Blut
 3. Das Land des Lächelns
 4. Der Zigeunerbaron
 5. Così fan tutte
 6. Im Weissen Rössl
 7. Die Csardasfürstin
 8. Der Mantel (The Coat/Gianni Schicchi)
 9. Der Vogelhändler
 10. Die Fledermaus
 11. The Marriage of Figaro
 12. Giuditta
 13. Im Weissen Rössl
 14. Così fan tutte
 15. Der Vogelhändler
 16. Das Land des Lächelns
 17. A Night in Venice
 18. Don Giovanni
 19. Giuditta
 20. Die Zauberflöte
 21. Wiener Blut

22. Ballet: Coppelia
 23. Der Mantel/Gianni Schicchi
 24. Der Zigeunerbaron
 25. Die Csardasfürstin
 26. Die Zauberflöte
 27. Im Weissen Rössl
 28. Das Land des Lächelns
 29. Die Fledermaus
 30. Die Hochzeit des Figaro
- October 1993**
1. Wiener Blut
 2. Der Zigeunerbaron
 3. Ballet: Coppelia
 4. No Performance
 5. Die Zirkusprinzessin
 6. No Performance
 7. Così fan tutte
 8. Das Land des Lächelns
 9. Eine Nacht in Venedig
 10. Die Zauberflöte
 11. Die Sache Makropoulos
 12. Der Zigeunerbaron
 13. Die Sache Makropoulos
 14. Così fan tutte
 - 15 to 19. La Cage aux Folles
 20. No Performance
 21. - 26. La Cage aux Folles
 27. No Performance
 28. - 31. La Cage aux Folles
- November 1993**
1. No Performance
 2. No Performance
 3. - 7. La Cage aux Folles
 8. No Performance
 9. La Cage aux Folles
 10. - 15. La Cage aux Folles
 16. Im Weissen Rössl
 17. Der Vogelhändler
 18. Così fan tutte
 19. Die Sache Makropoulos
 20. Die Fledermaus
 21. Die Csardasfürstin

22. Giuditta
 23. Die Fledermaus
 24. Die Zirkusprinzessin
 25. Im Weissen Rössl
 26. Die Hochzeit des Figaro
 27. Das Land des Lächelns
 28. Die Csardasfürstin
 29. Giuditta
 30. Die Zirkusprinzessin
- December 1993**
1. Wiener Blut
 2. Ballet: Coppelia
 3. Der Zigeunerbaron
 4. Die Fledermaus
 5. Die Zirkusprinzessin
 6. Der Vogelhändler
 7. Die Hochzeit des Figaro
 8. Ballet: Cinderella
 9. My Fair Lady
 10. Don Giovanni
 11. Ballet: Coppelia (aft), Das Land des Lächelns (eve)
 12. Das Schlaue Füchslin
 13. My Fair Lady
 14. Die Zauberflöte
 15. Die Fledermaus
 16. Der Zigeunerbaron
 17. My Fair Lady
 18. Hänsel und Gretel
 19. Das Schlaue Füchslin
 20. My Fair Lady
 21. Nabucco
 22. Hänsel und Gretel
 23. Hänsel und Gretel
 24. CLOSED
 25. Hänsel und Gretel
 26. Hänsel und Gretel
 27. Wiener Blut
 28. Nabucco
 29. Im Weissen Rössl
 30. My Fair Lady
 31. Die Fledermaus