

DEAR SUBSCRIBER

The Best Single Piece of Advice?

Somewhere in my long-ago, nearly-forgotten corporate past I recall one of those motivational seminars in a dispiriting airport hotel meeting room at which the moderator set forth the following scenario: because of a massive paper shortage, you can only send your customers a single article this year. What would it's topic be?

Now, these many years later, that dreadful day of sitting around in a suit and tie, taking notes I would never review, is the inspiration for this month's homily.

What indeed, I recently wondered, would my "message-of-the-year" be to folks who hanker to spend an occasional few days or weeks in Germany, Austria and Switzerland? Would I extol the grandeur of the Alps? The liberating feeling of backroads driving? The romance of rail travel? The charm of small, family-run hotels? Worthy candidates all, but much too obvious and not very specific. The more I thought about it, the more a dark-horse entry in the "message-of-the-year" stakes race crept into my tiny but busy cerebrum. So now, hurtling down the stretch it's, ta da, the *Michelin Red Guide*.

That's right, a mere guidebook is our VIM, very important message. A guidebook series, actually, as there are 11 *Red Guides*, including one for Germany and another for

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This Month in Gemütlichkeit

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GEMÜTLICHKEIT

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

MÜNSTER

Münster is one of those north-of-Frankfurt towns most Americans don't get to. Our Jim Johnson spent a few days there last month and says we're missing something.

Near the end of World War II, 92 percent of medieval Münster was destroyed. Many cities in the region — like Düsseldorf, Essen and Bochum — decided to create something new from the rubble. The citizens of Münster, however, known as traditionalists, decided to rebuild their Old Town as it had been, a decision derided outside the city with jokes about "conservative Westphalians" and how they wanted to make believe that Nazi times and World War II never happened.

Today, few would doubt the wisdom of their decision. The *Altstadt* is a marvel for both residents and visitors; a place that celebrates peace,

tolerance and understanding. After all, this is the town where the Peace of Westphalia was signed, ending the Thirty Years War and marking a rare time (perhaps the first in Europe) that peace was reached by negotiation and compromise rather than by domination and defeat. The site of the negotiations and signing is the Friedenssaal, the **Hall of Peace** in the Gothic **Rathaus**, where the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia put an end to the extended war.

The Rathaus is in the heart of the *Altstadt*, the **Prinzipalmarkt**, part of the medieval street lined by buildings that form a thick and high ring/wall around the earliest town center. A few defensible passageways allow

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Gemütlichkeit's Hidden Treasures Series...

Bargain Luxury on the Mosel

It looks like a country manor house, nestled there in the vineyards overlooking the river. There are lovely grounds, a tennis court, and a uniquely-styled indoor pool. The intimate little restaurant is considered one of the best in the region and in fine weather one can dine on a terrace overlooking the river. There are just 18 guestrooms.

Sounds good, you say, but where is it and what does it cost? Napa Valley, \$250 per night? France's burgundian wine country, \$275? Tuscany, \$300?

How about the tiny hamlet of Neumagen-Dhron, in Germany's Mosel river valley, less than \$100? It's the **Gutshotel Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt**.

Until it was purchased by Günther Reh in 1978, the von Kesselstatt family ran the largest private

family wine operation in the Mosel-Saar-Ruwer region. For 250 years the estate's main office was in the Palais Kesselstatt, opposite the Cathedral in Trier.

(In 1999 the winery operation was moved to Schlossgut Marienlay in the upper Ruwer village of Morscheid and can be visited by appointment. Contact: Weingut Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt, Schlossgut Marienlay, D-54317, tel. +49/6500/9169-0, fax 9169-69, email: weingut@kesselstatt.com, web: www.kesselstatt.com).

The von Kesselstatt name remains on the wine labels and in 1986 Annet Reh converted one of the von Kesselstatt estates into a small, country hotel. The very pleasant result is the Gutshotel which overlooks the river from the right bank of the Mosel just outside the village of Neumagen.

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DEAR SUBSCRIBER

Continued from page 1

Switzerland. (For reasons not known by this space there is no *Michelin Red Guide* for Austria, only the *Green Guide* for sights.)

Except for the Internet, which so far we are unable to fit in a suitcase or access from a wide spot along a Black Forest backroad, *Michelin's Red Guide* series produces the most useful and amazing travel books around. For the counties they cover, the *Red Guides* are the world's best collection of essential travel information. Not only are they always with us in Europe, at home they are a travel reference we consult virtually every day.

The traveler who sticks to the best-known destinations — Munich, Salzburg, Lucerne, Rothenburg — will survive with a garden variety, all-purpose guide like *Frommer* or *Fodor*, but for those who want to take even one step off the beaten path, *Michelin* has no peer. Want to find a place to stay in the Baden-Württemberg town of Leonberg (15 miles out of Stuttgart), for example? Probably not, but just in case, *Michelin* can tell you. Forget *Fodor* or *Frommer*. For them, Leonberg and more than 1,000 other towns covered in the *Red Guide*, don't exist.

Even for a major city like Munich, *Michelin* rates about twice as many hotels and restaurants as *Frommer*. In fact, the *Michelin Red Guide for Germany* lists some 2,500 towns and cities and around 10,000 hotels and restaurants.

But, as you'll see below, *Red Guides* are more than an extensive listing of hotels and restaurants. Much more.

(In describing the Red Guide series, we use Germany as our example, though the other guides, including Switzerland, are just as comprehensive. We have starred those features we find particularly useful.)

★ **City info & maps:** For each city listed, *Michelin* supplies a wealth of information: postal code, telephone area code, altitude, population, number of chair and ski lifts, tourist office address plus phone and fax numbers, the availability of recreational activities such as golf courses and major tourist attractions like museums, castles, etc. For those using separate *Michelin* maps, the correct map number is noted along with coordinates for locating the town on the map.

One feature worth the price of the book is the approximately 150 city maps. Spotted on them are the hotels and restaurants listed in the guide. In a city like Munich that can be 200 or more. You can imagine how handy it is to have the location of your hotel marked on a map of the city you're driving into for the first time. Also noted on these city maps are the major tourist sights with map coordinates found in the city listing.

★ **"Best places" locator maps:** Near the front of the book 11 pages of maps show towns in which *Michelin* finds particularly pleasant hotels and restaurants. An auto traveler can quickly determine which of them is within an easy drive. It is then a simple matter to go to the alpha list of

towns to find phone numbers and call for reservations.

• **Area maps:** The listing for some 40 major cities is accompanied by an area map that shows nearby towns with *Michelin*-approved hotels and restaurants that are within a 30-minute drive of the center of the major city. Let's say, for example, that you're in Freiburg im Breisgau in the southwest corner of the country; there's a convention in town and the hotels are booked. A quick scan of the area map for Freiburg shows some 50 towns with *Michelin*-rated hotels and restaurants within a 30-minute drive of the town center. These area maps also highlight the location of restaurants *Michelin* ranks in its top four restaurant categories.

• **Distance between cities:** Charts show driving distances between the major cities of both Germany and Europe. When one combines these

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Using Gemütlichkeit

- Foreign currency prices are converted to U.S. dollars at the exchange rate in effect at the time of publication.
- Hotel prices listed are for one night. Discounts are often available for longer stays.
- All hotel prices include breakfast unless otherwise noted.
- Local European telephone area codes carry the "0" required for in-country dialing. To phone establishments from outside the country, such as from the USA, do not dial the first "0".

Logging on to our Website

Except for the most recent 12, back issues in text format from January 1993 are available free to subscribers only at <http://www.gemut.com> (click on "For Members Only"). To access the issues enter the user name and password published in this space each month. The June codes are:

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HOTEL RESTAURANT RATING KEY

Rating Scale	Scale	Restaurant Criteria	
Excellent	16 - 20	Food	65%
Above Average	12 - 15	Service	20%
Average	8 - 11	Atmosphere	15%
Adequate	4 - 7		
Unacceptable	0 - 3		
Hotel Rating Criteria	Value Rating	Hotel Scale	Scale
People/Service	30%	Outstanding Value	17 - 20
Location/Setting	15%	Very Good Value	12 - 16
Guestrooms	30%	Average Value	9 - 11
Public rooms	5%	Below Average Value	5 - 8
Facilities/Restaurant	20%	A Rip-Off	0 - 4

Special Designation

By virtue of location, decor, charm, warmth of management, or combination thereof, an especially pleasant establishment.

MÜNSTER*Continued from page 1*

access to the center through the 14th century arcade. This wonderful medieval arcade contains some of the city's brightest architecture and most upscale shops.

From the Prinzpalmarkt, visitors can crane their necks to see three iron cages hanging from the tower of the late Gothic **Lampertikirche** (St. Lampert's Church). They were used in 1536 to make an example of three Anabaptists, whose bodies were placed in the cages for the populace to view and for birds to ravage. At night, a single light in each casts an eerie glow over the street cafes. Every evening except Tuesday, from 9 to midnight a trumpeter continues a 500-year-old tradition by blowing his horn on the hour and half-hour to signify that all is safe. (Don't expect heraldry: the horn sounds more like a dying cow than an all-clear signal.)

In nearby **St. Paul's Cathedral** — one of the city's 90 churches — visitors find superb examples of a 13th-century church making the transition from Romanesque to Gothic. But the greatest attraction for many is the astronomical clock, built in 1540 and designed to tell the time, date, day, season, orbits of then-known planets, phases of the moon and position of the sun — for 532 years. On the quarter hour, Chronus, the Greek God of Time, rings a bell and flips an hour-glass. Every hour, a wooden watchman blows his horn,

If the *Altstadt* is the heart of the city, the **Promenade** is its gentle embrace. The 3.5-mile ring, built when the city ramparts were removed a century ago, surrounds the old town with a three-lane path — one dedicated to cyclists (nearly a third of the city commutes by bicycle), the other two to walkers — with a canopy of trees and a border of meadows. Early in the day it brims with office workers and students, but by mid-morning, shoppers and tourists take over. In the evening it takes on a more romantic air. Couples walk hand-in-hand and unabashedly show their affection. It's no coincidence that a stretch of the town's greenway has

Münster Basics**Population:** 280,000**Elevation:** 52 meters / 159 feet

Tourist Information: Stadt Münster
Münster Marketing, Klemensstrasse 10, D-48143 Münster, tel. +49 0251 492 2724,
web: www.münster.de, email:
tourismus@stadt-münster.de

Driving Distances:

Amsterdam	228 km	141 miles
Berlin	467 km	290 miles
Cologne	156 km	97 miles
Frankfurt	276 km	173 miles
Hamburg	280 km	174 miles
Munich	280 km	173 miles

Rail Times:

Amsterdam	3:12
Berlin	3:30
Cologne	1:35
Frankfurt	3:30
Hamburg	2:16
Munich	6:25

Nearest Airport:

Münster/Osnabrück

Internet Info:

All major museums and attractions link from www.münster.de. Other sites:
www.hhog.de/münster (English),
www.velotours-ms.de,
www.münsterland.com

been dubbed the *Schmusepättken* — the smooching path.

Greenways are everywhere in Münster, sometimes called "The City of 1000 Gardens." Many are on the River Aa, which flows around and through the *Altstadt*. Others are along the Aasee, an artificial lake built to control flooding and now a refuge bordered by a tangle of tree-lined walkways. On summer days, a rainbow of sailboats puffs from one bank to the other.

Visitors to Münster are often surprised by the amount of Baroque architecture, since the style rarely made it this far north. Fortunately, one of the town's prime architects, Johann Konrad von Schlaun, was quite taken with Baroque styles and often visited Italy to learn its techniques. Three outstanding structures make up the so-called Baroque Island: **Erbrostenhof Palace**, **Clemenskirche** and **Dominikanerkirche**. Münster also offers an eclectic range of museums: Picasso, Carnival, Bible, Organ, Lacquer Art, Geology-Paleontology, Railway and Leper.

Though the *Altstadt* was rebuilt as faithfully as possible, much of the architecture lacks the decorative ele-

ments of the original. For example, while a roof, gable or facade may follow the original architectural lines, it may not display the former detailed carvings — locals call it "simplified reconstruction." But building owners don't hide it and proudly show two dates on their buildings: the date of original construction and the date the rebuilt structure was finished.

Münster is neither static nor stuck in the past. Buildings have a purpose, and shoppers, office workers, residents and visitors keep the town alive and vibrant. It doesn't hurt that half of the city's residents are under 25, and a full 20% are students. It celebrates both the past and the future. **The City Theater**, for example, integrates modern architecture with the single remaining wall of the bombed-out Romberger Hof Palace.

Every 10 years, Münster invites sculptors and other artists to design massive works of art for outdoor display in places of meaning and context. This growing collection can be seen around the city as part of the so-called *Skulpt-Tour*.

Perhaps the most famous work is "Tolerance through Dialog," just behind the **Hall of Peace**. It's nothing more than two large metal chairs facing each other, encouraging visitors to sit and talk with other visitors.

Skulpt-Tour follows a long tradition of pointed symbolism — at least 350 years' worth. In the **Hall of Freedom**, be sure to look closely at the emblems carved and painted into the walls. One, showing the futility of war, has two headless warriors fighting over a single head.

The **Cathedral** houses symbolism that transcends Catholicism. Bishop Clemens-August von Galen, the "Lion of Münster," opposed the actions of the Nazis, often in indirect yet powerful ways. In the church, a hammer stands poised to strike an anvil. The bishop's message: the hammer — the Nazis — may have the power, but the anvil — the strength and will of the people — will endure long after the hammer has crumbled.

For those who can, bicycling is an excellent way to view the city. It's

faster than walking, cheaper than driving (high parking costs) and more convenient than buses. There are no hills and directional signs and bike lanes are clearly marked. In Münster, the bicycle is clearly king: they are allowed to pull closer to intersections and get an advance green light in order to clear the intersection faster and safely. If walking or cycling is too exerting, especially with the cobblestone surfaces, you might consider traveling by rickshaw with a driver/guide (email: schuhler@velotours-me.de, tel. +49/0251/2704310). Prices depend on duration, distance and nature of the tour. You can also rent a rickshaw and drive it yourself.

Minutes from the *Altstadt* (by any means of transportation), the Aasee provides access to the city's **Mühlenhof Open Air Museum** and the **All-Weather Zoo**. The former is a collection of Westphalian farm buildings such as an apiary, a stable, a windmill, a smithy, a shoemaker's shop and a small store. The zoo is a must-visit. There are 3,100 animals including dolphins, penguins, lions, tigers, rhinos, orangutans and many other species. Both zoo and museum can be reached by foot, car or bus — or, even better, aboard the Aasee excursion boat, the *Professor Landois*, which stops at stations around the lake.

A nearby stop on the *Skulpt-tour* seems to summarize the Münster experience. On a peaceful knoll by the Aasee, "Looking Up, Reading the Words" invites passersby to stop and reflect. The sculpture can easily be mistaken as a giant antenna, but upon closer examination the visitor can see the wires form words: "Lie in the grass and look up. No one is around. Look at the open heaven in the blue above where clouds roll across the sky — perhaps the most beautiful thing you've ever done or seen." For some, perhaps, like a visit to Münster.

(In a coming issue, we'll look at Münster's surrounding areas, Münsterland, an intriguing landscape of medieval towns, small farming villages, and more than 100 moated castles.)

Accommodations

Central Hotel

Horst Heiringhoff is not only a hotelier, but a collector of art and a supporter of artists. Some 200 pieces of original modern art and dozens of signed posters fill his friendly inn, both in public spaces and in each guestroom. Many were donated by artists who lived there or whose galleries Heiringhoff visited and supported. In many ways, the Central is an art gallery with 20 guestrooms. It's more personal than most hotels, almost homelike. Guests are greeted in a front parlor; no registration desk is evident. Like much of the art, the hotel is modern and features all expected amenities.

**Editor's
Choice**

It's difficult to suggest specific rooms; Heiringhoff prefers to discuss tastes and preferences with prospective guests and then make recommendations. Indeed, he doesn't even have a price list, other than one required by law to show the maximum rate (€130 /\$127 double). "It depends on what I have available, the time of year, but also on how I feel about the person," says Heiringhoff. "What are his circumstances? Why does he want to come here? Do I like him?" A good bet, however, is the guesthouse. It's a wonderful marriage of medieval half-timber architecture and modern steel girders integrated with wood and stone.

The hotel is across the street from the Landesmuseum and barely a block from the new Picasso Museum.

Daily Rates: Doubles to €130 (\$127)

Contact: Central Hotel, Aegidiistrasse 1-3, D-48143 Münster, tel +49 0251 520 250

Rating: QUALITY 16/20, VALUE 17/20

Jugendgästehaus Aasee

While the Jugendgästehaus Aasee on the Aasee is technically a youth hostel, it's equally appropriate for adults and families. All rooms hold either four or two guests (singles can pay extra for a double), and each has its own shower and toilet. Bed linens and towels are provided. Breakfast is included, and you can sign up for an inexpensive lunch and dinner as well.

The lobby has a bright, cheery,

international feel, with guests of all ages sharing experiences. Some four-somes obviously met at the Jugendgästehaus and decided to do a day's exploring together.

Several rooms offer superb views of the Aasee. They can be requested in advance. It's 10 minutes on foot to the Prinzipalmarkt.

Contact: Jugendgästehaus Aasee, Bismarckallee 31, D-48151 Münster, tel +49/0251/53 02 80, fax 53 02 850

Daily Rates: Singles €37 (\$37), doubles €52.40 (\$51). Must be member of the International Youth Hostel Federation, but memberships are available for €18 (\$18) for an adult or family. Specially equipped rooms for disabled guests.

Rating: QUALITY 11/20, VALUE 15/20

Hotel Kaiserhof

The century-old Kaiserhof, just a five-minute walk from the city center and across from the rail station, has been owned by the Cremer family for nearly 60 years. For the current generation, who today are overseeing extensive renovations, it's a work of love. Personally selected antiques, sculptures, paintings, and tapestries fill the public spaces, as do flowers and bowls of fruit for guests who need a snack. The feeling is like visiting some dear, sophisticated, wealthy relatives: you feel entirely welcome and comfortable, but an occasional "wow" may escape your lips.

"I don't want people just to sleep here," Herr Cremer says. "I want them to relax and take in the atmosphere." It's an atmosphere that varies wonderfully from floor-to-floor. The 112 rooms and suites are spread across five themed floors: 1st-Mediterranean, 2nd-Kaiser, 3rd-Art, 4th-Classical, 5th-Avant Garde. If you like history, you may enjoy the second floor. If you like zebra designs in the carpets, the fifth floor may be calling. As each floor is different, each room is individually designed. Number 214 has a triangular bathtub; Number 212 has a bed built partially into two walls. If you don't mind a jungle theme, Number 501 is a large top-floor double. All except the jungle are air-conditioned.

Daily Rates: Singles €75 (\$74), dou-

bles €98 (\$97). Breakfast €9.2 (\$9).
Contact: Hotel Kaiserhof, Bahnhofstrasse 14, D-48143 Münster, tel. +49 0251 4 1789, fax +49 0251 417 86 66. Email: hotel@kaiserhof-münster.de. Web: www.kaiserhof-münster.de
Rating: QUALITY 15/20, VALUE 16/20

Hotel Mauritzhof

The Mauritzhof bills itself as “Münster’s Design-Hotel,” one of a growing number of hotels that avoid the mass production look and instead use original works of art to create a distinct ambiance in each room.

Entrance is through a modern foyer with reception kiosk in the center, a sitting area to the left, and bar and snack area to the right. All rooms have the usual high-standard amenities, as well as air conditioning or a less intrusive air exchange system.

Nearly 80 percent of guests are repeat visitors, most of whom have become drawn to a favorite room. In the Mauritzhof, the best rooms overlook the green, wooded, quiet Promenade. For friends traveling together, a fun choice may be basement rooms 10-12, which share a private courtyard. Room 79, on the top floor, offers wooden floors and slanted roof.

Daily Rates: Singles €85-90 (\$83-\$88), doubles €95-105 (\$93-\$103), junior suites €125-135 (\$123-\$132). Breakfast €12 (\$12). Parking €9 (\$9). Weekend discounts sometimes offered.

Contact: Hotel Mauritzhof, Eisenbahnstrasse 15-17, D-48143 Münster, tel +49 0251 41720, fax +49 0251 46686, email: info@mauritzhof.de. Web: www.mauritzhof.de

Rating: QUALITY: 15/20, VALUE 15/20

Mövenpick Hotel

The Münster Mövenpick has the fine Swiss quality and service for which the chain is famous. The cheery atrium lobby, like much of the hotel, carries sailing and nautical themes. Sails hang from the ceiling, fish shapes appear in the tiled floor and metal wall art suggests smokestacks on old steamers.

The hotel is just a stone’s throw from the Aasee, but lake views are blocked by a row of attractive villas. Still, it makes for peaceful strolls along the lake promenade, with downtown only a 10-minute walk away.

Guestrooms are spacious and modern. The most popular, like Number 258, overlook the cemetery, which is more like a wooded park than a final resting place. Half the 224 rooms are nonsmoking, and two rooms are for guests with physical disabilities. State your preferences as to smoking/nonsmoking, balcony/no balcony, shower/tub and cemetery/courtyard to get the appropriate room.

A pair of restaurants (both closed for renovation during a recent visit) offer regional and broader German and international cuisine.

Daily Rates: Singles €128 (\$126), doubles €153-168 (\$150-\$165). Weekend prices from €82 (\$80). Breakfast €14 (\$14). Parking €9 (\$9).

Contact: Hotel Mövenpick, Kardinal-von-Galen-ring 65, D-48149 Münster, tel +49 0251 890 20, fax +49 0251 890 26 16, email:

hotel.münster@moevenpick.com,

Web: www.moevenpick-münster.com

Rating: QUALITY 15/20, VALUE 15/20

Sustenance

Restaurant Grosser Kiepenkerl

In earlier days, a *Kiepenkerl* carried goods on his back between the family farmhouse and the city, stopping for shopping requests (and gossip) along the way. The *Kiepenkerl* took on a symbolism of stability and permanence, an image ironically shattered in 1945 when a U.S. Army tank flattened the restaurant’s *Kiepenkerl* statue.

But the sculpture has been replaced, and the food has never been better. The half-timbered restaurant features regional specialties like Westphalian wedding soup (beef broth with fresh vegetables) or *Münsterländer Kalbstöttchen* — calf’s head simmered to a savory stew — much better than it sounds. Less regional but still delicious dishes include *Sauerbraten*, chicken breast with chanterelles in cream sauce with buttered *Spätzle*, salmon filet with horseradish crust, and chanterelles in cream with *Semmelknödel* (dumplings). Main dish prices are in the €14-16 (\$13.50-\$15.50) range.

Contact: Restaurant Grosser Kiepenkerl, Spiekerhof 45, D-48143 Münster,

tel. +49/0251/40335, fax 518933

Rating: QUALITY 15/20, VALUE 14/20

Pfefferkorn

You’ve never seen a Ratskeller quite like this one. A Madonna with red lipstick and toenail polish welcomes guests, and conventionality decreases as you descend to the cellar. Carousel horses stand next to turquoise statues. Monkeys and Murano chandeliers hang from the ceiling. As the menu affirms: “Happiness is the bridge to tomorrow” and “To be able to smile is the guarantee for timeless beauty.”

Pfefferkorn is a small chain, so the food is not truly regional, but you’ll be happy and smile. Menu items include tapas like fried herring, snails, salmon roll on potato pancake and baked potatoes with herring, lox or shrimp (all in the €5-8/\$5-\$8 range). Entrees priced at €14-16 (\$14-\$16), include such choices as pork filet with mango cream and pineapple, filet steak Florida with bananas and pineapple, and grilled pork with chanterelles and Béarnaise sauce.

Contact: Pfefferkorn, Im Ratskeller, Prinzpalmarkt 8-10, D-48143 Münster, tel +49 0251 4 14 00 77 88, email: pfefferkorn-münster@t-online.de. Web: www.pfefferkorn-münster.de

Rating: QUALITY 13/20, VALUE 13/20

Pinkus Müller

Münster nightlife is in the **Kuhviertel** (literally, the “Cow District”). Students started the fun at **Cavete**, a lively pub in the Kreuzstrasse, and it spread through the district. Now anyone seeking an engaging Münster evening thinks first of the Kuhviertel.

Long before Cavete served its first beer, however, Pinkus Müller was already a fixture. The restaurant/brewery offers superb regional cuisine, so regional that the menu includes a glossary of local terms: *Surmoos* for sauerkraut, *Prümkes* for plums, and *Töttchen* for savory pork ragout. Appetizers include regional sausages and Westphalian ham, as well as dark bread with *Schmaltz*.

Another specialty is *Altbier*, beer aged about six months to yield a mellow, slightly sweet, almost wine-like character. It’s often served with sliced

EDITOR'S CHOICE

fresh peaches or strawberries at €2.25 (\$2.20) for a quarter liter, versus €1.70 (\$1.66) for regular *Altbier*.

Food prices are moderate with entrees ranging from €7 to €19 (\$7-\$19). Typical choices are pork hock with *Sauerkraut* and pureed potatoes (wonderful, albeit artery clogging), steak topped with baked cheese, medallions of pork, and pork filet with *Prümkes* and plum sauce. Dessert has to include *Rote Grütze* — a sweetened ragout of fresh berries, topped with cream or vanilla ice cream.

“Pinkus,” known to his parents as Carl, was sixth in a line of nine Müllers since the restaurant opened in 1806. Locals delight in explaining his name, a derivation of the German word “to tinkle.” When Carl was a teenager, he and some friends made off with vast quantities of beer from his parents’ brewery. After considerable consumption, he felt full of both self and bladder and bet he could put out the town’s lights. He made a valiant effort and was henceforth known as “Tinkler.” Today, the restaurant is owned by Pinkus’ son, Hans (no known nickname) and his wife Annemarie.

Contact: Pinkus Müller, Kreuzstr. 4-10, tel. +49/0251/45151, fax 57136, email: www.pinkus-muenster.de, web: info@pinkus-mueller.de

Rating: QUALITY 17/20, VALUE 17/20

Stuhlmacher

Next to the quirky and fun Pfefferkorn is the more traditional Stuhlmacher, with laid-back but attentive service. Upstairs, the restaurant is somewhat formal and reserved; the downstairs is more pub-like and inspired the immediate downing of a “wild and sweet” Stuhlmacher lager.

The cuisine is decidedly regional and takes advantage of seasonal fruits and vegetables such as chanterelles, lima beans and strawberries. For example, pea soup is rich and hearty with bits of ham, sausage and bacon. Lima beans are in season in August and not to be missed, simmered in rich gravy with ham, thick bacon and Westphalian sausage. Likewise, chanterelles are the rage in midsummer and served in delightful combinations, such as in herbed

cream sauce with bread dumplings. Desserts include *Rote Grütze* and black bread pudding, the moist wedges of seasoned pudding served with a berry sauce and ice cream. Entrees range from €8 to €22 (\$8-\$22).

Contact: Stuhlmacher, Prinzipalmarkt 6-7, D-48143 Münster, tel. +49/02544877

Rating: QUALITY 16/20, VALUE 16/20

Patata

If you’re in the mood for something fast, cheap and nourishing, don’t care much about the setting and curse every McDonald’s you see, then try Patata. It’s little more than a storefront, and just about the only item on the menu is French fries, almost all for less than €2 (\$2). The choice of toppings includes salsa, cheeses, curry, pesto yogurt and “hunter’s style.” The Prinzipalmarkt is just steps away.

Contact: Patata, 20 Rothenburg, D-48143 Münster

Rating: QUALITY 11/20, VALUE 14/20

GUTSHOTEL

Continued from page 1

Ten minutes walk from the hotel is a small pier where day-trip riverboats stop for passengers. Easy river rides southwest to Trier and northeast to Bernkastel-Kues are available, with time for lunch and sightseeing. The Gutshotel’s location, about 25 miles from Trier, invites an auto exploration in both directions of the Mosel with its spectacular, steeply tiered vineyards, its castles and wineries. Since there is highway on both sides of the river, you won’t have to do much step retracing. Bernkastel Kues is 12 miles to the northeast, Cochem is 30 miles in the same direction and Koblenz about 64. The village of Neumagen-Dhron conducts a wine festival; this year on Sept. 20-22.

Like many country inns, the Gushotel’s public rooms have the feel and atmosphere of a private residence. On one visit we arrived around noon, before our room was ready, and were shown to a beautifully furnished salon with wide windows looking over the river and offered a refreshment, courtesy of the management.

The best room in the house is the converted attic, a large, airy space with hardwood floors and peaked ceiling. It comprises the hotel’s entire top floor and is perhaps as large as 18 by 40 feet. There are dormer windows on three sides, a tiny kitchenette at one end and twin beds on the other. In the middle of the room is a cluster of furnishings including couch, easy chair, coffee table and television.

Downstairs, the restaurant is in narrow rooms across the front of the hotel with views of the Mosel and access to the terrace through several French doors. Carefully prepared multicourse dinners (lunch is served only on Saturday and Sunday) range from about \$25 to \$42 per person, not including beverages. The half-board arrangement — dinner included in the room price — adds €25 (\$24). The food, though not aspiring to the top level, is several notches above German *Gästehof* fare. The restaurant is best-known for its lamb and fish dishes. We found little to criticize in a poached salmon filet finished in a tarragon butter sauce, served with threads of vegetables and a single crayfish, or in a piece of grilled venison whose somewhat untamed flavor was nicely countered by a side of tart cherry sauce and a mound of sauteed, buttery chanterelles. As one might expect, the wine list is heavy with von Kesselstatt offerings.

This is fine small hotel, with style and character — a wonderful bargain.

Daily Rates: Singles €67, doubles €85 to €99 (\$83-\$97), apartment €138 (\$135)

Contact: Gutshotel Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt, Balduinstr. 1, Obere Mühlbrücke 9, Neumagen Dhron, D-96049, phone +49/0951/25183, 26651

Rating: QUALITY 16/20, VALUE 19/20

Inside Travel

■ River Boat Pass

KD River Cruises sells a one-day pass for \$25. It is valid for one day on any of KD’s day ships except the Rheinjet for which a special supplement is required. Present the pass on any KD ship and enjoy all sched-

uled KD day-cruises, round trips and evening cruises on the Rhine and Mosel rivers for an entire day. Pass-holders may change ships and take as many cruises as time allows in one day. No reservation is required. Phone 800-346-6525 or visit www.rivercruises.com/oneday.htm

■ **Protect Your Miles**

Nervous about frequent flyer miles that could evaporate if your favorite airline goes out of business? You can insure them for \$119 per year or \$214 for two years. The company is **AwardGuard** in Colorado Springs. Contact: 800-487-8893, web: www.privilegeflyer.com.

■ **Factory Car Deal**

Long-time subscriber, W. B. Dantone of Houston, tells *Gemütlichkeit* that the best current factory automobile purchase deal is with **Volvo**. For delivery in Sweden, Volvo is offering a substantial discount off U.S. prices plus a two round-trip transatlantic air tickets and one night's hotel accommodations.

■ **Gas In Europe Under \$3**

Mr. Dantone also notes that the lowest gasoline prices in Europe are in Luxembourg. Just across the German border, near Trier, the world's largest **Esso** station pumps out unleaded fuel at about \$2.60 per gallon vs. about \$4 for the rest of Europe.

■ **Teddy Bear Exhibition**

The **Schynige Platte Mountain Hotel**, high in the Jungfrau region of the Swiss Alps, offers a display of more than 1600 teddy bears from the private collection of Theresia Bodenmann. In one room, the Bearbeats, a teddy bear rock band performs for an audience of hundreds of other bears. Elsewhere are valuable Stieff bears, polar bears, panda bears, koala bears, and wooden bears from Russia. Bears on a cot listen to bedtime stories and there is a mysterious teddy castle with witches, wizards, knights, ladies and court jesters.

Each adult passenger taking the train to the Schynige Platte — it's the only way to get there — may take two children (to age 15) free to Teddyland. Contact: Jungfrau Railways, Harderstrasse 14, CH-3800 Interlaken, tel. +41/033/828 72 33, fax 828 72 60, email: info@jungfrau.ch, web:

www.jungfraubahn.ch

■ **Contemporary Art in Berlin**

The 7th annual **Art Forum Berlin**, featuring contemporary art and emerging artists, runs Sept.26-30 at the Berlin Fairgrounds. The gathering of artists, dealers, collectors, critics and patrons will attract 24,000 to its 160 galleries displaying cutting-edge painting, sculpture, installations, photography and multimedia presentations. Info: Berlin Exhibition Grounds, Entrance Hall 21, Masurenallee, Berlin-Charlottenburg. Tickets €8-12, (\$8-\$12).

■ **World Heritage Status for Rhine**

A 65-kilometer stretch of Germany's Upper Middle Rhine Valley, known as the **Romantic Rhine** with castles, historic towns and vineyards, has been designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. The region joins the recently-selected medieval Baltic towns of Wismar and Stralsund on the UNESCO list. There are now 27 World Heritage Sites in Germany. Info: www.unesco.org.

■ **Two-Day Rothenburg Deal**

Rothenburg's venerable and atmospheric **Hotel Eisenhut** offers a two-day vacation package for €218 (\$214) through December 21. The deal includes two nights hotel accommodations, breakfasts, welcome cocktail, Franconian-style dinner, candlelight dinner, a carriage ride through the town, museum visits, and a walk with the town's nightwatchman.

Contact: Hotel Restaurant Eisenhut, Herrngasse 3-5/7, D-91541 Rothenburg, tel. +49/09861/70 50, fax: 70 54, email: hotel@eisenhut.com, web: www.eisenhut.com

■ **Frankfurt-Köln Fast Train**

Rail travel times between Frankfurt and Cologne, were reduced by one hour on August 1 when the **German Railroad (DB)** started service on its new \$6 billion, 186-mph high-speed rail line. The trip, which previously took 2 hours 14 minutes now takes just 1:14. Currently, 54 third-generation ICE 3 trainsets, traveling at speeds of 186 mph, provide hourly service between 6am and 8pm. There are stops at Frankfurt airport, Siegburg/Bonn, Montabur and Limburg-Süd. Additional trains will be put in service as passenger traffic increases.

By December 15, the new line will be completely integrated into the German rail network, with other stops along the Rhine-Main corridor, including a spur to Wiesbaden, and connections to other regions of Germany.

ICE 3 trains have laptop and audio connections as standard equipment for all passengers. In first class, passengers have video screens and individual reading lights. The cost of a Frankfurt-Cologne ticket purchased in the U.S. is \$64 first class and \$45 second class. A four-day German rail pass is \$260 first class and \$180 second class. A four-day Twin Pass — two passengers traveling together — is \$195 or \$135.

Tip: Trains that operate on the old schedule — 2 hours 14 minutes — still run on this route. Purchased in Germany, the one-way ticket prices are €50.60 (\$49.60) first class and €35 (\$35) second class.


■ **Low Cal Swiss Chocolate**

Lindt & Sprüngli, Swiss chocolate maker par excellence, will launch a "reduced sugar" line in the U.S. market in October. According to Switzerland Tourism, the product "tastes like real Lindt Chocolate because it is real Lindt Chocolate." As a first step, offerings will include boxed chocolates as well as milk chocolate and dark chocolate bars. After that, the company will roll out two new boxed chocolate offers: "Lindt Fine Chocolates - a typical American assortment" and "Swiss Tradition - the European style."

■ **Vienna Music Update**

Vienna Staatsoper 2002/03 season highlights: *Carmen* will be performed six times between September 29, 2002 and June 30, 2003. *Das Rheingold* will be held once this year on October 16, 2002. Seven performances of *La Boheme* are scheduled between December 13, 2002 and June 19, 2003

Ballet: The *Nutcracker* plays six times between December 7 and January 5, and *Romeo and Juliet* has four performances from January 24 to February 10.

Tickets for both the Staatsoper and **Volksoper** can be obtained one month prior to the date of performance. Call 011/43/1/513 15 13 

MICHELIN RED GUIDES

Continued from page 1

with the individual town listings in the main part of the book, which note distances from each town to a few nearby and/or important towns, one can approximate the distance between virtually any two cities in Europe.

• **Phone codes:** This chart has telephone codes for European countries, including the U.S. and Japan

• **List of events:** Festivals and principal events in 35 of Germany's largest town.

• **Major roads:** Five pages in the back of the book show Germany's network of major roads. Want to get somewhere fast? These pages quickly tell you if there's an Autobahn or major federal highway between you and your destination. Another page shows the Autobahn network throughout Europe.

• **School holidays:** Listed for Germany's major cities and regions.

• **Wine regions:** On another map, the country's wine grape regions are highlighted and there is a listing and description of the major grape varieties of each region. A short description of Germany's four major wine categories will help the reader decipher German wine labels.

Of course the main business of

Key Websites for the Traveler

- www.gemut.com Gateway site for travelers to Germanic Europe, including car rental, rail passes, hotel bookings, traveler feedback, travel tips and past issues (free access to back issues for subscribers; see log-on info on page 2).
- www.viamichelin.com The Michelin database of hotels and restaurants plus great interactive trip planning tools.
- www.travelgearnow.com Guidebooks, maps, travel accessories, name-brand luggage, all at 10% off for subscribers.
- www.mapblast.com Map and automobile trip planning. Locates routes and distances.
- bahn.hafas.de/bin/query.exe/en German rail. Train schedules throughout Europe, not just Germany.
- www.sbb.ch/index_e.htm Swiss and European rail schedules.
- www.ski-europe.com Top web resource for skiers with much data on Alpine resorts.
- www.myswitzerland.com Website of Switzerland's national tourist authority.
- www.germany-tourism.de Germany's national tourist authority.
- www.anto.com Austria's national tourist authority.
- <http://www.hhog.de> Website for an alliance of historic German cities.

the *Red Guides* is to help the user to find hotels and restaurants.

★ **Restaurant finder:** While Michelin is famous for its ratings of expensive restaurants, of greater value to the ordinary traveler is the notation of simpler, cheaper places serving good food. The guide identifies four major restaurant categories; one, two and three-star establishments plus the "Bib Gourmand" designation which uses the word "Menu" in red and the "Michelin Man" (Bib) symbol to identify "moderately priced restaurants offering good value and serving carefully prepared meals, often of regional cooking." There are five one-star restaurants, 14 two-star, 184 one-star and 375 "Bib Gourmand" restaurants. Other restaurants, which "serve simple meals for less than €14" (\$14) are marked with a tire symbol.

If you don't want to flip through the pages to find the best restaurants, there is a list of them, alpha by city, near the front of the book.

★ **Hotel listings:** There is no text describing the hotels, but a mountain of information is communicated via symbols that are explained in English and other languages at the front of the book. The symbols of especially pleasant hotels are printed in red. The rocking chair symbol is for quietly situated hotels. A red rocking chair is an especially quiet or secluded hotel. Particularly pleasant or notable hotel features such as a view or extraordinary interior decor are highlighted with red markings.

The fact that Michelin chooses to include a hotel in the book is itself an endorsement.

Summing up: Unfortunately, the *Red Guides* take a little getting used to and some first-time users are intimidated. They communicate a vast amount of information almost entirely via symbols and maps. Virtually the only text is an explanation of how to use the book. In the guides for Germany and Switzerland, some hotel and restaurant listings may include a few words of German to point out a particularly attractive feature or a special dish.

Take time to learn to use the guides and they will return their cost many times over. — RHB.

We Recommend

This listing of good value, mid-priced hotels in popular destination cities is a new *Gemütlichkeit* feature intended for quick reference. We'd like to know if you find it useful. Additional hotels and links to websites of these hotels can be found in the Archives section of our website at www.gemut.com. The required subscriber user name and password for access this month can be found on page 2 herein. The hotels are arranged in price order, higher to lower.

Berlin

Hotel Art Nouveau, Leibnizstr. 59, tel. +49/030/327 7440, fax 327 744 40, email hotelartnouveau@snafu.de

Hotel Domus, Uhlandstrasse 49, Germany D-10719, tel. +49/030/882041, fax 882 0410, email: info@hotel-domus-berlin.de

Bern

Hotel Innere Enge, Engestrasse 54, CH-3012, tel. +41/031/309 6111, fax 309 6112, email: info@zghotels.ch

Hotel Kreuz, Zeughausgasse 41, CH-3000, tel. +41/031/329 9595, fax 329 95 96, email: hotelkrenz@swissonline.ch

Lausanne

Hostellerie du Débarcadère, 7 chemin du Cret, Saint Sulpice, CH-102, tel. +41/021/691 5747, fax 691 5079, email: debarcadere@swissonline.ch (not in town)

Hotel Agora, Av. du Rond-Point 9, CH-1006, Tel. +41/021/617 1211, fax 616 2605, email: agora@fhotels.ch

Lucerne

Hotel Wilden Mann, Bahnhofstrasse 30, CH-6000 Luzern, tel. +41/041/2101666, fax 2101629, email: mail@wilden-mann.ch

Hotel Cascada, Bundesplatz 18, CH-6003 Lucerne, tel: +41/041/226 80 88, fax 226 80 00, Email: info@cascada.ch

Munich

Hotel Asam, Josephspitalstrasse 3, tel. +49/089/230 9700, fax 230 970 97, email: info@hotel-asam.de.

Hotel Kraft, Schillerstr. 49, tel. +49/089/594823-24 fax 5503856, email kraft.hotel@t-online.de

Rothenburg ob der Tauber

Reichs-Küchenmeister, Kirchplatz 8, Rothenburg o.d. Tauber, Germany D-91541, tel. +49/09861/97 00, fax 97 04 09, email: hotel@reichskuechenmeister.com

Salzburg

Hotel Struber, Nonntaler Hauptstrasse 35, Austria A-5020 tel. +43/0662/843 728, fax 843 728 8, email: struber@sbg.at

Hotel Jedermann, Rupertgasse 25, Austria A-5020, tel. +43/0662/873241-0, fax 873241-9, email: jedermann@salzburginfo.or.at

Vienna

Hotel Römischer Kaiser, Annagasse 16, A-1010, tel +43/01/512 77 51 0, fax 512 77 51 13, email: info@rkhotel.bestwestern.com

Allstadt Vienna, Kirchengasse 41, tel. +43/01/526 3399-0, fax 523 4901, email: hotel@allstadt.at, web: www.allstadt.at

Pension Aviano, Marco-D'Aviano-Gasse 1, tel. +43/01/512 8330, fax 512 8330 6, email: aviano@pertschy.com

Zürich

Hotel Florhof, Florhofgasse 4, Switzerland CH-8001, tel.41/01/261 4470, fax 261 4611, email: info@florhof.ch

Hotel Arlette, Stampfenbachstrasse 26, Switzerland CH-8001, tel. +41/01/25 20 032, fax 25 20 932

Frankfurt Airport

Steigenberger Esprix Hotel Frankfurt Airport, CargoCity Süd, D-60549, tel. +49/069/69 70 99, fax 69 70 94 44, email: frankfurt@esprix-hotels.de

Hotel Birkenhof, von-Eiff-Str 37, Hanau-Steinheim, D-63456, tel. +49/06181/648 80, fax 64 88 39, email: info@HotelBirkenhof.de (25-minute drive from airport)

Hotel Dreieich, Frankfurter Str. 49, Langen, D-63225, tel. +49/06103/91 50, fax 52 030 (15-minute drive from airport)

Munich Airport

Kempinski Hotel Airport, Terminalstrasse/Mitte 20, D-85356 Munich, tel. +49/089/9782-0, fax 97822610, info@kempinski-airport.de

Hotel Hoyacker Hof, Freisinger Landstrasse 9a, D-85748 Garching b. München, tel. +49/089/326 9900, fax 320 7243, email: info@hoyackerhof.de

Zürich Airport

Mövenpick Zürich Airport, Walter-Mittelholzerstrasse 8, CH-8152 Glattbrugg, tel. +41/01/808 88 88, fax 808 88 77, email: hotel@movenpick-zurich-airport.ch

Hotel Fly Away, Marktgasse 19, Zürich-Kloten, Switzerland CH-8302, tel. +41/01/804 4455, fax 804 44 50, email: reservation@hotel-flyaway.ch