

## Dear Subscriber

### Let's hear it for rail

Europe's many discount airlines have created a viable option for those traveling long distances between European cities. For example, one can fly between Munich and Berlin for about the same as going by second-class rail. In April, Air Berlin offers nonstop flights for €34. On the German Rail website ([bahn.de](http://bahn.de)) there are a few seats on some trains for as little as €29. The air trip takes an hour and 10 minutes, Berlin Tegel to Munich's Franz Josef Strauss Airport. The quickest train trip is five hours 40 minutes. Someone in the rail business, however, once said to a *Gemütlichkeit* writer that the shortest commercial flight is five hours. Of course, he was referring to the time it takes to get to the airport, the airport wait time, passing through boarding pass and security checks, the actual flight time, getting out of the arrival airport, and finally the auto, train, or bus ride to the city center.

Even if price and overall travel time are a toss-up, the train wins hands down when comfort and stress levels are considered. Arriving at the Berlin rail station a few minutes before our scheduled departure, we simply walk aboard the train, stow our luggage and sit down. On our way through the terminal and onto the train we encounter no security checks and are not required to show a passport or even a boarding pass. Our first brush with authority is not until after the train is underway when we are asked to present a ticket or pass. Compare this with the invasive, security-driven airport boarding process, which begins upon arrival at the airport, two or even three hours before our flight. Then, assuming no weather, mechanical, personnel, or air traffic control difficulty, we board *en masse* with our fellow

*Continued on page 2...*

# GEMÜTLICHKEIT

The Travel Letter for Germany, Austria & Switzerland

## BADISCHE WEINSTRASSE

**A**sk a German which part of his country has the finest combination of food and wine, and he'll likely say, "Baden."

Known for the high quality of its cuisine, Baden is also one of Germany's premier wine regions.

by Sharon Hudgins Its red, white, and rosé wines have garnered national and international awards and it boasts more Michelin-starred restaurants than any other region in Germany. An often-quoted statistic says that Badeners drink 53 bottles of wine per person every year, compared to an average of 32 bottles per capita annually in the rest of the country.

Located in the western part of the larger state of Baden-Württemberg, the region of Baden is an area of starkly contrasting landscapes:

the flat, fertile, sun-drenched Rhine plain; rolling hills covered with vineyards; and the densely treed mountains of the Black Forest. On Baden's western edge, the Rhine River cuts through the broad plain, forming the boundary between Germany and France's famous gastronomic region of Alsace.

Within this section of Baden-Württemberg, the officially designated **Baden Wine Region** comprises more than 16,000 hectares (39,000 acres) of vineyards in nine districts extending over a distance of 240 miles from near Heidelberg in the north to the Bodensee (Lake Constance) in the south. The third largest (in area) of Germany's 13 wine regions, Baden is also the warmest and most southerly. The sunny, mild climate, diverse terrain,

*Continued on page 3...*

## See Europe by Segway

**R**ide, walk, jog, hike, bike. It's a sure bet that we've all used one or even more of those modes of getting up-close and familiar with overseas cities and towns. Now, in recent years, comes option by Tom Bross Number Six: scooting around while standing on a Segway, the two-wheel, rechargeable electric "personal transporter" introduced by Bedford, New Hampshire's Dean Kamen in December, 2001.

Gyroscopic sensors make it a remarkably self-balancing vehicle. Simply leaning left or right, while gripping the handlebars, does the steering. Lean forward and you travel... forward. The extra-big rubber-tire wheels can be rotated in opposite directions for zero turning radius, especially advantageous on

congested inner-city streets. No need to be intimidated by the high-tech engineering; this is essentially a grown-up's version of kid stuff. Top speed approaches 12.5 mph, about 20 kmh. A single charge (from any standard wall outlet) would suffice for a 24-mile/38-km jaunt.

Perhaps you've already spotted Segways moving (while faintly buzzing) in such U.S. locales as Boston, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Monica, Sarasota, Las Vegas, Austin, Atlanta and Annapolis. Police officers steer special i.2 Patroller versions in Albuquerque, Greensboro, Bridgeport, New Rochelle and

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**Exchange rates as of 2/1/2010**  
**1 euro = \$1.39**  
**1 Swiss franc = \$0.94**  
**1 gallon diesel, Germany = \$5.88**

**DEAR SUBSCRIBER**

*Continued from page 1*

passengers. On the aircraft we are wedged shoulder to shoulder and hip to hip. Finding space for carry-on items becomes a competition, and access to our electronic devices and toilet facilities is strictly controlled. We are encouraged, sometimes ordered, to remain seated throughout the flight.

While there's something to be said for looking down on the landscape from far above, a better case can be made for quietly watching it slip past your window, perhaps even from a small semi-private compartment or from a table in the restaurant car. Wherever you are on the train, you'll surely have more space and freedom to move around than in the air.

If the options are rail or air, and if it's Berlin-Munich or a trip of similar length, it's the train for me. I used to enjoy flying, but the fact is I now dread the hassle and confinement of even the shortest air trip, but look forward to an all-day rail journey.

While European trains remain a pleasurable novelty for most Americans, they are becoming somewhat of a luxury. With many green-conscious Europeans turning from auto to rail, trains are running closer to capacity than ever before. Europe's railroad moguls have thus decreed that North Americans will pay more for passes. The travel writer mantra

of the 70s, 80s, even into the 90s was "get a rail pass; it's the most economical way to see Europe." That may still be true to some extent for the traveler whose three-week itinerary goes something like Paris-Rome-Berlin-Madrid-Vienna-Prague, but travel patterns have changed. A few years ago Rail Europe sold mostly multi-country passes. Now single-trip, city-to-city tickets account for the majority of rail sales to North Americans. These days we are more likely to spend our vacation time visiting one or two countries, or perhaps just one region within a single country. And for this we do not need the 22-country **Global Eurail Pass** (\$756).

We might, however, need a pass that covers less territory.

Rail Europe has unveiled a three-day **German Rail Pass**. The second-class **Twin Pass** version (two persons traveling together) costs \$204 per person (\$280 first-class). Just two years ago you could buy a four-day **Twin Pass** for \$181 per person. Currently the four-day price is \$222, nearly a 23-percent increase. One might be tempted to say that's due in part to the weakness of the dollar, except that on January 27, 2008, a dollar was worth €0.68, while today it buys €0.71, a four-percent increase in the dollar's value.

Some other price comparisons: the five-day, three-country **Eurail Select Saver Pass** that was \$369 per person a year ago is now \$407. The

eight-day (consecutive) second-class, **Swiss Saver Pass** is now \$328 vs. \$279 a year ago.

Car rental prices have risen far more modestly, at least in Germany. In 2008, a four-door, compact car such as VW Golf was \$235 per week. The same car today is \$246, less than a five-percent jump. Insofar as it relates to cost, the rail vs. rental car dynamic now seems to favor the automobile more than ever. Two people traveling together must balance the price of the four-day Germany **Twin Pass** at \$422 against the one-week Golf price of \$246. Fuel cost must also be included but so should the fact that the pass restricts travel to four days (non-consecutive) while the car is available 24 hours-a-day on each of the seven days.

For four people, the difference is even more pronounced. A week in an intermediate VW Passat rented in Germany is less than \$300 plus fuel,

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**Using Gemütlichkeit**

- 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**

Back issues in PDF format from January 1993, except for the most recent 10, are available free to subscribers only at [www.gemut.com](http://www.gemut.com) (click on "Members"). To access the issues, enter the user name and password published in this space each month. The new codes are:

User Name: **bwine** Password: **5676**

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**GEMÜTLICHKEIT**

The Travel Letter for Germany, Austria & Switzerland

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**SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:**

Gemütlichkeit, 288 Ridge Road., Ashland OR 97520

**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	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

## BADEN WINE ROUTE

Continued from page 1

and friendly people—along with the region’s oenological and culinary reputation—combine to make Baden an attractive tourist destination.

Wine-lovers will want to follow the *Badische Weinstrasse* (Baden Wine Route) that meanders for 120 miles through the heart of the wine country, from the city of **Baden-Baden** in the north to the towns of **Lörrach** and **Weil am Rhein** in the south, near the Swiss border. Much of the way roughly parallels the A-5 Autobahn and Highway B-3, and is best explored by car (on minor roads), or by bicycle or on foot (along the many well-marked hiking and biking trails).

The route passes through dozens of small villages of old half-timbered houses surrounding sandstone churches where, in summer, storks nest on the steeples. Ruins of medieval castles crown the hilltops. Strawberries and asparagus grow in the Rhine plain’s sandy soil, next to fields of potatoes and corn. Rising from the plain, vineyards and fruit orchards climb the Black Forest hills and flank rivers that flow toward the Rhine.

### When to travel

Spring, summer, and fall are all good times to visit. Millions of fruit blossoms make the landscape look like a pastel Impressionist painting in the spring. Summer is sunny, with lush green vegetation. (Note the proliferation of solar panels in this region; Baden is a Germany “green” energy leader.) June, when the wildflowers are in full bloom, is an especially pleasant month; the weather isn’t too hot, and the tourist rush hasn’t yet begun. Autumn is a glorious time of year, with the leaves turning color in the forests and the grape harvest in full swing. But fall is also the busiest season for the vintners, and many tourist accommodations are booked by wine lovers months in advance.

## BADEN WINE ROUTE BASICS

### Visitor information:

Schwarzwald Tourismus GmbH, Ludwigstrasse 23, 79104 Freiburg/Breisgau, tel. +49/761-896-460, fax 896-4670, [mail@schwarzwald-tourismus.info](mailto:mail@schwarzwald-tourismus.info), [www.schwarzwald-tourismus.info](http://www.schwarzwald-tourismus.info)

Freiburg Wirtschaft Touristik und Messe GmbH, Rathausgasse 33, 79098 Freiburg/Breisgau, tel. +49/761-3881-843, fax 37-003, [www.freiburg.de](http://www.freiburg.de)

Baden-Baden Kur & Tourismus GmbH, Solmstrasse 1, 76530 Baden-Baden, tel. +49/7221-275-200, fax 275-202, [info@baden-baden.com](mailto:info@baden-baden.com), [www.baden-baden.com](http://www.baden-baden.com)

Other useful websites: [www.winetourism-baden-alsace.com](http://www.winetourism-baden-alsace.com); [www.breisgau-schwarzwald.de/badische-weinstrasse.htm](http://www.breisgau-schwarzwald.de/badische-weinstrasse.htm)

### Driving distances to Baden-Baden:

Frankfurt	180 km/112 miles
Berlin	717 km/445 miles
Munich	332 km/206 miles
Stuttgart	112 km/70 miles
Strasbourg	40 km/25 miles
Basel	142 km/88 miles

### Driving distances to Freiburg:

Frankfurt	262 km/163 miles
Berlin	800 km/497 miles
Munich	400 km/249 miles
Stuttgart	207 km/129 miles
France	64 km/40 miles
Basel	115 km/71 miles

**Airports near Baden-Baden:** (in miles) Frankfurt (112), Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden (9), Stuttgart (70), EuroAirport Basel (Basel/Mulhouse/Freiburg, 88), Strasbourg, France (30)

**Airports near Freiburg:** (in miles) Frankfurt (163), Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden (75), EuroAirport Basel (43)

**Land transportation:** Rail service from major German hubs to Freiburg, Karlsruhe, and Baden-Baden. Local bus service to most towns along the route. A car is recommended for the most flexibility in exploring the Baden Wine Route. Hiking and biking are also popular in this region.

### Along the route

Starting from the spa city of **Baden-Baden**, drive southward through the **Baden-Baden Rebland**, an area that includes the towns of **Neuweier**, **Varnhalt**, and **Steinbach-Umweg** (use Google maps to find these and other villages mentioned here). Riesling is the king of grapes in the vineyards surrounding these towns, which are administratively part of greater Baden-Baden, making it one of the largest grape-growing communities in the state of Baden-Württemberg.

The Baden-Baden Rebland is in the northernmost part of the **Ortenau wine district**, which extends from **Baden-Baden** to **Ettenheim**. This is the most picturesque part of the wine route, wending its way through villages, towns, and vineyards along the foothills of the Black Forest, on small roads east of the A-5 Autobahn.

Particularly worth visiting are the towns of **Kappelwindeck** (baroque church, medieval castle), **Ottersweier** (fruit orchards), **Sasbachwalden** (protected district of beautiful half-timbered houses, with an imposing castle ruin), **Kappelrodeck** (known for its red wines and its ancient *Fasching* celebrations), **Oberkirch** (castle ruin, historic city center, Heimat- und Gimmelshausen Museum), **Durbach** (Staufenberg Castle, Wein- und Heimat Museum), **Offenburg** (historic city center with several styles of buildings, from medieval to baroque), **Ortenberg** (massive 12th-century castle surrounded by vineyards), and **Gengenbach**, a walled town with towers, gates, half-timbered houses, romantic narrow streets, interesting museums, and a Rathaus that at Christmastime becomes the world’s largest Advent calendar.

The **Ortenau Weinpfad** is a well-marked 75-mile hiking trail through vineyards and wine villages, from **Gernsbach** to **Diersburg** (near Lahr). Grapes grown in the Ortenau include Riesling (also known as Klingenberg), Gewürtztraminer (Clevner), and Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir). The village of **Oberkirch** is not only celebrated for its fine white wines but also as the fruit-growing center of the region, a major producer of schnapps (clear liquor distilled from fruits), and site of the largest strawberry market in Germany.

South of **Lahr**, the **Breisgau wine district** extends to **Emmendingen** and **Freiburg**. Toward the Rhine River, west of Freiburg and the A-5 Autobahn, are the **Kaiserstuhl wine district** (between **Breisach**, **Sasbach**, **Endingen**, and **Bötzingen**) and the **Tuniberg wine district** (from

**Freiburg to Breisach, Gottenheim, and Tiengen).** Grapes have been cultivated in these areas for more than a thousand years. Today the primary varieties are Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir), Grauburgunder (Pinot Gris, Ruländer), Weissburgunder (Pinot Blanc), and Müller-Thurgau (Rivaner).

The terraced vineyards of the Kaiserstuhl are known for their distinctive microclimates and their mineral-rich volcanic soils topped with a thick layer of loess-loam. Here the grapes produce especially fine red wines, comparable to many French Burgundies. Visit the Blankenhornsberg vineyards of the **Staatsweingut Freiburg & Blankenhornsberg** (State Winery Institute), on the southwestern point of the Kaiserstuhl, to learn more about the district's wine-making. And enjoy a ride on the "**Rebenbummler**," a tourist train (sometimes steam-powered) that chugs through the vineyards between **Breisach, Endingen, and Riegel** from May through October.

#### Key Websites for the Traveler

- [www.gemut.com](http://www.gemut.com) Gateway site for travelers to Germanic Europe, including car rental, rail passes, hotel bookings, travel tips, and past issues (free access to back issues for subscribers; see log-on info on page 2).
- [www.viamichelin.com](http://www.viamichelin.com) The Michelin database of hotels and restaurants, plus great interactive trip planning tools
- [www.travelessentials.com](http://www.travelessentials.com) Guidebooks, maps, travel accessories, luggage, all at 10 percent off for subscribers. Use discount code gemut2010.
- [maps.google.com](http://maps.google.com) Amazing map resource. Driving & walking. Zoom in-out. Great detail city & country. Satellite & terrain views.
- [bahn.hafas.de/bin/query.exe/en](http://bahn.hafas.de/bin/query.exe/en) German rail website, with train schedules throughout Europe, as well as Germany.
- [www.sbb.ch/en/](http://www.sbb.ch/en/) Swiss and European rail schedules
- [www.ski-europe.com](http://www.ski-europe.com) Top Web resource for skiers with much info on Alpine resorts
- [www.myswitzerland.com](http://www.myswitzerland.com) Website of Switzerland's national tourist authority
- [www.germany-tourism.de](http://www.germany-tourism.de) Germany's national tourist authority
- [www.austria.info/us](http://www.austria.info/us) Austria's national tourist authority
- [www.historicgermany.com](http://www.historicgermany.com) Website for an alliance of historic German cities
- [www.thetravelinsider.info](http://www.thetravelinsider.info) Info on electronics for travelers — cell phones, computers, etc.

South of Freiburg, the route through the remaining part of the Baden Wine Region, known as the **Markgräferland**, splits into three sections: the eastern side from **Freiburg to Liel**; the western side from **Biengen to Schliengen**; and the final leg from **Schliengen to Weil am Rhein**. White wines predominate here, especially the light, mild whites made from Gutedel grapes.

Small family vineyards are characteristic of the entire Baden Wine Region, although wine cooperatives account for more than 80% of the actual wine production. Most of the vintners welcome visitors, for tours and tastings. Monday is a major closing day for many museums, as well as small hotels and restaurants, so plan a drive through the countryside on that day.

#### Baden Wine Route Hotels

The Baden Wine Route offers a wide choice of accommodations, from inexpensive *Zimmern* (rooms in private homes), to *Ferienwohnungen* (holiday apartments), plus many hotels, basic through top-class.

#### Hotel-Restaurant Rebenhof Neuweier

An attractive lobby welcomes guests to the family-run Hotel Rebenhof, nestled in the vineyards of the Baden-Baden Rebland, on the outskirts of the village of Neuweier. Some of its 25 rooms are decorated in traditional, woody style; others are modern, with bright colors and sleek, yet comfortable furniture. Some have a balcony, and all rooms overlook the vine-covered rolling hills.

Room categories are "classic," "charm," and "appartement." All have large windows and spacious tile bathrooms. Room Numbers 10, 16, and 25 (apartments) are especially large, with sitting areas and balconies. The friendly Ziegler family make guests feel very much at home in their pleasant, restful, and quiet hotel, which also has an excellent, beautifully decorated restaurant. The Rebenhof is a headquarters for sev-

eral days while visiting this part of the Baden Wine Route.

**Contact:** Hotel-Restaurant Rebenhof, Weinstrasse 58, 76534 Baden-Baden/Neuweier, tel. +49/7223-96-310, fax 96-31-31, [info@hotel-rebenhof.de](mailto:info@hotel-rebenhof.de), [www.hotel-rebenhof.de](http://www.hotel-rebenhof.de)

**Daily Rates:** Singles €66-71, doubles €94-115, apartments €128-150, breakfast included. Reduced rates for longer stays.

**Rating:** QUALITY 16/20, VALUE 16/20

#### Hotel-Restaurant Traube Neuweier

For a town of only 3,000 people, Neuweier boasts many good hotel options and the traditionally-styled Traube, run by the Baumann family, is among the popular choices (book well in advance). Built on the main road, its window boxes brimming with flowers, the three-story Gasthaus offers 17 cozy, clean, and comfortable rooms, each with its own decor.

A generous, delicious breakfast buffet is served until late morning in one of the two beautiful dining rooms of the hotel's ground floor restaurant. In the afternoon, relax with a glass of local wine in the pleasant garden out back. (Be sure to try the Spätburgunder Sekt, a Weissherbst, or rosé, wine from one of the Baden vineyards.) The combination of good quality and friendly atmosphere make the Traube an especially appealing place to stay.

**Contact:** Hotel-Restaurant Traube, Mauerbergstrasse 107, 76534 Baden-Baden/Neuweier, tel. +49/7223-96-820, fax 96-82-82, [traube-neuweier@t-online.de](mailto:traube-neuweier@t-online.de), [www.traube-neuweier.de](http://www.traube-neuweier.de)

**Daily Rates:** Singles €69, doubles €99-125, suite €159. Lower rates for longer stays.

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

#### Hotel-Restaurant Weinberg Umweg

Another nice, traditional lodging in the Baden-Baden Rebland is the Hotel Weinberg, located (as its name implies) in the vineyards near Steinbach-Umweg. This little *Gast-*

Editor's  
Choice

## Book Hotels Online

[www.gemut.com](http://www.gemut.com)

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VW PASSAT (AUTO)	\$363	\$52
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MBZ E200 (AUTO/GPS)	\$473	\$68
VW TOURAN	\$327	\$47
VW GOLF SW	\$268	\$38
VW PASSAT SW	\$319	\$46
AUDI A4 SW (GPS)	\$343	\$49
BMW 530 SW (AUTO/GPS)	\$586	\$84
VOLVO V70 SW (GPS)	\$394	\$56
VW SHARAN 7-PASS	\$637	\$91
VW MINIBUS 9-PASS	\$637	\$91

### AUSTRIA

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PEUGEOT 308	\$354	\$51
VW GOLF (AUTO)	\$494	\$71
AUDI A3	\$379	\$54
SKODA OCTAVIA	\$380	\$54
MAZDA 6 (AUTO)	\$726	\$104
VW TOURAN (AUTO)	\$569	\$81
FORD FOCUS WAGON	\$376	\$54
SKODA OCTAVIA WAGON	\$489	\$70
CHRYSLER VOYAGER VAN	\$1037	\$148

### SWITZERLAND

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OPEL VECTRA	\$409	\$58
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FORD GALAXY VAN	\$579	\$83
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Tarmac 22"	Reg: \$275	<b>Your Price: \$247.50</b>
Tarmac 25"	Reg: \$295	<b>Your Price: \$265.50</b>
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# 2010 European Rail Pass Prices

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EURAILPASS	1 Adult 1st Cl.	Saver* 1st Cl.	Youth 2nd Cl.	
15 consecutive days	\$756	\$641	\$491	
consecutive days	\$980	\$832	\$636	
1 month	\$1218	\$1032	\$793	
2 months	\$1719	\$1461	\$1118	
3 months	\$2120	\$1809	\$1382	
EURAIL FLEXIPASS	1 Adult 1st Cl.	Saver* 1st Cl.	Youth 2nd Cl.	
10 days in 2 months	\$893	\$758	\$583	
15 days in 2 months	\$1173	\$999	\$763	
EURAIL SELECTPASS	1 Adult 1st Cl.	Saver* 1st Cl.	Youth 2nd Cl.	
3 adjoining countries				
5 days in 2 months	\$479	\$407	\$312	
6 days in 2 months	\$529	\$451	\$346	
8 days in 2 months	\$628	\$536	\$407	
10 days in 2 months	\$727	\$615	\$470	
4 adjoining countries				
5 days in 2 months	\$536	\$453	\$348	
6 days in 2 months	\$586	\$500	\$381	
8 days in 2 months	\$684	\$582	\$444	
10 days in 2 months	\$782	\$663	\$506	
5 adjoining countries				
5 days in 2 months	\$591	\$501	\$384	
6 days in 2 months	\$641	\$544	\$415	
8 days in 2 months	\$740	\$627	\$479	
10 days in 2 months	\$835	\$708	\$541	
15 days in 2 months	\$1059	\$901	\$689	
AUSTRIAN RAILPASS	1st Cl.	2nd Cl.	Child 1st	Child 2nd
3 days in 1 month	\$201	\$140	\$101	\$71
Avg. Extra Rail Day (5 max.)	\$28	\$19	\$14	\$10

## AUSTRIA-CZECH PASS

	Adult 1st Cl.	Saver* 1st Cl.	Youth 2nd Cl.
4 days in 2 months	\$243	\$207	\$158
Avg. Extra Rail Day (6 max.)	\$33	\$28	\$21

## CZECH-GERMANY PASS

	1 Adult 1st Cl.	2nd Cl.	Saver* 1st Cl.	2nd Cl.	Youth 2nd Cl.
5 days in 2 months	\$377	\$310	\$310	\$266	\$266
6 days in 2 months	\$419	\$344	\$344	\$296	\$296
8 days in 2 months	\$491	\$408	\$408	\$352	\$352
10 days in 2 months	\$566	\$471	\$471	\$410	\$410

## EUROPEAN EAST PASS

Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia		
5 days in 1 month	\$299 (1Cl)	\$209 (2Cl)
Avg. Extra Rail Day (6 max.)	\$36	\$28

## FRANCE RAIL PASS

	Adults 1st Cl.	2nd Cl.	Senior 1st Cl.	Youth 1st Cl.	2nd Cl.
3 days in 1 month	\$293	\$250	\$268	\$217	\$186
Avg. Extra Rail Day (6 max.)	\$45	\$37	\$40	\$33	\$28

## FRANCE SAVER PASS

	2 Adults*	
	1st Cl.	2nd Cl.
3 days in 1 month	\$249	\$215
Avg. Extra Rail Day (6 max.)	\$39	\$31

## FRANCE-ITALY PASS

	1 Adult 1st Cl.	2nd Cl.	Saver* 1st Cl.	2nd Cl.	Youth 2nd Cl.
4 days in 2 months	\$351	\$307	\$307	\$271	\$232
5 days in 2 months	\$391	\$341	\$341	\$301	\$258
6 days in 2 months	\$432	\$377	\$377	\$332	\$283
7 days in 2 months	\$473	\$410	\$410	\$360	\$313
8 days in 2 months	\$513	\$448	\$448	\$394	\$341
9 days in 2 months	\$554	\$483	\$483	\$426	\$366
10 days in 2 months	\$595	\$519	\$519	\$454	\$396

## FRANCE-SWITZERLAND PASS

	1 Adult 1st Cl.	Saver* 1st Cl.	Youth 2nd Cl.
4 days in 2 months	\$376	\$319	\$265
Avg. Extra Rail Day (6 max.)	\$42	\$35	\$29

## GERMAN RAILPASS

	1 Adult 1st Cl.	Youth 2nd Cl.	Twin Pass* 1st Cl.	2nd Cl.
3 days in 1 month	\$364	\$277	\$222	\$280
Avg. Extra Rail Day (6)	\$45	\$30	\$17	\$31

## AUSTRIA-GERMANY PASS

	1 Adult 1st Cl.	2nd Cl.	Saver* 1st Cl.	2nd Cl.	Youth 2nd Cl.
5 days in 2 months	\$390	\$332	\$332	\$285	\$285
6 days in 2 months	\$429	\$365	\$365	\$315	\$315
8 days in 2 months	\$510	\$433	\$433	\$372	\$372
10 days in 2 months	\$593	\$504	\$504	\$433	\$433

## GERMANY-BENELUX PASS

	1 Adult 1st Cl.	2nd Cl.	Saver* 1st Cl.	2nd Cl.	Youth 2nd Cl.
5 days in 1 month	\$405	\$305	\$305	\$247	\$247
Avg. Extra Rail Day (5 max.)	\$43	\$33	\$33	\$24	\$24

## GERMANY-FRANCE PASS

	1 Adult 1st Cl.	2nd Cl.	Saver* 1st Cl.	2nd Cl.	Youth 2nd Cl.
4 days in 2 months	\$430	\$388	\$388	\$350	\$301
5 days in 2 months	\$475	\$428	\$428	\$386	\$333
6 days in 2 months	\$520	\$468	\$468	\$418	\$366
8 days in 2 months	\$611	\$550	\$550	\$479	\$428
10 days in 2 months	\$701	\$632	\$632	\$550	\$496

## GERMANY-SWITZERLAND PASS

	1 Adult 1st Cl.	Saver* 1st Cl.	Youth 2nd Cl.
5 days in 2 months	\$452	\$385	\$318
6 days in 2 months	\$498	\$424	\$350
8 days in 2 months	\$589	\$503	\$414
10 days in 2 months	\$681	\$582	\$479

## ITALY RAIL PASS

	1 Adult 1st Cl.	2nd Cl.	Saver* 1st Cl.	2nd Cl.	Youth 2nd Cl.
3 days in 2 months	\$244	\$199	\$208	\$169	\$161
Avg. Extra Rail Day	\$30	\$24	\$25	\$20	\$19

## AUSTRIA-SWITZERLAND PASS

	Adults 1st Cl.	Saver* 1st Cl.	Youth 2nd Cl.
4 days in 2 months	\$366	\$311	\$257
Avg. Extra Rail Day (6 max.)	\$41	\$35	\$28

## SWISS SAVERPASS & SWISS PASS

	1 Adult		Saver*		Youth	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
	Class	Class	Class	Class	Class	Class
4 consec. days	\$399	\$266	\$340	\$226	\$299	\$200
8 consec. days	\$576	\$384	\$490	\$328	\$432	\$290
15 consec. days	\$697	\$465	\$593	\$395	\$523	\$350
22 consec. days	\$805	\$536	\$685	\$457	\$604	\$403
1 month	\$885	\$590	\$753	\$503	\$664	\$443

## SWISS SAVER FLEXIPASS & SWISS FLEXIPASS

	2 or more Adults*		1 Adult	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
	Class	Class	Class	Class
3 days in 1 month	\$326	\$217	\$383	\$255
4 days in 1 month	\$395	\$263	\$463	\$309
5 days in 1 month	\$457	\$305	\$536	\$358
6 days in 1 month	\$519	\$347	\$609	\$407

## SWISS CARD

1 month - 1 round trip	\$261 (1-Cl)	\$187 (2-Cl)
plus 50% discount on rail tickets		

## SWISS TRANSFER TICKET

1 month - 1 round trip	\$196 (1-Cl)	\$130 (2-Cl)
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(\*Prices per person, based on two or more traveling together at all times. \*\*Junior & Youth fares apply only to passengers under 26. Where senior fares are offered, 60 is qualifying age. Children 4-11 pay half the adult fare including Saverpass fares except Switzerland where kids under 16 are free with a parent.)

**IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT PRICES:** The US dollar prices on this page are based on the euro and are subject to change with currency fluctuation. Pass orders will be processed in dollars, but amounts charged may vary from prices shown on this page.

Product	# Days	1st/2nd Class	Circle one	Passenger Name (First and Last as on Passport)	Country of Residence	Price
				Mr./Mrs.		
				Mr./Mrs.		
				Mr./Mrs.		
				Mr./Mrs.		

Special Considerations (Specify countries for countries chosen for Selectpass, additional rail days, etc.)

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*haus* offers 10 double rooms (many with balconies) and one single. Some rooms are decorated in a restful modern style, with soft, soothing colors. Others, such as Numbers six and seven, have wooden furniture dating from 1900, with separate sitting areas, plenty of closet space, and each has a balcony. Spacious and contemporary, Number 11 offers a balcony and a view of the vineyards.

The Weinberg is especially quiet and its restaurant serves up interesting Baden regional dishes and reasonably-priced local wines. Dine in the charming wood-paneled *Stube*, with country furniture and a ceramic *Kachelofen* heater from the early 1900s. Or sit outside on the multi-level terrace, sipping Riesling wine amid the vines that produced it.

**Contact:** Hotel-Restaurant Weinberg, Umweger Strasse 68, Baden-Baden/Steinbach-Umweg, tel. +49/7223-96-970, fax 96-97-30, [info@weinberg-umweg.de](mailto:info@weinberg-umweg.de), [www.weinberg-umweg.de](http://www.weinberg-umweg.de)

**Daily rates:** Singles €54-60, doubles €76-88

**Rating:** QUALITY 15/20, VALUE 16/20

### Hotel-Restaurant Rebstock Durbach

Stay in luxurious comfort at the family-owned Hotel-Restaurant Rebstock, just beyond the village of Durbach in the steep valley bisected by the little Durbach river that rushes down from the heights of the Black Forest. Located in the Ortenau wine district, between the towns of Oberkirch and Offenburg, Durbach is a popular vacation spot that still maintains its small-town ambience.

The hotel is situated in a large, lovely, well-landscaped park outside the town. Recently renovated, it offers 12 large rooms and suites, each individually named and distinctively decorated in a variety of traditional styles. All of the rooms have comfortable sitting areas, and several have balconies with park, forest, and vineyard views.

The hotel's well-rated restaurant features six distinct, elegantly decorated dining areas. The menu lists a

good selection of dishes, with emphasis on Baden regional recipes and products, accompanied by freshly baked breads from the restaurant's wood-fired oven. Reasonably priced daily and seasonal multi-course, fixed-price menus are available, too. A small shop on the premises also sells the hotel's own distilled liquors and other local food products.

Relax in the hotel's spa, get a massage, meditate in the park, or take yoga lessons. The hotel offers several packages that include room, meals, wellness programs, and special events. For a combination of luxury, friendly service, and fine food in beautiful, quiet surroundings, the Rebstock is hard to beat.

**Contact:** Hotel-Restaurant Rebstock, Halbgüte 30, 77770 Durbach, tel. +49/781-4820, fax 48-21-60, [info@rebstock-durbach.de](mailto:info@rebstock-durbach.de), [www.rebstock-durbach.de](http://www.rebstock-durbach.de)

**Daily rates:** Singles €70-76, doubles €118-126 (comfort-class rooms), singles €87-94, doubles €146-158 (apartments), singles €97-110, doubles €156-184 (suites). Reduced rates for stays of three or more nights.

**Rating:** QUALITY 17/20, VALUE 16/20

### Baden Wine Route Restaurants

The Baden Wine Region's gastronomic reputation is well-deserved. Many of its chefs excel at traditional dishes of fresh, local ingredients interpreted in personal, creative, modern ways. Paired with the region's fine wines, the food delights diners at a wide variety of restaurants, from small *Gasthäuser* to Michelin three-star establishments.

A tradition in this (and other) German wine regions is the *Strausswirtschaft*, a small, down-home restaurant located on a winery's premises. Here the vintner sells home-cooked light meals and cold plates to accompany his own wines. These little eateries are open only during the season, usually for four months from summer through mid-autumn. They are excellent places to taste local wine and food at reasonable prices in a country atmosphere, often in the company of the vintner's neigh-

bors enjoying themselves at other tables. A bunch of broom straws, often decorated with colorful ribbons, hangs over the entryway of an open *Strausswirtschaft*. (Many are open only from late afternoon until 10 or 11pm.)

As in other parts of Germany, Baden has its own regional dishes and special terms for certain foods: *Biblisckäs* or *Bibbelesckäs* (soft, fresh white cheese, similar to cottage cheese, seasoned with fresh herbs and spread on bread); *Brägele* (cottage-fried potatoes); *Weckle* (yeast buns); *Sonnewirbele* (lamb's lettuce); *Kratzede* (pancakes); *Flammkuchen* (Alsatian-style thin crust "pizza" with *crème fraîche*, onions, and bacon on top). In the region's high-end restaurants that border France, menu items are often listed in both German and French.

### Schwarzer Adler Vogtsburg-Oberbergen

A Michelin one-star restaurant in the Kaiserstuhl wine district, the Schwarzer Adler has long been a destination for food lovers from both sides of the Rhine. Under the direction of owner/manager Fritz Keller, a descendant of the founders, the business encompasses not only the elegant, upscale restaurant, but also a more traditional country inn across the street; the Franz Keller Schwarzer Adler wine estate and wine import/export company. Hotel accommodations are also available at the Schwarzer Adler Hotel-Restaurant and an annex, Im Weinberg, at the foot of the steep vineyards of the Kaiserstuhl.

The restaurant's menu and award-winning list of 2,200 wines reflect the French influence on this region's cuisine, and the Kellers' love of French Burgundy and Bordeaux wines as well as their own estate-bottled Baden wines. The restaurant has maintained its Michelin star rating continuously since 1969, and in 2008 its current *chef de cuisine*, Anibal Strubinger, was named one of Germany's top 50 chefs.

The menu varies with the sea-

EDITOR'S CHOICE

sons, and different special fixed-price menus change throughout the year. (Check the restaurant's website for dates and prices.) Regular fixed-price, multi-course menus range from €52 to €89, plus wine. Three-course meals ordered à la carte cost from €45 to €87. Specialties include raw, marinated mussels with tuna-mango-ginger vinaigrette, and young hen with black truffles, baked in a sea-salt crust.

A recent meal on the Schwarzer Adler's vine-covered terrace began with a wild-herb salad with Franconian chanterelle mushrooms, followed by filet of Atlantic turbot on a potato-caper ragout, and medalion of local wild venison in a spicy sauce. Afterwards came a basket of fresh Kaiserstuhl berries in caramelized-sugar, with Romanoff sauce and yogurt sorbet. All were beautifully plated and accompanied by a selection of matching wines. We finished with excellent coffee and petits fours.

Across the street the **Winzerhaus Rebstock**, under the same management, offers top-quality country cuisine (regional Baden and Alsatian dishes) at affordable prices in a casual *Gasthaus* setting. The highest priced items on the menu are the house-made duck liver terrine (€16.50) and veal with mushroom-cream sauce (€17); most dishes are in the €7-14 range.

The Schwarzer Adler is open Friday through Tuesday, for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended.

Winzerhaus Rebstock is open March-October daily; November-February, Wednesday-Friday, at 4pm; Saturday, Sunday, and holidays, at noon.

**Contact:** Restaurant-Hotel Schwarzer Adler, Badbergstrasse 23, 79235 Vogtsburg-Oberbergen im Kaiserstuhl, tel. +49/7662-93-30-10, fax 93-30-46, [reservations@schwarzeradler.eu](mailto:reservations@schwarzeradler.eu), [www.schwarzeradler.eu](http://www.schwarzeradler.eu), [www.franz-keller.de](http://www.franz-keller.de)

**Rating:\*** QUALITY 17/20, VALUE 16/20 (\*for Restaurant Schwarzer Adler)

### Restaurant-Cafe Röderswald Baden-Baden-Varnhalt

Set high in the Riesling vineyards of the Baden-Baden Rebland, near the village of Varnhalt, the little family-run Restaurant-Cafe Röderswald is a pleasant place to quaff local wines on the terrace or enjoy a meal while gazing at the expansive views over the Rhine plain as far as Alsace.

The daily three-course special menu includes a soup, main dish, and dessert for €12.90. Regular menu offerings start with soups, appetizers and salads (€3.50-10.20). Fish dishes include very good Black Forest trout in Riesling cream sauce with fresh mushrooms and green noodles (€14.20). A beloved regional specialty is *Maultaschen*, large ravioli-like pasta stuffed with vegetables and garnished with cheese sauce (€9.30). Other main dishes range from €7.50-18.90, and several tempting desserts are €2.90-4.90. You'll need an invigorating walk in the vineyards after eating the *Schokoladen Dreierlei*: a big rich brownie, chocolate-chip ice cream, and chocolate mousse, served together in a pool of eggy-boozy Advocat liqueur and topped with whipped cream.

**Contact:** Restaurant-Cafe Röderswald, Röderswaldweg 25, 76534 Baden-Baden/Varnhalt, tel. +49/7223-5628, fax 50-870, [info@roederswald.de](mailto:info@roederswald.de), [www.roederswald.de](http://www.roederswald.de). Closed Mondays.

**Rating:** QUALITY 12/20, VALUE 14/20

### Restaurant Rebenhof Baden-Baden-Neuweier

The lovely Restaurant Rebenhof, in the hotel of the same name on the edge of Neuweier, is the sort of friendly, upscale, country restaurant where locals come for special occasions and tourists try to keep secret for themselves. Three elegant dining rooms and an adjacent large terrace all provide panoramic views over the Riesling vineyards of the Baden-Baden Rebland and the Rhine plain.

Dishes are prepared with care, served in generous portions, and

artfully plated. The menu, which changes seasonally, offers a small selection of soups and appetizers (€4.60-11.80), followed by several fish, meat, and vegetarian main dishes (€13-21). Even if you feel stuffed from the large portions of fine food, you'll still be tempted by the separate dessert menu, which also features seasonal products.

*Gemütlichkeit* recently sampled the fixed-price, three-course daily menu (€22). It progressed through a creamy *chanterelle* mushroom soup, pork steak with a rich plum-and-pepper sauce with perfectly cooked fresh vegetables and plenty of little *Spätzle* dumplings, to an ice-cream-and-espresso-coffee dessert. A good selection of moderately priced local and regional wines, by the glass or the bottle, tempts patrons to linger on the terrace to watch the sunset over the vineyards. Highly recommended.

Open Monday evening through Saturday, noon-2pm, 6-9:30pm.

**Contact:** Hotel-Restaurant Rebenhof, Weinstrasse 58, 76534 Baden-Baden/Neuweier, tel. +49/7223-96-310, fax 96-31-31, [info@hotel-rebenhof.de](mailto:info@hotel-rebenhof.de), [www.hotel-rebenhof.de](http://www.hotel-rebenhof.de)

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

Two other highly rated restaurants in Neuweier are also recommended:

- **Restaurant Traube**, in the Hotel Traube, Mauerbergstrasse 107, 76534 Baden-Baden/Neuweier, tel. +49/7223-96-820, fax 96-82-82, [traube-neuweier@t-online.de](mailto:traube-neuweier@t-online.de), [www.traube-neuweier.de](http://www.traube-neuweier.de)

- **Restaurant im Schloss Neuweier**, in a medieval castle on the edge of the town, Mauerbergstrasse 21, 756534 Baden-Baden/Neuweier, tel. +49/7223-957-0555, fax 957-0556, [info@armin-roettele.de](mailto:info@armin-roettele.de), [www.armin-roettele.de](http://www.armin-roettele.de)

### Weingut Felix & Kilian Hunn Gottenheim Am Tuniberg

This cozy, friendly little *Strausswirtschaft* is in the courtyard of a converted stable at the Felix &

Kilian Hunn Winery in Gottenheim, a village in the Tuniberg wine district west of Freiburg. But only during the four summer and autumn months that it's open as a *Strausswirtschaft*, can one sample the tasty, house-made "small dishes" along with the Hunns' own Tuniberg wines and their house-distilled fruit liquors. The *gemütlich* atmosphere is typical of a family-run Baden winery.

At prices low enough to fit the most exchange-rate-challenged budget (€4), it is possible to try five of the Hunns' red and white wines, then taste a selection of Baden country-style hot dishes and cold platters (sausages, cheeses) in the €4-7 range. These can be accompanied by other moderately priced wines.

Don't miss the potato salad, made from a recipe of the family's grandmother, or the Hunn's well-known onion tart, served in autumn as an accompaniment to cloudy, bubbly, yeasty "new wine"; or their rich, dense, wine-soaked cake—also from family recipes.

**Contact:** Weingut Felix und Kilian Hunn, Rathausstrasse 2, 79288 Gottenheim/Tuniberg, tel., +49/7665-6207, fax 6223, [mail@weingut-hunn.de](mailto:mail@weingut-hunn.de), [www.weingut-hunn.de](http://www.weingut-hunn.de)

**Rating:** QUALITY 12/20, VALUE 15/20 ■

## SEGWAY TO SIGHTS

*Continued from page 1*

Pittsfield—plus Florida's Walt Disney World and on Yale University's campus in New Haven.

Swinging over to *Gemütlichkeit* territory in mid-continental Europe, I've found a growing number of reliable resources for guided tours (check ahead for age and weight requirements). They are, for instance, in:

**Berlin:** Participants wearing obligatory bicycle-type safety helmets gather at Alexanderplatz for 25-minute orientation, followed by four-hour touring aboard their Segways via all the most notable sites on a 12km route: Checkpoint Charlie, Finance Ministry (former wartime Luftwaffe HQ), Brandenburg Gate, Museum Island, Bebelplatz,

remainders of the infamous Wall, Reichstag, Potsdamer Platz. €67 per-person. **Contact:** City Segway Tours, tel. +49/30/247/991, [berlin@citysegwaytours.com](mailto:berlin@citysegwaytours.com), <http://citysegwaytours.com/berlin>

**Munich:** "How-to" intro on mid-city Marienplatz, then a three-hour jaunt by way of Max-Joseph-Platz, the Bavarian National Museum, Hofgarten greenery, Schwabing's university area and Königsplatz—also zipping at a moderate pace through the sprawling, woodsy Englischer Garten. €60 per-person.

**Contact:** Segway Tour München, tel. +49/89/233/96/500, [info@segwaytour-munich.de](mailto:info@segwaytour-munich.de), [www.Seg-Tour-Munich.de](http://www.Seg-Tour-Munich.de)

Excursions have been popping up in other sizeable *Deutschland* cities: Düsseldorf, Cologne, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Hamburg, etc. Learn more by contacting the German National Tourist Office in New York City, tel. 212-661-7200, fax: 212-661-7174, [www.cometogermany.com](http://www.cometogermany.com)

**Vienna:** After meeting for instructions near the Austrian capital's Staatsoper opera house, Segway-goers follow Ringstrasse roadsides leading to en-route views of two tall-steepled landmarks—St. Stephen's cathedral and the Rathaus. They glide through Stadtgarten and Augarten public greenery, pass the Habsburgs' Hofburg palace, Belvedere gardens and the Albertina museum complex, in addition to two-wheeler touring through Schönbrunn's royal park and on scenic Danube waterside paths. Spending three easygoing hours enjoying this costs €70 per-person (10% discount with the Wien-Karte).

**Contact:** City Segway Tours, tel. +43/1/729/7234, [vienna@citysegway-tours.com](mailto:vienna@citysegway-tours.com), [www.citysegwaytours.com](http://www.citysegwaytours.com)

**Steyr:** Crammed onto a sharp triangle of land formed by the Steyr and Enns rivers, this outstandingly picturesque little Upper Austrian city began its Segway-touring activity four years ago. Departing from the Berggasse side of the Stadtplatz, participants cross many of the city's

116 bridges and catwalks for lengthy riverside riding. Sights along the way include Austria's preeminent Christmas museum, a pair of rock-solid old gateways, 1647's hilltop Michaelerkirche (its façade sporting an allegorical fresco), Pfarrgasse's 15th-century Parish Church and the Baroque, clock-towered Rathaus. Pay €55 per-person for two-and-a-half hour riding-while-viewing; scheduled weekends from April through October.

**Contact:** Tourismusverband Steyr, tel. +43/7252/53229, [info@tourism-steyr.at](mailto:info@tourism-steyr.at), [www.steyr.info/steyrsegwaytours](http://www.steyr.info/steyrsegwaytours)

**Prague:** The seasonal "personal-transporter" boom has spread eastward in Europe, with much to see in the beautifully laid-out Czech capital. Meet-and-greet at Old Town Square, then to Wenceslas Square, the turreted Powder Gate, past the National Gallery, National Theater and Rudolfinum concert hall, meandering through the densely populated Josefov Jewish Quarter, on pathways flanking the Vltava River, across the statue-festooned Charles Bridge and swerving onto midstream Kampa Island. Cost for a 90-minute jaunt: €48 per-person.

**Contact:** Segway CZ-Praha, tel. +420/266/710/300, [info@segway-cz.com](mailto:info@segway-cz.com), [www.segway-cz.com](http://www.segway-cz.com)

**Budapest:** Long stretches of promenades bordering both banks of the Danube are tempting for Segway enthusiasts, who meet initially on Lázár utca in the heart of Pest. Three-hour midyear touring takes in St. Stephen's basilica, the state opera house, Roosevelt Square, Vörösmarty Square, passing the central market hall in the bustling Vaci district, elegant Andrassy Boulevard and—by way of the famous Chain Bridge—over to the lofty castle district on the Buda side of the river. Reasonably priced at €56 per-person.

**Contact:** City Segway Tours, tel. +36/1/269/3843, [budapest@citysegwaytours.com](mailto:budapest@citysegwaytours.com), [www.citysegwaytours.com/budapest](http://www.citysegwaytours.com/budapest) ■

**DEAR SUBSCRIBER***Continued from page 2*

while the cost of four-day, second-class Germany Rail Passes for four persons is \$844, and \$1,172 first-class.

When the comparison involves travel to multiple countries, it leans heavily in favor of the automobile, especially if the rental originates in Germany. A couple who plan to visit Germany, Austria and Switzerland over a 14-day period will pay about \$785 (\$470 plus \$315 fuel) for a 3,000-kilometer tour in a compact car. The eight-day, three-country, **Eurail Select Saver** for two persons is \$1,072. For a party of four, the cost of an intermediate VW Passat with fuel for 3,000 kilometers is around \$900 while the eight-day rail pass is \$2,144.

Despite its frequent price spikes, European rail travel is an excellent product. The trains are getting faster, quieter, and smoother, and, unlike airports, some of the centrally-located stations—Zürich, Berlin, and Leipzig, to name three quickly—are worthy of a visit even if you're not riding the trains.

In addition, Rail Europe has done a good job creating new products that fit today's traveler. Here are three new ones for 2010:

**Central Europe Triangle**

This new pass offers three one-way rail trips from Vienna. The two itineraries available are Vienna-Budapest-Prague-Vienna, or Vienna-Salzburg-Prague-Vienna. Travel for both itineraries can be in either direction. The pass is sold for second-class travel only and costs \$157 for adults or \$79 for kids 4-11.

**Top of Europe and Ticino**

Provides four rail tickets and four nights in three-star hotels, breakfast included; two nights in Interlaken or Grindelwald and two nights in Lucarno or Lugano. The packages are \$1,422 second-class and \$1,546 first-class. The hotel can be upgraded to four-star for \$45 per night, per person and additional hotel nights can be purchased starting at \$51 per person.

**Paris Pass**

A smart-chip card provides unlimited transportation in central Paris plus free, priority entry to 50 museums, castles, gardens, cathedrals, and monuments. This first-class pass is available for two (\$137), four (\$198) or six (\$244) consecutive days. Substantial discounts for youths 12-17, and children 4-11. The pass may not be good for special, temporary exhibits at some museums.

More European rail travel news:

- The Italian fast train, **Cisalpino**, no longer operates between Switzerland and Italy. The routes are still served by trains with the **EuroCity** designation. Such trains stop only in major cities (seldom for more than five minutes), have cars with food and beverage service, and average at least 90kmh including stops.

- There are no more Switzerland-Italy night trains.

- The Vienna-Venice route requires a connection for day trains, sometimes via bus, between Venice and Villach.

- Vienna-Amsterdam overnight trains require a change in Cologne.

- The **Swiss Chocolate Train**—Montreux to Broc (home of Cailler-Nestlé chocolate factory), with a stop in Gruyères for an excursion to the fromagerie (cheese factory)—resumes service in June. Swiss Pass holders ride free but must pay a seat reservation fee.

- WiFi service is now available on some **German ICE** (InterCityExpress) trains. To find out if wireless Internet is offered on your route, consult the timetables at [bahn.de](http://bahn.de).

- **Deutsche Bahn** has shown interest in running its ICE trains from Cologne to London. A study claims the service would carry a million passengers per year. Such a trip is currently possible by taking the train from Cologne to Brussels and changing there to the **Eurostar** to London. Tickets for the Cologne-Brussels-London route can currently be purchased online at [bahn.de](http://bahn.de) for as little as €49. ■

**We Recommend**

This listing of good value, mid-priced hotels in popular destination cities is intended for fast reference. Additional hotels and links to hotel websites is in the "Hotels" pages at [www.gemut.com](http://www.gemut.com). Hotels are arranged in price order, higher to lower.

**Berlin**

**Hotel Art Nouveau**, Leibnizstr. 59, tel. +49/030/327 7440, [info@hotelartnouveau.de](mailto:info@hotelartnouveau.de), [www.hotelartnouveau.de](http://www.hotelartnouveau.de)

**Hotel Domus**, Uhlendstrasse 49, Germany D-10719, tel. +49/030/882041, fax 882 0410, [info@hotel-domus-berlin.de](mailto:info@hotel-domus-berlin.de)

**Bern**

**Hotel Bristol**, Schauplatzgasse 10, CH-3011, tel. +41/31/311 0101, fax 311 9479, email [reception@bristolbern.ch](mailto:reception@bristolbern.ch)

**Hotel Kreuz**, Zeughausgasse 41, CH-3000, tel. +41/031/329 9595, fax 329 95 96, [hotelkreuz@swissonline.ch](mailto:hotelkreuz@swissonline.ch)

**Lucerne**

**Hotel Wilden Mann**, Bahnhofstrasse 30, CH-6000 Luzern, tel. +41/041/2101666, fax 2101629, [mail@wilden-mann.ch](mailto:mail@wilden-mann.ch)

**Hotel Cascada**, Bundesplatz 18, CH-6003 Lucerne, tel. +41/041/226 80 88, fax 226 80 00, [info@cascada.ch](mailto:info@cascada.ch)

**Munich**

**Hotel Exquisit**, Pettenkoflerstr. 3, tel. +49/089/ 551 99 0, fax 551 99 499, [info@hotel-exquisit.com](mailto:info@hotel-exquisit.com).

**Hotel Acanthus**, An Der Hauptfeuerwache 14, D-80331 München, tel. +49/089/ 23 18 80, e-mail: [acanthus@t-online.de](mailto:acanthus@t-online.de)

**Hotel Kraft**, Schillerstr. 49, tel. +49/089/594823-24, fax 550 3856, [office@kraft-hotel.com](mailto:office@kraft-hotel.com)

**Rothenburg ob der Tauber**

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

**Hotel Hornburg**, Hornburgweg 28, D-91541, tel. +049/09861/8480, fax 5570, [hotelhornburg@t-online.de](mailto:hotelhornburg@t-online.de), [www.hotelhornburg.de](http://www.hotelhornburg.de)

**Salzburg & Environs**

**Schloss Haunsperg**, A-5411 Oberalm bei Hallein, Hammerstrasse 32, tel. +43/06245/80662, fax 85680, [info@schlosshaunsperg.com](mailto:info@schlosshaunsperg.com)

**Hotel Struber**, Nonntaler Hauptstrasse 35, Austria A-5020 tel. +43/0662/843 728, fax 843 728 8, [struber@sbg.at](mailto:struber@sbg.at)

**Hotel Jedermann**, Rupertgasse 25, Austria A-5020, tel. +43/0662/873241-0, [jedermann@salzburginfo.or.at](mailto:jedermann@salzburginfo.or.at)

**Vienna**

**Hotel Römischer Kaiser**, Annagasse 16, A-1010, tel. +43/01/512 77 51 0, [info@rkhotel.bestwestern.com](mailto:info@rkhotel.bestwestern.com)

**Altstadt Vienna**, Kirchengasse 41, tel. +43/01/526 3399-0, fax 523 4901, [hotel@altstadt.at](mailto:hotel@altstadt.at), [www.altstadt.at](http://www.altstadt.at)

**Pension Aviano**, Marco-D'Aviano-Gasse 1, tel. +43/01/512 8330, fax 512 8330 6, [aviano@pertschy.com](mailto:aviano@pertschy.com)

**Zürich**

**Hotel Florhof**, Florhofgasse 4, Switzerland CH-8001, tel. 41/01/261 4470, fax 261 4611, [info@florhof.ch](mailto:info@florhof.ch)

**Hotel Arlette**, Stampfenbachstrasse 26, Switzerland CH-8001, tel. +41/01/25 20 032, fax 25 20 932, [hotel.arlette@bluwin.ch](mailto:hotel.arlette@bluwin.ch)

**Frankfurt Airport**

**Steigenberger Esprit Hotel Frankfurt Airport**, CargoCity Süd, D-60549, tel. +49/069/69 70 99, fax 69 70 94 44, [frankfurt@esprit-hotels.de](mailto:frankfurt@esprit-hotels.de)

**Hotel Birkenhof**, von-Eiff-Str 37, Hanau-Steinheim, D-63456, tel. +49/06181/648 80, fax 64 88 39, [info@HotelBirkenhof.de](mailto:info@HotelBirkenhof.de), [www.hotelbirkenhof.de](http://www.hotelbirkenhof.de) (25-minuted from airport)

**Hotel Dreieich**, Frankfurter Str. 49, Langen, D-63225, tel. +49/06103/91 50, fax 52 030, [hotel-dreieich@gmx.de](mailto:hotel-dreieich@gmx.de)

**Munich Airport**

**Daniel's Hotel**, Hauptstrasse 11, Halbergmoos-Goldach, D-85399, tel. +49/0811/55120, fax 551213, [info@hotel-daniels.de](mailto:info@hotel-daniels.de), [www.hotel-daniels.de](http://www.hotel-daniels.de)

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

**Zürich Airport**

**Mövenpick Zürich Airport**, Walter-Mittelholzerstrasse 8, CH-8152 Glattpfurg, tel. +41/01/808 88 88, fax 808 88 77, [hotel@movenpick-zurich-airport.ch](mailto:hotel@movenpick-zurich-airport.ch)

**Hotel Fly Away**, Marktgasse 19, Zürich-Kloten, CH-8302, tel. +41/01/804 4455, [reservation@hotel-flyaway.ch](mailto:reservation@hotel-flyaway.ch)