

September 24, 1999

### Munich Expert

Say hello to Nick Selby, prolific scribbler, world traveler, and Münchener. This month we welcome him to our small stable of *Gemütlichkeit* contributors.

From his Munich base, Nick takes on a variety of writing assignments, mostly for the hugely successful, respected and extensive Lonely Planet series of guidebooks. He has either authored or coauthored Lonely Planet's *Germany; Europe On a Shoestring; Scandinavia & Baltic Europe On a Shoestring; Brazil; St. Petersburg (Russia); Russia, Ukraine & Belarus; USA; Texas; Florida; and Miami*.

Since he lives there, we thought Munich was a good place for him to start. When looking at stories submitted to *Gemütlichkeit* — and when writing them myself — I always hope they are literate and entertaining, but most of all that they contain useful information. Funny is great, erudite is good, even hip is o.k. But bottom line the traveler needs to know where to go, how to get there, where to stay, where to eat, what to eat, how much it will cost, and all the necessary phone and fax numbers, and street, email and Web addresses. I'm sure you'll agree Nick's piece covers all those bases.

Among the more interesting job titles culled from this native New Yorker's resume are:

- Producer and Morning DJ, Radio Zet, Warsaw, Poland;
- Music Mixer and Utility on *The Guiding Light*, (yes, the daytime Soap Opera) NY Production Center, New York City;
- Assistant Sound Designer, *Penn & Teller on Broadway*, Ritz Theater, New York City.

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# GEMÜTLICHKEIT

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

## MUNICH

*Some little-known hotels and restaurants are part of this comprehensive look at the Bavarian capital as seen through the eyes of an American expatriate who lives there.*

"The most important duty of the Mayor of Munich" said the grade school teacher of Christian Ude, Munich's current *Oberbürgermeister*, "is to properly tap the first keg at Oktoberfest".

Eight million people may have descended on this alpine city by the Isar this year for the world's largest beer festival, but for the rest of the year, many travelers severely underuse this fascinating capital. Sure, everyone's been to Munich, but few stick around long enough to truly uncover the jewels of this modern medieval city.

That's a mistake.

When most of the world imagines Munich and things German, it con-

tures up pictures of rotund, moustachioed, lederhosen-clad men and bodice-busting, dirndl-skirted women. And they're all standing around downing buckets of beer and gazing Alpwards. Well, that's how some of the citizenry looks — at least some of the time!

Munich is Germany, as much as London is England, but Munich is an anachronism. It is also cutting edge. Look round and you'll see one of Germany's most progressive, modern cities, an island of Europe's new high-tech industrial prowess and corporate headquarters of multinational power players like BMW, Siemens, and Bayer Pharmaceutical.

Munich's charm is in these contrasts, between the old and the new. It is a city in which starched

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## Einsiedeln

Our Swissair flight from San Francisco was only about an hour from Zürich when we began to discuss our first night's destination. For this trip, other than three nights in Berlin, we had planned nothing. We would wing it.

From the map pages in the *Switzerland Michelin Red Guide* that highlight especially good hotels and restaurants, we noted a "good food at moderate prices" symbol for the town of Einsiedeln. We quickly determined the map notation referred to the *Linde*, a restaurant *mit Zim* (with rooms). It seemed promising and not too expensive; 17 guestrooms and a kitchen Michelin liked.

But what about the town itself? A

wide spot in the road? Or would there be something to see? *Michelin's Green Guide for Switzerland* gives it two stars — "worth a detour." So now, on our descent into Zürich, we had a destination but no reservation.

After claiming baggage and clearing customs, always a breeze at Kloten, we pointed our luggage cart toward the airport's rail station and fished out our Europasses. With just minutes remaining before the next train headed in the direction of Einsiedeln, we tried to phone the hotel for a reservation. Unfortunately, the phone number in our two-year-old *Red Guide* was no longer correct and we were unable to get through. Figuring that even if the

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**DEAR SUBSCRIBER**  
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One of the unspoken, just-below-the-surface, philosophies we have maintained in publishing *Gemütlichkeit*, is that its reporters should experience our three countries just as its readers do — as visitors. We reasoned that we would encounter the same language and culture hurdles as our readers and not get so deep into the forest we couldn't see any trees. But no matter how often we U.S.-based reporters travel to Europe, Nick, as a resident, offers an insider's perspective we simply cannot duplicate. We think providing both vantage points — visitor and insider — will make for a better than ever *Gemütlichkeit*.

So stick around, there'll be more Nick Selby in the months ahead.

**Add Internet Sites**

Last month we ran a list of useful Internet sites for the traveler to Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Let me tell you about an important one we left out. A year or two ago, **Priceline.com** emerged with a big splash of publicity. The idea was — and still is — the user goes online and makes an offer on various services, the most common being travel. Let's say you want to go New York to Los Angeles roundtrip; you offer to pay \$250 per ticket, if Priceline.com finds an airline that will accept your bid, you've got yourself a great deal. The less specific you are about your requirements

— number of stops, time of travel, etc., the better chance of success you have. At the outset, either Priceline.com didn't have many participating airlines or users didn't understand the service, because the first press reviews were almost entirely negative. *Consumer Reports Travel Newsletter* was especially skeptical and a few even called it an outright fraud.

Since that rocky start, Priceline.com has become a viable source for inexpensive travel services. Let me give you some real-world examples of the savings possible for those with the guts to play by the Priceline.com rules.

Our daughter and her husband wanted to spend a long weekend in the Pacific Northwest scouting out a place to relocate from Boston. Their airfare bid to Priceline.com for Boston-Seattle tickets at \$200 each was accepted by TWA. Of course, they had to agree to fly at any time (return trip left Seattle at 12:30am) and there might be stops (one each way).

Next, they needed accommodations. For \$60 per night in Seattle they got a room with king-size bed and separate sitting area at Seattle's **Sheraton Downtown**. Their bid for a Portland hotel specified three-star, downtown. Portland's **Doubletree Hotel Downtown** gave them a nonsmoking room with two double beds for \$49. (We wanted to stay in the same hotel with them, something Priceline.com couldn't guarantee, so we contacted the hotel direct. First

quote was \$129. How about a corporate rate? O.k., \$99. Went to Yahoo.com. Under "shopping", clicked on "travel," then clicked on "hotels." Booked a room at the same hotel for \$89. Not bad, except when considering our kids had the identical accommodations for \$40 less.)

This week, our oldest son, needing to spend three nights in Portland with his wife and two young children, used Priceline.com to get a \$35 per night rate for a room with two double beds at a Red Lion.

For those willing to commit to the unknown, Priceline.com is for real.

**Swissair Fare Reduction Info**

Subscribers wishing to take advantage of **Swissair's Gemütlichkeit** fare reduction program should phone 800-238-0399 rather than the main Swissair booking number.

The airline is merging its U.S. reservation system with partner **Sabena** and not all reservationists are fully conversant yet with the *Gemütlichkeit* program. If you still have a problem, phone us at 800-521-6722 and we'll help.— RHB

**Notes for Readers**

- 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".

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**POSTMASTER: 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

**Special  Designation**

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

## MUNICH

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businesspeople can be glimpsed in the nude on weekends — sunbathing in the magnificent **English Garden**.

“Hey, wasn’t that the guy we cut the McFallen deal with yesterday?!”

It is a conservative stronghold where strict adherence to traditional German values somehow finds room to not just tolerate but cultivate a lively arts scene and some of the country’s most controversial nightlife.

All this makes Munich one of the finest bases from which to explore today’s German experience. In the city, treat yourself to the newly renovated **Alte Pinakothek**, with its world class collection of classical European art that can once again be enjoyed; visit the castle of **Nymphenburg** and the family residence of the **Wittelsbachs**.

And within an hour and a half you can be in the **Tyrolean Alps**, or on the shores of lakes **Constance**, **Chiemsee** and **Starnberg**, or witnessing the majesty of **Castle Neuschwanstein** in Füssen.

Explore from your Munich base the eye-popping splendor of the northern Alpine villages of **Garmisch-Partenkirchen** - where you can ride a cable car to the top of the **Zugspitze** - Germany’s highest mountain - the musical city of **Mittenwald** and the kitschy yet compelling buildings of **Oberammergau**.

Or head east to the glorious mountains and valleys around **Berchtesgaden**. And with a bit more time, take an overnight break in **Prague**, **Vienna** or **Salzburg**.

For seeing Munich, a good strategy is to get an early start and spend your first day discovering — or rediscovering — its treasure trove of museums, and grazing for culinary treats throughout the day.

The “Perfect Munich Day” begins with a morning stroll, perhaps through Schwabing, window shopping at the many antique, clothing and book shops. Heading south you’ll go through the **Hofgarten**, and finally arrive at **Odeonsplatz**, the

## Munich Info

**Population:** 1.3 Million

**Altitude:** 1580 feet

**Munich Tourist Bureau:**

Web: [www.munich-tourist.de](http://www.munich-tourist.de), [tourismus@muenchen.btl.de](mailto:tourismus@muenchen.btl.de), has offices in the main railway station, and at Marienplatz.

**Additional Tourist Info:** In the main railway station adjacent to track 11, EurAide ([www.euraide.de](http://www.euraide.de), [euraide@compuserve.com](mailto:euraide@compuserve.com)) is the best source of information, train ticket info and purchasing (Visa/MC), railpass validation, accommodations booking (for Munich hotels and homestays in Chiemsee) and city tour information. They also run the excellent **Castle Tours** (June and July, Wednesdays only).

**Distance From:**

Berlin	600 km / 372 miles
Stuttgart	230 km / 142 miles
Frankfurt	392 km / 243 miles
Hamburg	787 km / 492 miles

**Train Times to Other Cities:**

Frankfurt	3.5 hrs.
Cologne	5.5 hrs.
Zürich	4.5 hrs.
Hamburg	6 to 6.5 hrs.
Berlin	6.5 hrs.
Vienna	5 hrs.
Salzburg	2 hrs.
Prague	6 hrs.
Paris	11 hrs.
London	15 hrs.
Budapest	8 to 9 hrs.

**Guided Walking Tours:** Tops are the tours from **Munich Walks** (tel 0177 227 5901), with two set tours for 15 DM/\$8: **Discover Munich** (Monday to Saturday at 10.30 am and 2:30 pm) and **Third Reich Sites** (Monday, Thursday and Saturday at 1030am), a fascinating excursion through Munich’s darker past.

**Guided Bike Tours: Radius Tours** offers first-rate tours several times daily. Check with EurAide above for information. Bike tours with a younger, somewhat more jaded, look at the city (though not more strenuous) are given by **Mike’s Bike Tours** (089-651 4275). They leave daily at 11:30 am and 4 pm, except from late September to November when they depart at 12:30pm only, from in front of the Neues Rathaus on Marienplatz.

**Guided Bus Tours:** Informative and even amusing bus tours are given several times daily (17 DM/\$9.50 for an hour, 30 DM/\$16.50 to 49 DM/\$26) and depart from in front of the Hertie department store opposite the Main Railway Station; check with EurAide for times and tickets.

southern end of grand Ludwigstrasse.

In this square you’ll often see musicians or street performers busking in front of the **Feldherrnhalle**, while locals stop to rub the shields of the two **lion statues** for good luck. The lions guard the side entrance to the **Residenz**, family seat of the Wittelsbach family.

The Wittelsbachs ruled Bavaria for over 500 years — most of which, it would seem, they spent building what must be one of the top five collections of exquisite jewelry in the world. The Residenz museum itself could fill a day, but a peek into the mind-bending collection within the **Schatzkammer**, the jewel section, is a great way to spend an hour.

Around the corner is posh **Maximilianstrasse**, perhaps Munich’s most imposing boulevard, lined with shops catering to the moneyedest money of Europe and carrying fantastically overpriced goods (5,000 DM/\$2,660 dog shawls and such).

Walking south from the Residenz, towards **Marienplatz**, at the pedestrianized heart of the old city, brings you along **Residenzstrasse**, a relatively more proletarian shopping street that’s also good for window shopping and people watching. One block east, if you’re in the need of a jolt of coffee or a pick-me-up, is **Alois Dallmayr**, Munich’s finest delicatessen — in the true sense of the word. Famous for its coffee and cakes, Dallmayr sells a wide range of stupendously good taste treats and it’s always packed with shoppers.

Make sure to get to Marienplatz by 11am for the prerequisite viewing of the playing of the **Glockenspiel**, a carillon high atop the towers of the city’s Neues Rathaus. The characters perform their version of the Schöffler Tanz, which has been performed in public by coopers every year since 1517 to ward off further outbreaks of the Plague. It seems to be working.

If you skipped coffee or want to save your neck (the sight of thousands of tourists craning their necks twice a day is one of perpetual delight to locals) the view is best from the **Metropolitan Cafe**, a 3rd floor

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cafe with picture windows facing the Glockenspieler.

Afterwards, stroll through the **Viktualienmarkt**, a bustling outdoor market teeming with fresh flowers, delicious produce, wines and cheeses, and make your way down Sendlinger Strasse — the most reasonable of the shopping streets — toward **Sendlinger Tor**. Do stop in to the wildly baroque **Asamkirche** (St-Johann-Nepomuk-Kirche, Sendlinger Strasse 62), designed by the brothers Asam and containing fantastic frescoes and details.

One of my favorite destinations is **Lenbach Haus** (Luisenstrasse 33, 233-0320), a Florentine-style mansion containing rotating exhibitions of modern European art and the best collection of works from the *Blaue Reiter* movement, with expressionist works by Klee, Kandinsky and Macke.

As you exit through the Lenbach Haus' pretty garden, look around and you'll see you're in the heart of a veritable museum ghetto: within five minutes walk are several of Munich's finest, including the **Alte** and the **Neue Pinakothek**, the **Geologische Staatssammlung** (geological exhibits), the **Museum Reich der Kristalle** (crystal and minerals), **Antikensammlungen** (applied arts from around the world), and the **Glyptothek** with Greek and Roman sculpture.

Rest your feet and have some terrific coffee or sumptuous hot chocolate at **Yablonski Cafe**, opposite the Neue Pinakothek (which also has a nice cafe in its basement with very good cake and coffee). Or for an Asian treat for lunch, walk the several blocks to tiny **Zum Koreaner**, Amalienstrasse 46, with inexpensive and positively magnificent Korean specialties. There's no atmosphere to speak of but main courses are \$5 to \$7, it's as authentic as you can get and open daily for lunch and dinner.

Technology lovers will be thrilled with the offerings on hand here in Munich. Car lovers *must* visit the **BMW Museum**, a fascinating look at the history of 80's Yuppiedom's most

prized possession. The museum is opposite the **Olympic Park**, which is a great place to get an overview of the city by ascending the 951-foot **Olympia Tower** where there's a good bar and fair restaurant.

Speaking of overviews, aviation buffs can explore two world-class collections here, with a large display within the **Deutsches Museum**, from gliders and pedal-powered planes to war birds, helicopters and a cutaway section of a Boeing 747. North of the city, the **Flugwerft Schleissheim** (tel. 215 7140) has a positively glorious collection of aircraft from around the world (not interactive enough? See Air Tours, below).

If you're in Munich in December, head for the two best (and most authentic) Christmas Markets: the best handicrafts are at the market in **Münchener Freiheit** (take U3 or U6 underground line), but the one at **Rotkreuzplatz** (U1 or U7) is no slouch either, and both sell mouth-watering German treats, hot sausage and pork shoulder, roasted and honey roasted nuts and chestnuts, and, of course, Glühwein (mulled wine) with an optional shot of spiced rum. This is living!

Forty-five minutes from Munich by train or car is the Renaissance city of **Augsburg**, one of a dozen perfect day trips from Munich. Established by Roman emperor Augustus in the 1st Century BC, this under-touristed old town with cobblestone streets has a fantastic **Rathaus** (where upstairs you can gawk at the gold leaf ceiling of the Goldener Saal) fronted by a lovely **Rathausplatz**. Nearby is the **Dom Maria Heimsuchung**, with a crypt that dates to the 11th century, and Augsburg's most famous site, the **Fuggerei**.

Founded by self-made millionaire merchant Jakob Fuggger in 1521, the Fuggerei provides inexpensive homes in what may be the world's first low-income housing project for an unbelievable 12 DM (\$6.50) a year. Chicago's south side this ain't; the houses are all quite charming, and one was the residence of Franz Mozart, Wolfie's father.

The family of Bertolt Brecht made its home here, and now the house is

open as a museum of the writer's life.

And for an overview of the area, nothing beats a one-hour **Air Tour**, offered by Munich Flyers (089 642 717 61), which will take three people in a Cessna 172 over Augsburg, Dachau, Munich (good photo ops as you circle Marienplatz and the Olympic Tower) and Starnberg and Ammersee lakes for 280 DM (\$149). Narration in English, and the sight of the Alps from 7000 feet above Munich is majestic indeed!

## Hotels

### Asam Hotel

Munich's newest hotel, the Asam, is a treat, and while pricey, offers good value in its category. A family-run hotel in the heart of the old town, the Asam is in a meticulously renovated pre-war building on peaceful Josephspitalstrasse, one short block south of the **Kaufingerstrasse**, the **Fussgänger Zone** — the pedestrian shopping street that connects Marienplatz with Karlsplatz (Stachus) and the Main Railway Station.

The hotel was literally just opening its doors when we visited in mid-September, and we toured the rooms with the owners, who happily showed off several of the 25 sumptuous, large and airy singles, doubles and suites. All are quiet and nicely appointed.

Many of the rooms have luxurious, enormous bathtubs, large closets and separate toilet and bathrooms. Many face the rear garden, with a view of trees and church steeples.

There are nonsmoking rooms, and the breakfast room — with an outside patio for warmer months — will soon be converted to a restaurant serving Italian and French-influenced continental cuisine.

**Daily Rates:** Singles 235 DM (\$125), doubles 285 to 310 DM (\$152-\$165) double, suites 375 to 425 DM (\$199-\$226)

**Contact:** Hotel Asam, Josephspitalstrasse 3, 80331 München, tel. +49/089/230 9700, fax 230 970 97, email info@hotel-asam.de, www.hotel-asam.de

**Rating:** QUALITY 17/20, VALUE 15/20

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EDITOR'S  
CHOICE

### Hotel Olympic

One of Munich's unsung treasures, this small (38 rooms) delight is right in one of Munich's up and coming neighborhoods, between Sendlinger Tor Platz and Gärtner Platz. Before Schwabing was Schwabing, it was like this area, with interesting but reasonably priced little stores and boutiques, cafes and food shops. Despite its fabulous central location most of the rooms in this family-run hotel are dead quiet, thanks to the hotel's being flanked by leafy gardens.

All of the rooms are furnished somewhat differently. The doubles and small suites are excellent value for the money, with airy rooms, spotless bathrooms (many with shower only) and comfortable and tasteful furniture. But singles are small (some impossibly so; think train compartment) and just not worth the money.

There's no elevator, but all rooms are located only one flight up.

Downstairs in the lovely breakfast room, with high-ceilings and very homey wood floors, there's an atrium-style window on the southern side of the room, and if you get down there early enough you can breakfast looking out into a small forest in the center of town. Smoking is permitted but discouraged in here, and if someone lights up and you complain, management will ask the puffer to head to the lobby.

**Daily Rates:** Singles 155 to 260 (\$82 to \$138), doubles 214 to 260 (\$114 to \$138), suites 265 DM (\$141)

**Contact:** Hotel Olympic, Hans Sachs Strasse 4, D-80469 München, tel. +49/089/231 890, fax 231 89 199

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

Thirty yards to the right as you leave the hotel is **Zweistein** (as opposed, of course, to Einstein) a delightfully arty cafe with seats outside when it's warm enough, and a cozy, Bohemian atmosphere inside year round. There are wonderful coffees and cocktails, and light meals from noon to midnight (from 5pm on weekends and holidays) like pastas, pancakes and baguette sandwiches.

Hans Sachs Strasse 12, tel. +49/089/266 454)

### Hotel Exquisit

Another smaller hotel smack in the center yet quiet and pleasant is the 50 room Hotel Exquisit, which caters mainly to business travelers during the week but which is making inroads in attracting families and couples on weekends, when it reduces its rates.

The hotel is modern and quiet; its back garden is pleasant in summer, and the breakfast room and five guestrooms are nonsmoking.

The rooms are clean, fresh and comfortable, and all come with telephone, TV and mini-bar. There's a bar in the lobby (but better bars and good nightlife are close by) and there's a garage available for an extra 14 DM (\$7.50) a day.

**Daily Rates:** On weekends, the rooms are 195 DM (\$104) for doubles and 150 (\$80) for singles. During the week prices range from 280 to 340 (\$149-\$180) for doubles, and 195 to 280 (\$104-\$149) for singles.

**Contact:** Hotel Exquisit, Pettenkofer Strasse 9, tel. +49/089/551 99 00, fax 551 99 499, hotel-exquisit@hotel-exquisit.ccn.de

**Rating:** QUALITY 14/20, VALUE 10/20\* (\*Value on weekends: 16/20)

### Hotel Bristol

Opposite the Exquisit is a fine inexpensive option. If you spend only a minimal amount of time in your hotel but still require friendly service, nonsmoking bed and breakfast rooms, and a perfect central location, family-run Hotel Bristol is the place.

It isn't a lot to look at — a post-war modular cube reminiscent of a late Brezhnev-era triumph. Rooms are small, and the ones in back — though they have spacious balconies — have a view of what can be charitably described as an architect's rendering of 1970s Urban Utopia.

But there are several mitigating factors, not the least of which is the warm hospitality of the Eggermann family, which keeps tight tabs on the hotel and watches out for guests. That non-smoking breakfast room is one of very few of its kind in a hotel in this price range, and a highly welcomed feature.

The location, right behind Sendlinger Tor Platz, puts you steps from four main subway lines and at a major tram interchange, and 10 minutes walk from the Main Railway Station, Marienplatz, and the Viktualienmarkt.

And the rooms, though small, are spotless and all have TV, minibar and telephone. It's minimalist comfort, but comfortable all the same. If I were a visitor to Munich, I'd check in to the Bristol.

**Daily Rates:** Singles 109 to 215 (\$58 to \$114), doubles 139 to 265 (\$74 to \$141)

**Contact:** Hotel Bristol, Pettenkoferstrasse 2, D-80336 München, tel. +41/089/59 51 51, fax 59 14 51

**Rating:** QUALITY 11/20, VALUE 17/20

### Chiemsee Homestays

**EurAide**, the information and rail-booking company with offices in Munich and Berlin (see Munich Info page 3) also books homestays in privately-owned homes around the stunning Chiemsee region, an hour and 12 minutes east of Munich.

To say that American-born EurAide founder Alan Wissenberg is fussy and picky about places in which he'd place guests is a little like saying that the Dalai Lama is a moderately spiritual man.

Wissenberg offers stays in 10 homes in the postcard-perfect town of Übersee on the Chiemsee, where he lives. While none of the hosts are fluent in English, they've managed over the years to grasp enough to make everything trouble free, and the host will pick you up at the station when you arrive and bring you back at the end of your stay.

The Chiemsee region is gorgeous regardless of season. Nutty Ludwig II built on **Herreninsel** here the **Neues Königsschloss**, a daylight theft of ...excuse me, 'homage to'... the design for Versailles. In summer you can rent boats and tootle around the lake; year round you can explore Herreninsel and **Fraueninsel**, with its 12th century monastery.

Prices vary, but a double room with shower and WC might cost about 110 DM (\$59) a night including breakfast; a double with shared

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## MUNICH

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shower and WC ranges from 85 to 90 DM (\$46 to \$50).

All are in a family setting. You can book as late as a day or so in advance, but the earlier the better.

### Dining Notes

Munich's food has been assailed as bland and heavy, but it has improved by leaps and bounds over the last few years. While German classics are still definitely worth sampling, the city's other offerings are equally worth experiencing.

Any concierge or desk clerk worth his or her salt can send you to heavily touristed sources of Bavarian cooking, such as **Hundskugel** or the **Hofbräuhaus**; the former, established in 1440, is perfectly acceptable with a wonderful atmosphere, but the latter, frankly, is pretty dire, at least for food.

But the restaurants listed below are a bit off the beaten path, and with the exception of the Le Bousquerey, places in which you can sample the best of Munich without 8.8 percent financing. Though not big secrets, they are cherished by locals.

#### Königsquelle

Not that it's privileged information, but this restaurant offers possibly the finest traditional German eating experience in Munich. Because it's small however (50 places inside in winter, 40 inside and 40 outside in the little garden in summer), you'll need a reservation to get in. Both service and cuisine are superb.

Their trick is to take the under-accomplished aspects of German cooking, the mixture of sweet and savory, to heights seen in very few other eating establishments.

The menu changes daily and seasonally, with fresh salads in summer, specialties like asparagus in spring, mushrooms in spring, summer and fall, and in winter, perhaps the best deer and game around. One year-round constant is a light and crunchy *Wienerschnitzel*.

Main courses range from 24 to 32 DM (\$14 to \$25).

Königsquelle, Baaderplatz 2, tel. 22 00 71

#### Franziskaner

The very central Franziskaner Gaststätte is a popular place with Opera and theater-going Münchenern, for its laid back atmosphere, comfortable, light wood furniture and very friendly service. Bavariana without the kitsch.

The star of the show is the *Spanferkel* (34/\$18.50), about as traditional Bavarian as you can get, and when you find a chef who can cook it consistently well, grab him! Franziskaner did, and serves this dish, of suckling pig roasted in malt beer with *Kartoffelknödel* or *Semmelknödel* (potato or semolina-bread dumpling). It is out of this world, fine and crunchy outside and tender and succulent inside.

And the second specialty of the house is another float-off-your-plate-light dish, the astoundingly delicious *Franziskaner Saure Zipfel*, Bratwurst sausages marinated in an onion stock and then fried, and served with Sauerkraut and fresh-ground horseradish; six pieces for 14 DM (\$7.50).

Franziskaner Gaststätte, Perusastrasse 5, tel. 23 18 12 0

#### Löwenbräu Keller

#### Augustiner Keller

Surprisingly, these two places have eluded the tour buses and the throngs, perhaps because of their slightly out-of-the-center locations — certainly not for the food, which is splendid.

Of the two, the Löwenbräu Keller's atmosphere is certainly more charming, with two large dining areas and an outdoor beer garden. The main dining room has towering ceilings and a sunken center area, though many of the tables here are *Stammtisch* — reserved for regular clients. The second dining room is pleasant enough, with vaulted ceilings and relatively fast service.

The specialties of the house are of course Bavarian — the menu is written in Bavarian with German translations in smaller print below — but surprisingly diverse. Do try the *Semmelknödel mit Pilzrahmsoße*, fluffy dumplings served in a divine mush-

room cream sauce.

Those with even heartier appetites will want to do their best Henry VIII with a 18 DM (\$10) plate of *Schweinshax'n*, pork thigh on the bone, magically crisp outside and tender and delicious inside and served with either a diet-blasting portion of potato salad, a plate-heaving serving of *Rösti* (crunchy deep fried potatoes) or a table-creaking pile of *Käsespätzle* (cheesy noodles).

At lunchtime, the Augustiner Keller is probably the best place in Munich to get authentic Bavarian food at good prices. Frequented by local workers of both blue and white collar persuasions, this is just plain, good old Bavarian cooking. Family or beerhall-style tables mean you'll dine with several others, and the service is fast and efficient (the better to get you out of there to make room for the next wave of customers).

Main courses range from 12 to 25 DM (\$6.50-\$13) at lunch time.

- Löwenbräu Keller, Nymphenburger Strasse 2 (above U-Bahn Stiglmaierplatz), tel. 526 021

- Augustiner Keller, Landesberger Strasse 31-35, tel. 519 940, from the main railway station's southern entrance turn right on Bayerstrasse and walk four blocks; it's on the left side of the street.

#### Cafe Osteria LaVecchia Masseria

Not a place for shrinking violets, the atmosphere in Cafe Osteria LaVecchia Masseria is a riotous romp, complete with shouting and gesticulating Italians, a maître d' who kisses the hands of female customers in the manner of Zero Mostel in *The Producers*, and even looks a bit like Chico Marx.

The food rounds off the experience. Excellent seafood specials nightly for 24 to 28 DM (\$13 to 15), marvelous homemade ravioli and other pastas from just 14 DM (\$7.50), and among the best pizzas in Munich from just 12 to 16 DM (\$7 to \$9); we like them all except the seafood pizza, which was disappointing.

When you arrive, there's fresh-baked anisette-laced bread in a terracotta roofing tile on the checkercloth

tables. And the owner will probably frolic through the dining area at least once a night with a wheelbarrow filled with hay, banging on a pot and generally schmoozing with the clientele.

It's crowded, bustling, and sometimes smoky, but worth the trip if you can stand it!

Cafe Osteria LaVecchia Masseria  
Mathildenstrasse 3, tel. 550-9090

### Le Bousquerey

They don't speak English. They hardly speak German. Or at least, they do it with a fascinating French twang. But the folks at Le Bousquerey, as French as a national rail strike, certainly whip up the absolutely finest French cuisine in Munich.

It'll cost you, but it's worth it.

This tiny restaurant (reservations are essential from Wednesday to Saturday) is about as French country garden as you can get in a city restaurant without going over the top, and their seafood specialties are to die for.

There is an extensive wine list with French and German labels, and, while they do *a la carte*, the real attraction is the *prix fixe* five course menu, for 69 DM (\$38) per person.

Le Bousquerey, Rablstrasse 37,  
tel. 488 455

## EINSIEDELN

*Continued from page 2*

Linde was booked we would find alternative accommodations in Einsiedeln, we boarded the train. It was 6:20pm. After about 30 minutes of clickety clacking along the southwest shore of the Zürichsee, we made a quick change of trains at Wädenswil, and from there began to wind into the hills. At about 7:30pm we were deposited on the platform at the Einsiedeln rail station. The town is about halfway between the Zürichsee and the historic town of Schwyz.

After determining the hotel's correct phone number, we rang to inquire about a room. Yes, one was available and it was suggested that we walk the four minutes to the hotel from the station. Actually, it was

## Munich's Old Hitler Haunts

*Subscriber Bob Gillespie, of Lake Bluff, Illinois, has been a frequent visitor to Germany since the late '40s. He is also somewhat of an amateur historian, with an expertise on World War II and Germany. We thank him for submitting these notes on the 20th century's leading villain and his connection with the city of Munich.*

When Adolf Hitler came to Munich in 1913, he took lodgings with a tailor named Popp who lived in Schwabing, at **Schleissheimerstr. 34**. The building was destroyed in the war and a shabby apartment house now stands there.

After military service in 1919, he rented a modest apartment in what was then a lower middle class neighborhood, near the Max Monument. The building, at **Thierschstr. 41**, remains much as it was when he lived there. It is about 300 feet south of the monument at the intersection of Maximilian and Thierschstr. For obvious reasons there is no marker or other indication he ever lived there. He remained there, in genteel poverty, until after he became prosperous off royalties from his best-seller, *Mein Kampf*, written while he was in prison at Landsberg in 1924.

With these funds, he moved to the fashionable **Prinz Regentenplatz** neighborhood where he settled in a large apartment on the second floor of **Number 16**. This remodeled building still stands and is currently occupied, somewhat ironically, by the neighborhood police station. It was here that his niece Geli Raubal was shot to death in 1930, an incident that was covered up at the time. Many historians suspect Hitler was sexually obsessed with the young woman and shot her in a jealous rage. She had been dating a young Jewish man. Hitler held title to this building until his death in 1945.

The Party headquarters, the Brown House, was demolished by the Bavarian government after the war, much as the Burgher and other buildings in Berchtesgaden were demolished in 1952 so they could never become shrines to Hitler or the NSAPD.

Other Munich buildings closely associated with Hitler include the **Haus der Kunst**, near the Odeonsplatz, where he often entertained; the **Feldherrnhalle** by the Palace where he was almost killed in 1923 as he, with General Ludendorff, led the famous putsch march; and the **Circus Krone** where he often spoke at party rallies.

Munich would clearly like to forget its association with Hitler. As far as I know, there is no recognition given anywhere to his life or presence there.

*(A final note. Probably the place yet standing that is most closely associated with Hitler is the **Hotel Dreesen** in Bad Godesberg, beside Bonn. This was one of his most favored places and it was where the meeting with Chamberlain took place in 1938, resulting in the surrender of the Sudetenland to Germany, the appeasement pact, and, later, the war. For a short time after the war, it was Eisenhower's home and headquarters. The numerous references to Bad Godesberg in histories of the time all took place here. And it is a very, very nice hotel, right on the edge of the Rhine.)*

more like 10 minutes, uphill in 90 degree heat, hauling luggage. Let's hear it for rolling suitcases.

Our room, Number 31, was not special but comfortable enough for one or two nights; very clean, a good bed, decent linen, small TV, love seat, chest of drawers and an armoire. The small bathroom, dominated by one of those afterthought shower stalls in one corner, was a little dim.

Tight as it was, after 6,000 miles and 26 hours since the last serious

encounter with soap and hot water, that little stall provided a shower equal to the rejuvenative powers of the most opulent Roman bath. Thus refreshed, we settled into a candlelit table on the hotel's awning-covered terrace at about 9pm. Dusk settled around us, we sipped our first beer, the candles took hold and the Linde began to feel like home. Conversation from the other tables — seemingly filled with locals — was all in German. First objective achieved: we

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## EINSIEDELN

Continued from page 7

were off the beaten tourist track.

The menu offered multiple-course, fixed-priced meals, but also *a la carte* selections as well as a cheaper list of simpler dishes.

From the *a la carte* side, chopped *Kalbsleber* (calves liver) sauteed with mushrooms, herbs and plenty of butter, was as good as it gets. The accompanying *Rösti* (shredded, fried potatoes) had a suitably crunchy veneer and smooth, buttery innards.

Off the less expensive menu, *Schweinschnitzel* and *Pommes Frites* (French fries) were faultless; thin, white slices of pork just juicy enough and a not-too oily crust. With a squeeze of fresh lemon it was perfection — and proof the mundane dishes of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, though scoffed at by sophisticated foodies, can ascend culinary heights when prepared by a knowing chef using the best ingredients.

Starter salads were of the freshest makings, with the usual variety of slivered and chopped vegetables; cucumber, celery root, beets, corn and so on. The green salad included in the price of the *Schnitzel* consisted of butter lettuce so crisp and flavorful that it had to have been harvested within hours of being served.

Half-liters of Halden Krone slid down all too easily and so, after landing safely in Zürich, we crashed and burned in Einsiedeln, but with a couple of the better meals of the past year tucked safely away. The liver was 29 Sfr. (\$19), the *Schnitzel* 25 Sfr. (\$16).

Breakfast was adequate but not notable, though there was chopped fresh fruit to ladle on the Muesli.

Those who fancy waking up to church bells will love the Linde and Einsiedeln. Our first awareness of the bells was a fairly tame series of peals at 4am. At 5am came another tolling. Then at 5:30am all heaven broke loose; multiple bells for at least two full minutes. We heard a short burst again at 6am and then at 6:30am another rousing volley. Point taken; we got up.

Though there was nobody to help with our bags and we sensed a reluctance to send someone to fetch us at the station, the Linde offers good, basic accommodations and a kitchen that serves outstanding down-home dishes. At a total price of 213 Sfr. (\$138) for double room, breakfast, and dinner for two, its well above average value.

**Daily Rates:** Singles 90 to 135 Sfr. (\$58-\$88), doubles 140 to 195 Sfr. (\$91-\$127).

**Contact:** Hotel-Restaurant Linde, CH-88840, Einsiedeln/Klosterplatz, tel. +41/055/418 4848, fax 418 4849, Web [www.forum.ch/linde-einsiedeln](http://www.forum.ch/linde-einsiedeln). Proprietors: Silvia and Geri Nussbaumer-Kälin.

**Hotel Rating:** QUALITY 11/20, VALUE 13/20  
**Rest. Rating:** QUALITY 15/20, VALUE 17/20

### The Town

Einsiedeln is a pilgrimage town and chiefly interesting for its magnificent and gigantic **Klosterkirche**, a Benedictine monastery built in early in the 18th century.

Interestingly, the church's breathtaking interior is mostly the work of the Asam brothers, the same duo who designed the Asam church mentioned in the Munich story and for whom a fine new Munich hotel is named.

At 10am on a weekday morning, the church-within-the church, the tiny but stunning chapel of the "**Black Madonna**," already had a dozen or so reverent worshippers.

You will also want to see the **Grosser Saal**, the Abbey Great Hall, on the second floor of the monastery. Follow the signs around to the right.

The rest of the town is ordinary, though worth an hour's stroll. On a warm night you might opt for a refreshment from the balcony of the **Hotel Drei Könige**, which offers a straight-on view of the beautifully lighted Klosterplatz backdropped by the imposing monastery and church.

Contact: Tourismus Region Einsiedeln, Postfach 842, CH-8840, Einsiedeln, tel. +41/055/418 4488, fax 418 4480, Web: [www.einsiedeln.ch](http://www.einsiedeln.ch), Email: [info@einsiedeln.ch](mailto:info@einsiedeln.ch).



## Europe Travel Briefs

■ **Salzburg** is one of several European cities to introduce microchip embedded tourist cards. In Salzburg's case you buy the card for a one, two, three or four night visit. Not only do the cards provide access to virtually all the tourist sights, but are also good for hotel accommodations, meals, and transit passes. Just swipe it through an electronic reader at the location of choice and you're in. You can also buy a Swatch watch that will do the same thing. For more info contact the Austrian National Tourist Office in Los Angeles or visit [www.salzburginfo.at](http://www.salzburginfo.at).

■ The concept of youth hostels is 90 years old and was created by a German schoolteacher. There are 600 hostels in Germany that charge from about \$19 to \$35 per night. While most hostels which are members of **Hostelling International** are open to all ages, German hostels give priority to travelers under 27. In Bavaria you can't get into a hostel if you're over 25. Some independent hostels allow travelers over 27 but charge them more.

You can book hostels before leaving for Europe by calling 202-783-6161. For more hosteling information try [www.hostels.com](http://www.hostels.com).

■ **Volkswagen** is building a unique manufacturing plant in Dresden. The assembly of cars will take place on several levels in front of huge windows and will be visible from the street as well as from restaurants and cafes. The plant, which will be located next to Strassburg Square, is expected to open next summer.

■ Film star Audrey Hepburn spent nearly 40 of her life in the tiny village of Tolochenaz, near Morges, on Lake Geneva. She died there in 1993. Now the **Audrey Hepburn Museum** has opened in Tolochenaz. Exhibits include personal items, mementos and movie posters. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 1:30pm to 5:30pm. Admission is 10 Sfr. (\$6.50) or 5 Sfr. (\$3.25) for kids six or older, students and seniors. Contact: +41/021/8036464 or the Morges Tourist Office, tel. +41/021/8013233, fax 8013130.

