

1. Seasonal recipe
 2. Erlangen News
 3. Fürth News
 4. Nürnberg News
 5. Regensburg News
 6. Christmas shop in Muggendorf
 7. Three very special Christmas markets in our region
 8. James Bond 007
 9. Family news
-

1. Seasonal recipe

Nowadays you can buy "Weihnachtsgebäck", Christmas bakery, already in fall in practically every German supermarket. In former times one would not touch Christmas sweets before the time of Advent, which means four weeks before Christmas.

In this newsletter we would like to introduce to you a cake which is called "Magenbrot". This recipe comes originally from "Niederbayern" (Lower Bavaria) and is traditionally made during the time of Advent. The recipe is extremely easy to make!

Magenbrot

125g margarine
375g sugar
3 eggs
750g flour
1 ½ packages of baking powder
¼ l milk
2 tee sp. of cinnamon
2 " of cloves
2 table sp. of cocoa

For couverture: 3-4 table sp. of powdered sugar mixed with very little water or lemon juice.

Mix everything and spread on a baking tray. Put tray in the middle part of heated oven (150°) and bake for 30-40 minutes.

When the cake is cold cover it with sugar frosting and cut it in diamond-shaped pieces.



Quelle: Privat

2. Erlangen news

- Its **Christmas market** time in Erlangen in front of the castle, on **Schloßplatz**, between **November 28th and December 24th 2008**.

There will be a number of additional attractions especially for children:

Saturday November 29th, the **Theatre Erlangen** will visit the market. All children are invited to join the **little tiger and the little bear** to look for a treasure starting at **11.30am**.

St. Nicholas will **personally** visit the market on **December 6th between noon and 4pm**. He will bring his sack with all kinds of little surprises for the children.

Nürnberg's famous "**Christkind**" comes to Erlangen's Christmas market **December 10th at 4.30pm**. She will speak her famous prologue in front of the castle and will then give out little presents to the children while a trumpet band is playing Christmas music.



Quelle: ETM



Quelle: Stadt Nürnberg

And, in addition, there is a historical **Christmas market on the Neustädter Kirchenplatz** between **November 28th and December 23rd**.

Both markets are worth visiting either to get all kinds of gifts and Christmas decoration, culinary Specialities, or just to enjoy the atmosphere especially in the evening with all the lights on and not to forget the smell of ginger bread and mulled wine.

Open daily from 10am to 9pm and on Sunday from 11am to 9pm.

- **Free Christmas concerts** of different high schools have become a wonderful tradition in Erlangen every year during the time of Advent. The concerts take place at the Neustädter Kirche, Neustädter Kirchplatz always at 6pm.
November 29th 2008 - Adventskonzert - Gymnasium Fridericianum
December 6th 2008 - " - Christian Ernst Gymnasium
December 13th 2008 - " - Städtische Sing- und Musikschule
December 20th 2008 - " - Marie Therese Gymnasium
- "**40 Minuten Musik zum Advent**" is a free concert mainly with Christmas music at the Neustädter Kirche, Neustädter Kirchplatz at **11.30am on Sunday November 30th, Sunday December 7th, Sunday December 14th and Sunday December 21st**.

3. Nürnberg News

- The most famous Christmas market in Germany is, of course, the *****Christkindlesmarkt in Nürnberg***.**

The opening ceremony with the Christmas Angel, trumpets, Christmas songs at Nuernberg's Main Market Square will start at 5.30pm **November 28th** and the market will close again **December 24th**. Open Monday-Thursday 9.30am-8pm, Friday and Saturday 9.30am-10pm, Sunday 10.30am-8pm and the market ends on December 24th at 2pm.



Quelle: Congress- und Tourismus Zentrale Nürnberg

About 180 wooden stalls will offer their traditional goods like gingerbread, fruit bread, cookies, and Christmas articles like tree ornaments, candles, toys, crafts products. A speciality of the Nürnberg Christkindles Markt is the plum people; little figures made from prunes. And, of course, all kinds of culinary treats. The most famous ones are the Nürnberger Lebkuchen, the Nürnberger Bratwurst and, not to forget, the mulled wine! See also: www.christkindlesmarkt.de/english/

- Since 1999 there is an additional **Christmas Market especially for smaller children** on Hans-Sachs-Platz right next to the regular Christmas Market. A nostalgic carousel, a steam train and many other attractions are waiting for young visitors.
- And there is a third **Christmas market, initiated by the office of International Relations**. The benefit will be given to social welfare projects in Nürnberg's twin towns. On this market you will discover a variety of international Christmas presents. It is located on Rathausplatz.
- **Christmas concerts** are very popular in Germany. Therefore tickets for these concerts are sold quickly. The following concert is an event for the whole family. The **"Weihnachtskonzert"** of the **"Regensburger Domspatzen"** will take place at the **Meistersinger Halle** in Nürnberg on **Monday, December 21st**. This fabulous choir of the liturgical music traces its origin back to the 10th century. In the meantime they are famous all over the world and their concerts are really something special and if you would like to hear famous German Christmas songs you should not miss this concert. Learn more about the choir under www.domspatzen.de
For tickets see: www.nuernbergmusik.de or call 0911-433 46 18.
- **"Villa Leon"** is a well known cultural centre in Nürnberg, **Gewerbemuseumsplatz 1**. There will be three interesting events we would like to inform you about:
How about a dancing party with klezmer music? Members of the **"Klezmer-Brass-Band KLEZMANIAXX"** and an experienced dancing teacher, Rudolf Treczka, are a perfect team. Under their guidance it is a lot of fun to learn simple steps, round dances, chain dances, etc. A partner is not needed! The dance party starts at **8pm, November 20th** and costs Euro 5,--.

The **"Duo Wajlu"** will perform songs from the Romanians combined with klezmer music. The outstanding voices of Roswitha Dasch & Katharina Mütter and the tender and sensitive sound of the violin and accordion guarantee a perfect concert evening.
You can enjoy this duo on Saturday **December 6th** at **8pm**. The entrance free is Euro 13,--.

Traditional **balafon music** presented by "Magic Balafon" will certainly be a lot of fun for people who like **African music** with all their joy and virtuosity. The sound is produced by striking the tuned keys with two padded sticks.

This concert starts at **8pm, December 12th** at the Villa Leon and costs Euro 13,--.

For more information about all three concerts see: www.veranstaltungskalender-nuernberg.de or call "Villa Leon" : 0911-231 33 25

- True **Mega Stars** will come to Nürnberg next year. Since the tickets will be sold very fast, we want to inform you already now.

PINK will stop at the Nürnberg ARENA with her FUNHOUSE TOUR 2009 **March 28th 2009**.

Lionel Richie will perform at the ARENA **May 2nd 2009**. Next to his many hits he will then introduce his new album "Just go".

SIMPLY RED will introduce the new album "The Greatest Hits" at the ARENA **May 6th 2009**.

Elton John will be in Nürnberg for an open air concert at the Nürnberg Stadion on **July 4th 2009**. For more information see www.argo-konzerte.de and for tickets call 01805/607070 (14ct./min. from a regular phone – from mobiles it can be more expensive!)

4. Fürth News

- There are **two Christmas markets** in Fürth as well: The bigger one is at the market square called "Fürther Freiheit". It starts **November 27th** and lasts till **December 23rd**.

The second one is on "Waagplatz" which is different and really worth seeing between **December 5th and 14th**

First of all "Waagplatz" is situated in the old town surrounded by historical buildings therefore there is this special atmosphere. And at this market you can find a lot of special gifts in the field of art and crafts. 35 dealers have an outstanding variety and some craftsmen can be watched at work. Every evening the night watchman ends the market with music. There are also different fairground rides for children.

Both markets have a number of surprise actions almost every evening.

- **Art** lovers should not miss the new exhibition "**Grotesque**" at the

Kunstgalerie Fürth, Königsplatz 1.
Collages of one of the most famous German artists of the 20th century, **Hannah Höch** (1889-1978), will be shown **until December 21st**.
(Tuesday-Saturday 1pm-6pm and Sunday 11am-11pm) For more information see:
www.kunst-galerie-fuerth.de



Quelle:Kunstgalerie Fürth

- **A unique Christmas Concert** will certainly be the “**Irish Christmas**” by the **Irish Harp Orchestra**. Vitality and cheerfulness expressed in songs and dances from Ireland at the Stadthalle Fürth on **December 18th at 8pm**.
For tickets and information see www.nuernbergmusik.de
- The **Fürther Mare** has become one of the biggest attractions in Fürth since the opening last year. The next popular event at this indoor swimming pool/spa will be a so called “**MOVIE night**”, Friday November 28th. The show for children will start at 3pm with games (in coloured water!). The film will then start at 5pm. (The title of the film is a secret, the children themselves will choose what they want to see!)
At second show for teenagers over 16 and adults will start with a voting of the favourite film at 7.30pm. How about a movie evening sitting on a swimming chair or lying on a deck chair?
For more information see: www.fuerthermare.de

5. Regensburg news

One of the nicest **Christmas markets** in Germany are certainly the ones in Regensburg. There are actually 3 different markets.

- One market is called “**Christkindl-Markt**” and takes place at the Neupfarrplatz near the dome St. Peter. (**November 27th - December 23rd**) visit: www.christkindlmarkt-regensburg.de
- The second one is called **Lucrezia Markt** this one could also be called handy craft market and you will find it at Haidplatz and Kohlemarkt. (November 28th-December 23rd) visit: <http://www.lucrezia-markt.de>
- The third market is called “**Romantischer Weihnachtsmarkt**” and is placed next to the castle of “Thurn und Taxis”. (**November 27th – December 23rd**)
See a great presentation under: <http://www.thurnundtaxis.de/events/weihnachtsmarkt.html>

6. Christmas shop in Muggendorf

If you are looking for handmade **Christmas decoration of any kind like nutcrackers, smokers, nativity sets, hand made wooden Christmas tree decorations, music boxes, antiques** and a lot more you should go to Muggendorf, a village right in the centre of the “**Fränkische Schweiz**” (Franconian Swiss). To get there go on B 470 coming from Forchheim via Ebermannstadt then to Muggendorf. As you enter the village you will soon see on the left side the **NUTCRACKER Christmas shop** on Forchheimer Str. 10. Opening hours are Monday-Friday 9am – noon and 1pm – 6pm on Saturdays from 9am to 2pm and on Sundays from 1pm–5pm. Tel.: 09196-1526



Quelle: Seliger Muggendorf

7. Three very special Christmas markets in our region

No doubt, the “Christkindlesmarkt” in Nürnberg is the most famous Christmas market in Germany but we would like to introduce to you some more very nice markets in our region as well.

For a weekend excursion we would especially recommend to you a “three-pack” Christmas market tour to: **Rothenburg, Dinkelsbühl and Nördlingen**. These three historical imperial cities with their middle aged characters are worth being visited all year long but their Christmas markets are really something special. The three towns are only 30/40 km away from each other and are all situated along the “Romantischen Straße”.

- The so called “**Reiterlesmarkt**” in **Rothenburg** has an over 500 year long traditions. The medieval city with its original walls and old buildings creates a certain romantic feeling. For all information see: www.tarek.de/en/christmasmarket.htm
The market in Rothenburg is open between **November 28th** and **December 23rd**.



Quelle: Rothenburg Tourismus Service

- The **December Market in Dinkelsbühl** has a special atmosphere because it all takes place in an inner courtyard. A speciality of this market is an art bazaar presented by local artists. See also <http://www.weihnachtsmarkt-deutschland.de/weihnachtsmarkt-dinkelsbuehl.html>
The market in Dinkelsbühl is open between **November 27th** and **December 21st**.
- And the **historical market in Nördlingen** offers next to the usual attractions a crib manger exhibition. Especially exciting for children is the living manger!
For more information see:
<http://www.weihnachtsmarkt-deutschland.de/weihnachtsmarkt-noerdlingen.html>
The market in Nördlingen is open between **November 28th** and **December**

8. James Bond 007

The news **James Bond film** came out recently and the **Roxy cinema in Nürnberg**, Julius Loßmann Str. 119 shows the film **Quantum of Solace in ENGLISH** presently at 4.30pm, 6.30pm and 8.45pm. Children have to be 12 years or older for this film. For more information call: 0911-488 40.

9. Family news

- The **EUROPA PARK** in Rust between Karlsruhe and Freiburg on Autobahn A5 is the **biggest fun park in Germany** and could also be called "Little Disney world". It reopens for winter specials **November 29th and will stay open until December 31st** (closed December 24th and 25th).

Next to all the regular attractions the winter special offers additional seasonal highlights like a Christmas market, winter circus, skiing classes, ice skating or the "Winterwunderwelt" - just to name a few. See yourself: www.europapark.de Under "Anfahrt" you can find a description how to get there and under "Hotel resort" you learn all about the different hotels in case you would like to stay over night. Travel agencies offer special packages too and you can find those under "Reiseveranstalter".

There is also a **two day tour to the EUROPA PARK starting from Nürnberg, November 29th to November 30th** organized by "**Neukam-Reba Reisen**" Tel. 0911-200130 or 202290. The tour, including bus transfer, hotel with breakfast buffet and a two day ticket for the fun park, costs between Euro 139,-- and Euro 159,--.



Quelle: EUROPA PARK

- The **Moscow Circus on Ice** will perform in Nürnberg, Meistersingerhalle, Münchner Str. 21 on **Friday, December 5th at 7.30pm**
The show could be called a "**winter dream**" showing a combination of the art of ice skating with high classical circus presentations. This is certainly great entertainment for the whole family.
For tickets see: www.nuernberg-ticket.com/index.php?id=60&time=1228431600

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