

8 MORE GERMAN BEER FESTIVALS TO RIVAL OKTOBERFEST

Limmersdorf Lindenkirchweih

Another Bavarian town with a beer festival, Limmersdorf is in the northern part of the state near Kulmbach (whose 'bierwoche' I covered in the original German beer fest post). Lindenkirchweih (<http://www.lindenkirchweih.de/>) is a celebration of the town's 350 year old Linden tree and the main attraction is traditional dancing by locals youth on a stage erected around the tree. Although there are conflicting tales of why the tree was planted, one thing that everyone can agree on is the importance of it to the local culture. While beer is not the main focus of Lindenkirchweih, it's certainly has a supporting role. After the mayor taps the first keg of beer, thousands of visitors unwind in beer gardens and tents, enjoying the usually pleasant August weather. Test your skills after a beer or two on the very traditional looking outdoor bowling lane.

The Limmersdorf Lindenkirchweih runs from August 27 to 30, 2016.

Baiersdorf Krenmarkt

This festival is dedicated to the horseradish, believed to be brought over to the region in the 15th century and every year it begins the same way – with the town's Mayor and the Horseradish Queen opening up the festivities officially. This area of norther Bavaria is a hotspot for horseradish farming and autumn marks the end of the season, when production begins to wind down. The Krenmarkt (http://www.baiersdorf.de/2242_DEU_WWW.php) is a celebration to the (hopefully) prosperous season and allows farmers and locals to kickback and indulge in the fruit of their efforts. This important ingredient is a critical component in all of the culinary options from dumplings with horseradish to sausages topped with horseradish which are best washed down with horseradish schnapps or a refreshing Bavarian beer (which is, thankfully, horseradish free). Other highlights of the festival include artisan stalls with handmade crafts and trinkets, vintage tractors on display, and a large crown statue made from horseradishes.

The Baiersdorf Krenmarkt runs on the third Sunday in September (September 18, 2016)
