

WO KANN MAN ESSEN UND TRINKEN? (Where can you eat and drink?)

essen / speisen / trinken

LEIPZIG'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH COFFEE



DELECTABLE
TEMPTATIONS AT
CAFÉ CORSO.

a particular cake.

Zum Arabischen Coffe Baum's specialty is layers of chocolate cake filled with light creamy white ganache studded with tart lingonberries. The historic café (it's the second oldest in its original form in Europe, the present café dating from 1719) is also known for Schumanntorte, a white layer cake with chocolate icing, topped by a medallion with the image of Robert Schumann.

The coffee menu includes both Café Symphonie and Schumanns Traum (Schumann's dream), all references to the café's association with the composer. Cafés tended to draw people of like interests and passions—political or artistic, and Zum Arabischen Coffe Baum was the gathering place of musicians. These included Telemann, Wagner, Mendelssohn and Grieg, but the café regular was

Schumann, who attracted young artists and intellectuals to discuss new ideas. (These traditions continued, and in the GDR period, government agents listened in on conversations of a group of artists who met there regularly, using microphones hidden in the chandeliers.)

Cafés and music seem as inseparable in Saxony as cakes and coffee, and like everywhere else in Leipzig, the coffee houses are entwined with favorite son Johann Sebastian Bach. His well-loved *Coffee Cantata* was composed here and first performed in 1731 at Zimmerman's Coffee House, where he played with a group of music students. He is still memorialized by his home city's cafés.

Café Kandler, an Art Nouveau-style coffee house just up the street from Bach's house and opposite St. Thomas Church, where he was choirmaster, developed a coffee