

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

essen / speisen / trinken

LEIPZIG'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH COFFEE



KOFFEHAUS RIQUET'S ELEPHANTS.

blend in his memory, working with GANOS Kaffee-Kontor & Rösterei. Pastry chef René Kandler created Bachtaler (Bach coins) chocolates to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Bach's death. Flavors of hazelnuts, mocha nougat and fine chocolate blend with the bite of a whole coffee bean hidden inside.

Also marking the 250th anniversary were Bachpfeiffen (Bach Pipes), long thin candies designed to resemble organ pipes, filled with hazelnut cream. Buy them at the St. Thomas Church gift shop, where the proceeds support Leipzig's annual Bach Fest.

Café Kandler is the only place to buy the foil-wrapped Bachtaler, with a portrait of Bach imprinted on the label. In good weather the café façade is lined by a row of traditional bent-cane café chairs facing the statue of Bach beside St. Thomas Church. More tables are under umbrellas in the small square, and inside, along curving upholstered banquettes.

Another Café Kandler faces an atrium inside one of Leipzig's famed passageways, Specks Hof, with a more contemporary-styled salon and terrace with woven wicker armchairs. Although known for its coffees, Kandler also serves 80-plus varieties of tea and offers tea-tasting semi-

nars, some in English.

No café personifies the stylish atmosphere of the later traditional coffee house more than Kaffeehaus Riquet, with its paneled interior adorned by lush curves and carved wooden flourishes. The building itself is an irresistible confection, designed in 1908 to serve the coffees, teas and chocolate that the Riquet company had been importing since 1745.

At the turn of the 20th century the notion of German empire was popular, and Riquet's idea was to capitalize on that by emphasizing German colonies in Africa (although very little coffee was actually coming from there) and by extension the even more exotic orient. So Riquet's labels and packaging took on exotic motifs of elephants and Asian costumes. Architect Paul Lange drew on these themes to create an exotic corner building with a pagoda roof, colorful Art Nouveau mosaics and a curved entrance guarded by two copper elephant heads. The interior was restored to its original splendor in 1996, when Riquet determined to bring the tradition of elegant coffee houses back to Leipzig.

In 1912, about the same time as Riquet built its corner coffee house, master confectioner Ernst Fischer founded a pastry shop and opened a literary café where he stocked