

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

essen / speisen / trinken

LEIPZIG'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH COFFEE

200 national and international newspapers. By 1926 he had opened a second café, near Augustusplatz. When it and his pastry shop were destroyed by bombing raids in World War II, he leased a bakery elsewhere and acquired Café Hennersdorf, which became a meeting place of intellectuals and free-thinkers.

Like much else in Leipzig, Café Corso's story was interrupted by Saxony's 40 years under the GDR. Along with other historical buildings, the one holding the café was razed, but Ernst's son Werner persevered and found a new location. Like the old one, this haven for artists, students and intellectuals was carefully watched by GDR, who suspected them of conspiracies.

Two years on, the new café was taken over by the GDR and made a part of a state-owned restaurant chain. It wasn't until after German reunification that the Fischer family regained possession and relocated to Brüderstrasse. The café faces a park near the university, and patrons can sit at sidewalk tables or in the old-style interior to savor cakes and pastries that are handmade in their bakery.

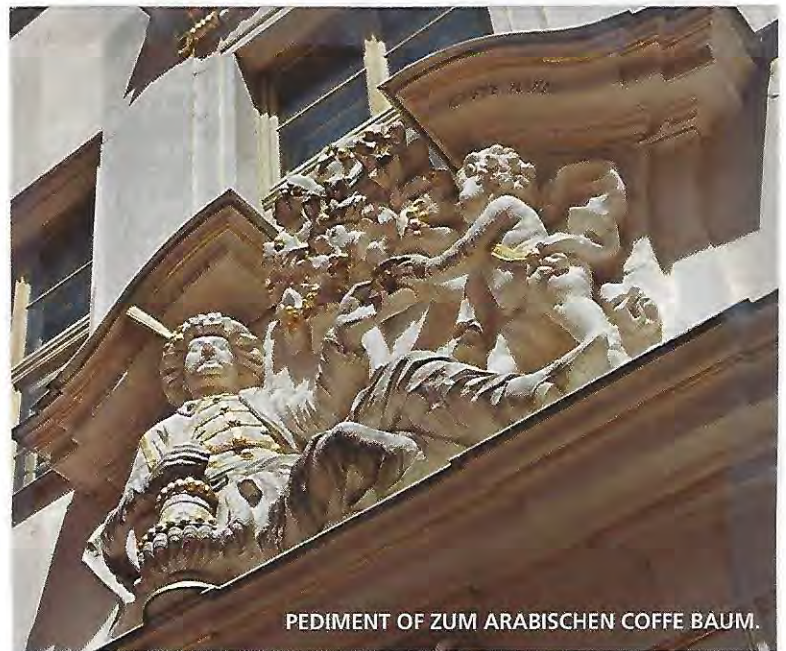
From the start, Corso built its reputation on traditional Saxon pastries, and on making them all by hand. They are among a very few in Germany who still make traditional pyramid cakes by hand. These unusual cakes are made by brushing 15 to 20 successive thin layers of batter onto a wooden pole, baking each before adding the next. The result is a cake that is then cut laterally to show its fine layers, which look like rings of a tree. Baumkuchenspitzen are individual slices that are dipped in chocolate, similar to dipped petit-fours.

Corso is known, too, for its Stollen and Christmas pastries, but it was here that we first sampled Leipzig's most famous pastry specialty, Leipziger Lerchen. Each café has a slightly different version of these little almond tartlets, named for the larks that once frequented the Elster River's shore. But the Leipziger Lerchen has a story all its own (see *Sidebar*).

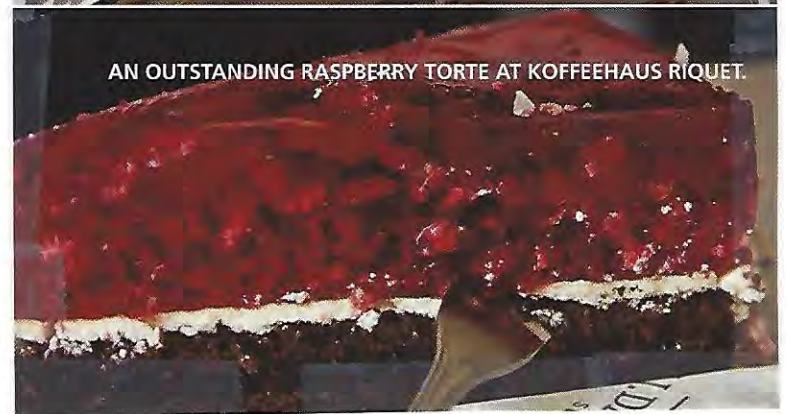
It may have been Frederick II of Prussia who coined the term *Kaffeesachsen* for coffee-drinking Saxons, although he prefaced it with "miserable." He was annoyed that during the Seven Years War his Saxon troops had refused to fight unless given their customary morning coffee ration. Whoever originated the epithet, its one Leipzig still bears proudly.



ONE OF THE THREE STYLES OF CAFÉ FOUND AT
ZUM ARABISCHEN COFFE-BAUM



PEDIMENT OF ZUM ARABISCHEN COFFE BAUM.



AN OUTSTANDING RASPBERRY TORTE AT KOFFEEHAUS RIQUET.