

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

“CANNSTÄTTER VOLKSFEST” / “WASEN STUTTGART FOLK FESTIVAL

www.cannstatter-volksfest.de

Typically, the Wasen also opens with a parade that marches from downtown Stuttgart to the site of the festival. Stuttgart's three-week Cannstatter Volksfest always kicks off one week after Oktoberfest and consequentially overlaps with German Unity Day. To celebrate German reunification on Oct. 3, a fireworks show takes place at the Wasen.

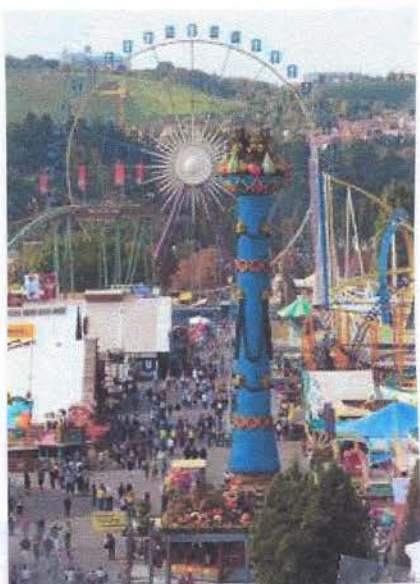
Stuttgart Mayor Fritz Kuhn will announce the opening of the 168th Cannstatter Volksfest on the evening Sept. 27.

Just like Oktoberfest, the Stuttgart festival has a sister event on this side of the Atlantic. While Cincinnati hosts the largest Oktoberfest in the United States, Philadelphia hosts the largest US-based Cannstatter Volksfest on Labor Day weekend.

The largest public festival of Baden-Württemberg owes its origin to similar intentions. In 1818 Wilhelm I, King of Württemberg, distributed prizes for the first time in conjunction with cattle market awards for agricultural products. From the outset a large public festival with other competitions and forms of entertainment was part of the event, out of which the present-day Volksfest on the “Cannstatter Wasen,” the “turf of Bad Cannstatt,” evolved.

Parade

Traditionally a parade also takes place at the Wasen, usually on the first Sunday. In 1954 a record number of spectators attended the parade along the route from Stuttgart's central square to the Wasen site: 300,000.



The Wasen is well-known for its Fruchtsäule (fruit column).



Agriculture exhibition

Every three years an agricultural exhibition (*Landwirtschaftliches Hauptfest*) is included in the main celebration. This was the original Cannstatter Wasen Volksfest. Unlike the Volksfest, there is an entrance fee to visit the exhibition. The last exhibition of this kind was in 2006.