

**POST CHRISTMAS SEASON / NACHWEIHNACHTZEIT**

New Year's Eve: Silvesterabend (der 31. Dezember)

New Years Eve custom: Silvesterabendsitte

**Silvester in Bayern****"Sylvester" and New Year customs and tradition in Bavaria**

Sylvester - Hotel Burg  
Rabenstein in Bavaria

As the last vestiges of Christmas goose are finished up it's time to get ready to welcome in the New Year. In Bavaria, however you choose to celebrate you will find something just tailor-made for you. **"Sylvester"** - the German term for New Year's Eve that comes from the fact that the 31st December is St. Sylvester's day - is celebrated with festivities of all sizes from large gala dinners and balls to local festivities in cities, towns and villages across the state. Wherever you choose to see in the New Year sparkling wine and fireworks are bound to feature prominently.

Private parties surrounded by your closest friends often involve eating a fondue or a raclette, singing, dancing and the tradition of **"Bleigiessen"**. A small piece of lead is melted in a spoon over candle flame and then dropped into ice cold water. From the shape formed by the hardened lead predictions are made about what is going to happen during the year. You will be amazed at how different people interpret the shapes - creativity knows no bounds! It's great fun!

Then as midnight strikes, the church bells ring out the old year and ring in the new to the accompaniment of fireworks, champagne corks popping and people the state over **wishing each other "ein gutes neues Jahr" (Happy new year)**.