

## OKTOBERFEST FROM A TO Z

### Sitten und Gebräuche / Customs and Traditions

#### DIE BAVARIA DENKMAL / BAVARIA STATUE

■ Under the watchful eyes of Mrs "Bavaria":  
In devotion to bavarian patriotism, with 70 tons and 60 feet the largest bronze statue built to that date. Inside you can climb up the 121 steps. She looks down on the Oktoberfest probably wondering what all these people are doing. Be sure to mention it as your meeting place if you should get lost or separated in the crowds.



Contrary to what its name implies, that of a meadow, the *Wies'n* itself is mostly paved over. That being said, however, set in against the back hillside of the grounds stands the enormous statue of Bavaria, where she proudly reigns over the festival. (If you are so inclined, and sober, you can ascend to the top of Bavaria for a unique view of the Oktoberfest in all its glory).

In 1850 the allegorical statue Bavaria was unveiled on the *Wies'n*, and from then on, this 20 metre-high Valkyrie-like figure, accompanied by her royal lion, has presided over the proceedings. With that buxom pagan goddess standing guard, it quickly became clear that this was where the Bavarians would come for annual relief from their Catholic consciences. This was the Sin City of yore, outside the jurisdiction of the Church. By the end of the 19th century, the first grilled chicken stands were set up, and now almost every animal on God's green Earth is impaled on a rough stick and roasted over a beech-wood fire at Oktoberfest.

At the foot of the Bavaria statue, the huge Oktoberfest grounds also provide carousels, roller coasters and all the spectacular fun of the fair for the enjoyment and excitement of visitors of all ages. The festivities are accompanied by a program of events, including the Grand Entry of the Oktoberfest Landlords and Breweries, the Costume and Riflemen's Procession, and a concert involving all the brass bands represented at the "Wies'n".



*'Bavaria' proudly watches over the revelers at the Wies'n*