

“Bei uns ist immer was los!” Feste im Herbst

SOMMER- und HERBSTWEINFESTE und IHRE GEBRÄUCHE / SUMMER and FALL WINE FESTIVALS and THEIR CUSTOMS

The wine growing regions of Germany promote wine sales, staging annual wine festivals for connoisseurs from near and far during the months of August and September with dancing and entertainment.

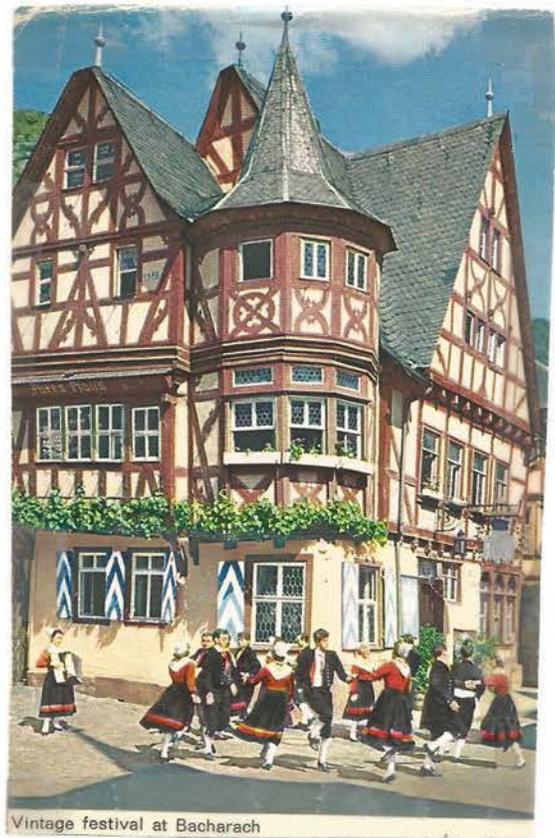
Wine festivals are held in Koblenz, Mainz, Trier, Bingen, and most of the smaller towns in the wine country. The *Wurstmarkt*, which dates back to 1442, is actually a wine festival held annually toward the end of September at Bad Dürkheim in the Pfalz.

From July through late October, there are numerous other wine festivals, mainly in the villages of the Rhine and Moselle valleys. Among them are Bockenheim, Deidesheim, and Schweigen-Rechterbach.

At the end of August the Moselfest in Winningen heads the long list of the events so typical of autumn in Germany. It is the oldest of the wine festivals on the Moselle.

The wine and wine-growers' festivals of today, however, are not festivals of the growers among themselves, but primarily festivals for wine-lovers from near and far. The federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate occupies only eight percent of the surface of the Federal Republic, yet about 70 percent of the land is devoted to vineyards. In this state, over a hundred wine and wine-growers' festivals are taking place every year, most of them in the months of August and September. Almost every wine-producing village has its own wine festival. The largest is the “Wurstmarkt” in Bad Dürkheim. In the “wine village” of Coblenz, from May to September, there is dancing and entertainment every day. There are also wine festivals in the other wine-growing areas of the Federal Republic: Rheingau, the Bergstrasse, Neckar, Saar, Baden, and Main-Frankonia.

Almost none of the modern wine festivals harken back to old traditions. Only a few have evolved out of “Kirchweih” or markets. Many are quite recent in origin. Of course, their function is obvious: to promote vital sales for the benefit of wine-growers, innkeepers, and hotels. It is quite similar at the other local festivals.



Vintage festival at Bacharach

Weinfeste (wine festivals) in Franconia

No other wine region in Germany possesses such a density of mediaeval towns and villages and they have more than a hundred wine festivals between May and November. A Wine Queen is elected - not just for her beauty, but for her knowledge about the local wine.