

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

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



Wine Festivals

Doubtlessly the cultivation of wine as a particular form of agriculture developed its own subculture at an early time. The patron saint of wine-growing, for example, is Saint Urban. During his commemorative day on May 25th there were strange customs: if the weather had been fair and thus favorable to wine-growing, the statue of the saint was carried through the streets in a procession. But if the weather had been inclement and unfavorable for the wine grapes, Saint Urban's statue was tossed into the dirt or water. That was his punishment for having rendered such limited assistance.

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 8 per cent of the surface of the Federal Republic, yet 69.6 per cent of the land devoted to vineyards (1965). (Nevertheless, the amount of agriculture and forestry – including wine-growing – even here is only 6.6 per cent of the gross national product, yet considerably higher than the federal average of 4.5 per cent.) In this state of the Federal Republic for the 1972 calendar of events, 123 wine and wine-growers' festivals are announced, most of them – 74 to be precise – in the months of August and September. Almost every wine-producing village has its own wine festival. 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-Franconia.