

“Bei uns ist immer was los!” Feste in Rheinland

„WURSTMARKT“ IN BAD DÜRKHEIM / „SAUSAGE FAIR“
 (held annually on the 2nd and 3rd weekends of September in the spa town of
 Bad Dürkheim in Rhine-Palatinate)

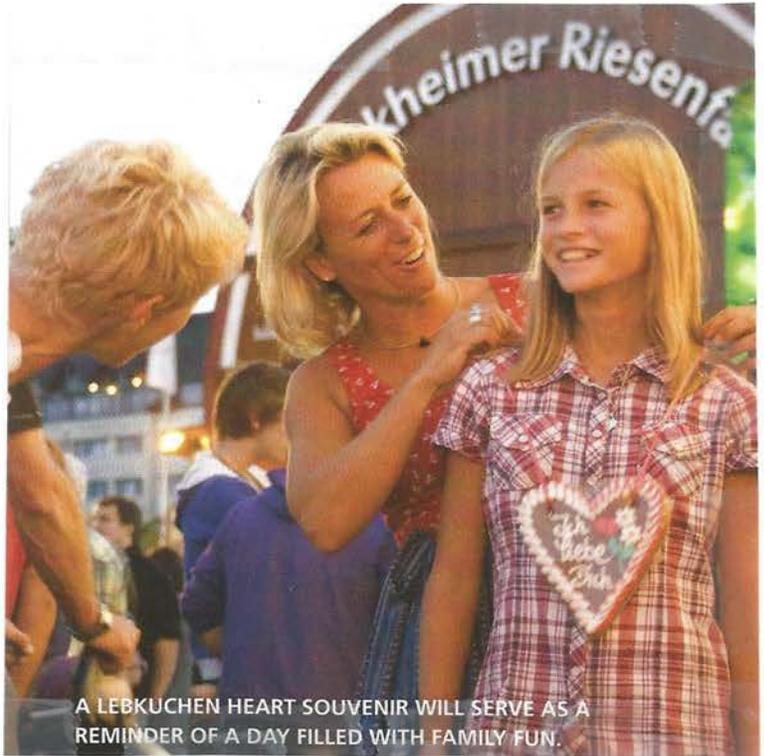
mineral water keeps you from getting drunk on one glass – since the idea is to try a few wines not just one).

Bad Dürkheim has been in charge of the festival since the French Revolution, though technically the town was known as just Dürkheim until it was certified as a “spa” town and allowed to add *Bad* (bath) to its name in 1904. By that time, the city was more than a thousand years old (first mentioned around the time of Charlemagne in 778) and the festival was getting ready to enter its sixth century of existence.

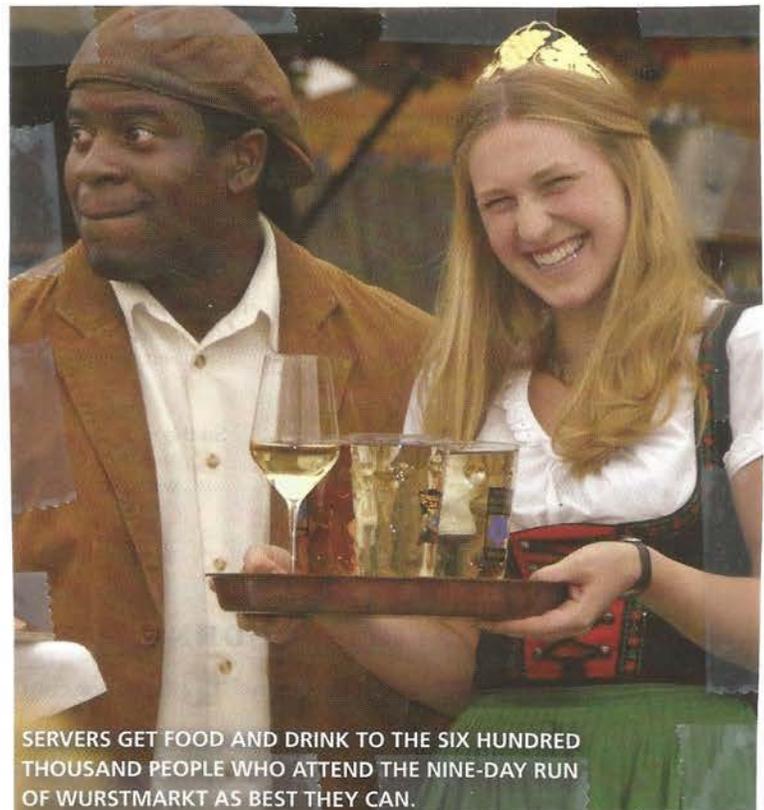
On a personal level, going to the Wurstmarkt was a coincidence of wanting to visit a nearby ancestral hometown and the people who we met there insisted that we go with them to a wine festival that evening. Though my girlfriend and I were dragging from jet lag, we agreed.

Our husband-and-wife hosts for the day along with another German couple navigated us to a train station very close to our hotel that evening, and we all took the train to Bad Dürkheim for the festival, which was in easy walking distance. What we found there shook the jet lag from us immediately – the sights, sounds, tastes of the Wurstmarkt immediately flooded us with German warmth (I even had a chance to have my picture taken with the new wine princess!). We sampled the white and red wines from the Palatinate, and ate wonderful sausages and pretzels as well as a German version of flatbread pizza, which was delicious in its own way.

It was a great way to start a German tour – the two couples were so kind and immediately became friends despite only having known the one couple since noon and the other just a couple of hours! A local poet, Karl Räder, put it this way: “The Wurstmarkt is the only festival where you meet old friends you’ve never seen before.” I couldn’t put it better myself.



A LEBKUCHEN HEART SOUVENIR WILL SERVE AS A REMINDER OF A DAY FILLED WITH FAMILY FUN.



SERVERS GET FOOD AND DRINK TO THE SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE WHO ATTEND THE NINE-DAY RUN OF WURSTMARKT AS BEST THEY CAN.

If you go ...
 Dürkheim Wurstmarkt, Kurbrunnenstraße, 67089 Bad Dürkheim, Germany; Telephone: +49 6322 9566-250; <http://www.duerkheimer-wurstmarkt.de>.
 Dürkheimer Wurstmarkt will be held September 9 - 13 and 16 - 19, 2011.
 Schedule: Opens late morning and has no set closing time - some, including many young people, come around midnight and stay into the early morning hours!