

## WO KANN MAN SPEISEN UND TRINKEN?

(Where can you eat and drink?)

essen / speisen / trinken

restaurant:

die Gaststätte, die Gaststätten  
(similar to American cafes and frequently a source of authentic cooking and specialize in serving local food; found especially in smaller villages)

die Speisewirtschaft, die Speisewirtschaften

die Gastwirtschaft, die Gastwirtschaften

die Gaststube, die Gaststuben

das Speiserestaurant / das Restaurant, die Restaurants  
(has a varied menu of hot foods, including a Spezialität)

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE GOING TO A GERMAN RESTAURANT

### RESTAURANT RESTROOMS

I've made this point earlier on: the Germans, direct in most of their behavior, don't go in for euphemisms. A toilet is a toilet, and any attempt to turn it into a restroom or powder room will be met with incomprehension or a smile. Just ask for the *Toilette, bitte*, and you'll be directed to the little girls' or little boys' room. Instead of the female or male silhouette indicating toilet segregation, you'll occasionally see the sign "OO." In families, the word for toilet is often *Klo*, a shortened form of "water closet."

### Put coins in your pocket



After drinking all that warm Coke, you probably have to use the restroom. When you get there, don't be surprised to find a person in a white jacket guarding the entrance with a plate of coins. He or she is there to clean the toilets - and expects a small tip for doing so, regardless of how expensive your meal was. So don't forget to throw a 50-cent coin in your pocket before leaving your table.