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Editorial



Thick blankets of snow in the high mountain valleys, tuneful Christmas carols, atmospheric lighting and beautifully decorated lodges – winter brings its own very special charm to Kufsteinerland. Nature becomes peaceful. The fortress town of Kufstein and eight surrounding communities are preparing to conjure up a wonderful winter and Christmas time for you with some relaxed comforts, sporting activities, charming traditions and tasty treats. Experience moments filled with customs, showcases of nature, history, culture and winter sport.

Let us transport you to the wintry Kaisertal valley – to one of the most beautiful places in Austria – and discover the secrets of one of our most precious tree species, the stone pine. Thomas Einwaller and Stefan Käser carve out some very special works of art from the wood. Read about the traditional carving process here and gain an insight into Isidor Winkler's works of art made from scrap iron. We interview gabbling geese, offer insight into the world of our animals at the winter forest and take you on a carriage ride through the snowy landscape. Weave your way around the wonderful Christmas markets with lots of crafts and local specialities or stroll through beautifully illuminated Kufstein with its inviting cafés, traditional restaurants and charming shops.

We look forward to sharing lots of news with you again in our Moments magazine and taking you with us on a fascinating tour of Kufsteinerland with plenty of wonderful moments for you to enjoy.

Enjoy the read!

Best wishes,
Johann Mauracher



Johann Mauracher Chairman of the TVB Kufsteinerland

"Let us transport you to one of the most beautiful places in our region."



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Winter fairy-tale in the mountains

"I am still always impressed by the beauty of this location. And that's despite living in the Kaisertal for over 30 years," says Barbara Schaffer who lives at the Hinterkaiserhof close to the Antoniuskapelle chapel. This is the oldest catered farmhouse in the Kaisertal. Nowadays, the forest roads are cleared of snow each day so that the routes into the Kaisertal are accessible at all times, without the need for snow shoes. The Ritzau Alm can be reached from the Hinterkaiserhof via a wide forest road in just half an hour. The steep route up to the Ritzau Alm diverts off from the forest road just before the Pfandlhof on the left and is also passable in winter. Once in the forest, you enter an untouched winter world of snow and ice.

Wonderful winter landscape

The footpath is not cleared and lone walkers make their mark in the snow, leaving behind a trodden trail which other walkers can then easily follow. "Even in heavy snowfall, we get individual hard-core mountain climbers coming here," says Barbara Anker of the Ritzau Alm. Those wishing to scale even greater heights can climb from the Ritzau Alm up to the Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte lodge where they will be rewarded with fantastic views of the winter landscapes in the valley. It's not possible to get any higher in winter and even the peaks of the Zahmer Kaiser are shrouded under a blanket of thick snow. At the five mountain lodges and guesthouses of the Kaisertal which are catered all year round, frozen mountain climbers can enjoy the cosy lounges and culinary delights: with wood-fired tiled stoves to warm them up on the outside and black tea with rum ('Jagertee') to warm them up on the inside! A soothing feeling of warmth spreads through the body and offers them the chance to sit back and reflect on the day. During a winter walk in the mountains, you are sure to encounter tranquillity, snow and our majestic Kaiser peak.

"As a child, we had to walk the route into the valley on foot every day. There were several occasions when we got snowed in. I liked that as a child because it meant we didn't have to go to school".

Anton Schaffer Landlord of the Hinterkaiserhof

Opening times of the mountain lodges:

 Veitenhof
 Monday and Tuesday - closed

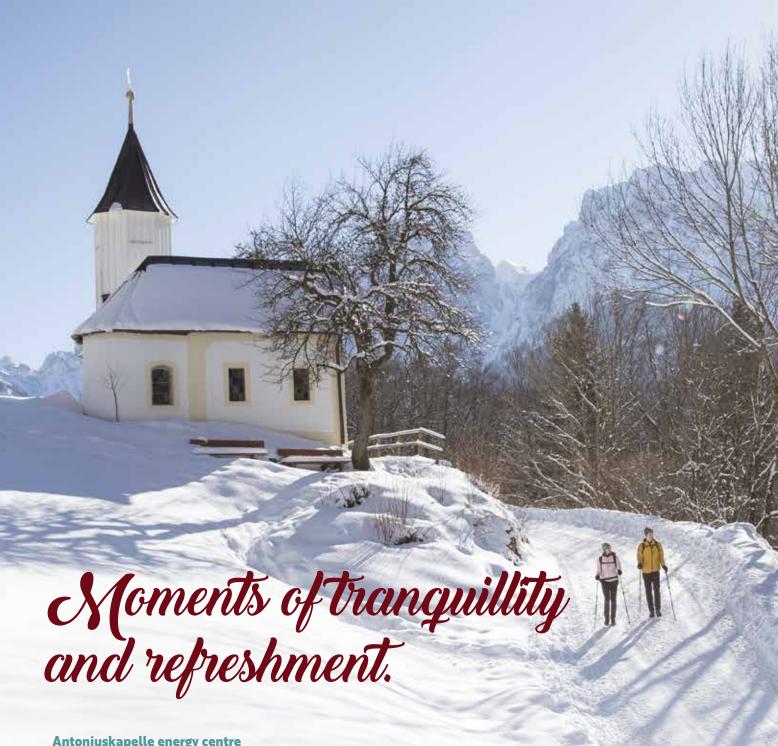
 Pfandlhof
 Thursday - closed

 Hinterkaiserhof
 Friday - closed

 Ritzau Alm
 Monday - closed

 Vorderkaiserfeldenhütte
 Thursday - closed





Antoniuskapelle energy centre

The Antoniuskapelle chapel is set before the backdrop of the Wilder Kaiser – a view which decorates many postcards and paintings. The chapel is part of the Hinterkaiserhof and was built over 300 years ago. The farmer at the time pledged to the invading Bavarian troops in 1703 that he would build a chapel in honour of St. Antonius so as to spare his livestock from attack.

The chapel was completed in 1711 and the characteristic tower was added in 1875. The altarpiece depicts the patron of the church, St. Antonius. He is deemed to be the patron saint of lovers, marriage, women, children, the poor, travellers, bakers and miners. Many visitors document their wishes in the chapel's books or light a candle to summon support from the Holy Spirit.

Kaisertal Mountain Christmas

Each year, the Kaisertal Mountain Christmas is celebrated on Boxing Day, 26 December, with a Holy Mass. Participants gather at 19:00 outside the Antoniuskapelle chapel. The atmosphere during the 45-minute outdoor service is very special: guests stand in the biting cold beneath the starry skies, illuminated by torchlight and candles and accompanied by the sounds of the 'Ebbser Blasmusik' brass band. The musicians, like the priest, complete the journey to the Kaisertal on foot to provide musical accompaniment to the Mass. The tourist board offers a guided torch-lit walk for the occasion. It starts out at 17:00 from the Kaiseraufstieg ascent in Ebbs. A contribution of 2 euros is charged for the two torches - one for the way there and one for the way back.

Sunrise walks

During the cold season, the Kufsteinerland tourist board runs weekly guided winter walks in the Kaisertal. A particular highlight are the winter sunrise walks on 21 December, 21 January, 19 February and 21 March 2019: during the light nights beneath the full moon, walkers have a very early start as they set off into the Kaisertal, accompanied by a certified mountain guide, to embrace the cold, clear winter air and panoramic mountain views of the Wilder Kaiser in the light of the rising sun. Register at least two days before the event date.



More information at info@kufstein.com or Tel. +43 (0)5372 62207



RIEDEL Glass in Kufstein

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'n Kufstein, glass lovers and wine enthusiasts can explore a unique world of wine glass production at the highest level. Anyone wishing to purchase RIEDL's world-famous glasses and decanters directly from their production site here in Kufstein can enjoy some special benefits too: at the Glashütte, customers can experience how the glasses and decanters are made and see the care which goes into blowing each individual piece of glass and producing each piece by hand. The emotionally-charged Sinnfonie show is an adventure of sensual perception and the modern, 300 m² light-flooded shop at the glass manufacturers also plays a significant part in the manufacturing process. Thanks to the individual advice provided by the expert staff, there is always a competent answer to the key question in the RIEDEL glass philosophy: 'Which glass for which wine?' Customers also have the chance to ask and answer the same question themselves with a tasting session in a relaxed atmosphere. The specialist Kufstein store at the Glashütte offers the most comprehensive selection of RIEDEL glasses, dining accessories from Nachtmann and Spiegelau, special offers, and good value seconds at the outlet



store. And if the box won't fit in your car, the glassware can be sent out to you, including to addresses across the world. So purchasing RIEDEL glassware is a truly unforgettable experience – it's always worth stopping off at RIEDL in Kuftein and taking a look.

Opening times: SHOP

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT







Catwalk vibes through the fortress town

A voyage of discovery through designer fashion and mediaeval flair, accompanied by the aroma of fresh coffee. Shopping in Kufstein is more than just shopping.

> the anthracite-coloured shelves, they are lined up, one after the other. Brown, black, authentic leather. Exclusive shoes created with exquisite craftsmanship. A catwalk vibe in Kufstein. From the local bookshop around the corner to exquisite tableware. extravagant living accessories and boutiques offering designs from the fashion capitals - the trendy shops of Kufstein offer some special

and unique pieces. The shopping malls too provide plenty of big city flair and variety - the perfect place for a browse. Kufstein is a diverse shopping paradise and this town's close proximity to nature never fails to impress shopping fans with the surprises it has in store

A trendy fashion show in the centre of Kufstein - in the middle of the street and always along the red carpet. Night shopping here is a paradise of nighttime purchasing across the town. Speciality culinary treats from the region including 'Kiachl' (doughnuts) and aromatic Alpine cheeses along with traditional The shopping events guarantee to offer flavoursome voyages of discovery and give the fortress town its own very special flair.

A short detour then to Inn. There is a hit of cold air as you take those first steps out from the protective row of houses in the Unterer Stadtplatz. Later, on the bridge, the air becomes a breeze but the views of Kufstein after crossing a short section of the Innbrücke bridge towards the main train station quickly push any thoughts of winter chill into the background. Beyond the colourful row of houses and green-blue winter colour of the river Inn, Kufstein fortress towers majestically behind the colourful row of houses and appears even more imposing due to the lack of greenery on the trees in winter. Moments of relaxation, just a short way from the hustle and bustle of shopping. Back to the Unterer Stadtplatz, the many bars and restaurants are the perfect place to warm up and sample some tasty treats. The aromatic scent of coffee wafts from the small cafés. From top quality burgers to sushi and traditional Tyrolean fare, the taste buds are treated to a delicious culinary tour here. Then it's time to take those new purchases back to your car in one of Kufstein's three underground parking garages



Funplexxx

Arkadenpla

Kienbich

Kufstein Arena

Parking in the town centre

(follow the respective signs)

- Parking garage Altstadtgarage
- Parking garage Citypark
- Parking garage Zentrumsgarage Parking garage Kultur Quartier Car park Stadtsaal

- Car park Kufstein Arena
- Car park Park & Ride
- Car park Salurner Straße Car park Gilmstraße

Parking garage Kufstein Galerienacces via E.-Hofbauer-WegParking garage InntalcenterGewerbehof I

Marktgasse Andreas-Hofer-Straße 2















On 13 December, Kufstein's shops are inviting visitors to enjoy some trendy night shopping with a fashion show right across the town centre and accompanied by an artistic supporting programme.



ıll

Bahnhof

Arche Noe

Altstadt

Festungsarena

Festung





With the right lighting, any night-time walks, evening training sessions or sledging trips beneath the open skies are a truly special experience. If you are looking for a high-performance head torch or helmet lamp, you will find a range of high-quality products from the renowned Lupine brand at Rad & Tat in Kufstein.



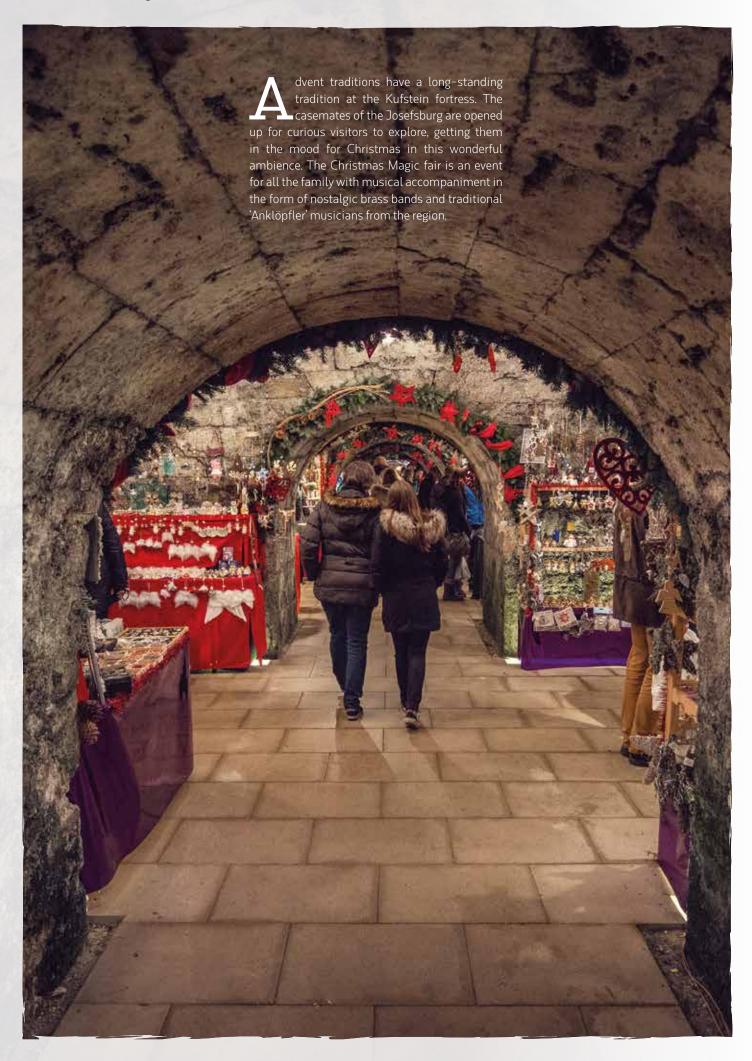
Advent treats...

... are part of any Christmas shopping trip from 23 November 2018 and are served up in the Stadtpark in the centre of Kufstein. 30 romantic huts and traditional stands offer culinary treats from traditional mulled wine to sweet 'Kiachl' (doughnuts) with Christmas music for daydreaming and a children's programme to fill kids with excitement.

















Traditional crafts

The selection of goods on offer in the fortress casemates ranges from traditional crafts made from wood and glass to herb-based and natural products and festive Christmas decorations. Wood crafts have a long-standing tradition in Tyrol. Today nativity figures and sacred sculptures are carved from wood along with modern forms and everyday objects. At Kufstein fortress, you can even watch a wood turner hard at work.

You can also watch glass-blowing on-site: the hot glass glows bright red before it takes shape and hardens. Various glass artists exhibit their imaginative works here. They range from jewellery to vases and decorative items. The Christmas Magic fair at Kufstein fortress is the perfect place to find gifts for your loved ones



Waiting for Christmas in the casemates

The wait for Christmas goes much faster when you are busy doing crafts! In the straw star area, visitors can learn how to make artistic stars using straw. There is also a crafts corner for kids where little ones can get creative. And little guests can bake and decorate Christmas biscuits at the bakery.

Visitors are served warming mulled wine and punch at the fortress and the selection of Austrian culinary treats on offer ranges from sweet to savoury. The wood-fired oven is on the go baking fresh bread topped with cheese, plus fresh chimney cakes are made using regional ingredients and the original Tyrolean 'Prügeltorte' cake is baked on a rotating spit. The selection is completed with traditional Christmas market specialities: toasted almonds, nuts and chocolate-coated fruits.

Those wishing to take the fragrance of Christmas home with them can purchase some of the incense which is on sale at Kufstein fortress. This year, Christmas Magic will be held on the last weekend in November and on the first three weekends of Advent, whatever the weather. Unfortunately, pushchairs cannot be taken into the casemates – but they can be left in a specially designated area just outside the casemates.



TENDER AND DELICIOUS



Opening times Tues-Sun: 12:00–14:00 & 18:00–21:30 Monday closed

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水浴

Eight-pointed straw stars

egend has it that a young shepherd had nothing to offer the newborn Baby Jesus. Inspired by the star shining over Bethlehem, he fashioned a star out of straw so as not to arrive empty-handed.

Straw stars went on to become the poor man's Christmas decoration: those unable to afford artistic glass decorations would decorate their Christmas tree with apples, nuts and stars.

Straw as a material has always been accessible to people in the Alpine region which is why many farmhouse Christmas trees in Tyrol are still decorated with straw stars today.

Want to learn how to make these classic decorations for Tyrolean Christmas trees? We can explain how to make your own eight-pointed straw star in six simple steps. All you need to make each star is eight sticks of straw, eight red wooden beads, some red thread, a pin, a cork, some scissors, a bowl of water and some paper towel.

Do-it-yourself instructions

- Soak the hollow straw sticks in warm water for approx. 20 minutes until they become soft and bendable.
 Then dry them using the paper towel.
- Place the eight straws on top of one another in a star formation and fix them temporarily to the cork in the centre using a pin. Ensure that the points of the star are evenly spaced out.
- Weave the red thread alternately above and below the straw. After completing the first round, weave the same in reverse. Tie the thread in a knot to make it secure.
- Around one centimetre from the knot, wrap two straws in the red thread. Then thread a wooden bead into the space in-between. Follow the same process with the next straws and continue until all of the wooden beads are fixed onto the star.
- Wrap the thread around the remaining protruding straw around 6 cm to the tip and then trim the end with the scissors.
- Now you can remove the star from the cork.
 You can also use the red thread to make a hanger.



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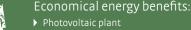
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Folk songs and Tyrolean customs

During Advent, they head from house to house each evening.

The Tyrolean tradition of the 'Anklöpfler' (traditional musicians) is representative of the search for a place to stay. And over 2000 years after the birth of Christ, they still head from door to door, singing and performing.

In Schwoich, the 'Anklöpfler' are part of a special association:

the Schwoich singing group (Sängerrunde Schwoich) has been in existence for ever 125 years.

oday, Hans Harlander from Erl is the young chairman of the Schwoich singing group. The passionate singer has been handling the organisational affairs of the group for the last two-and-a-half years. He supports Sebastian Egerbacher who, as choir master, has been responsible for the musical direction of the group for over 40 years now. "I came to the group in 1961 and was not specifically asked if I wanted to join. Singing has a long-standing tradition in our family," explains Sebastian Egerbacher who grew up as the son of an innkeeper at the Gasthof Egerbach.

A men's choir with a history

Sebastian Egerbacher was instilled with a musical talent from birth. His father was a member of the singing group and his uncle Max was chairman for many years. Sebastian Egerbacher was instilled with a musical talent



from birth. His father was a member of the singing group and his uncle Max was chairman for many years.

Singing as a meaningful hobby

Voice coach Sabine Fischl-Promitzer supports the men with their craft. They rehearse at least once a week and this happens even more frequently in the run-up to a performance. "Music is a core component of my life and I have always made the time for it – even when work has been stressful," says Sebastian Egerbacher of his time-intensive passion. Enjoyment is in plentiful supply at the group but the rehearsals are taken very seriously: attendance is mandatory and unexcused absence is not taken lightly. Discipline is essential in singing, as everywhere.

Music unites people

"Singing brings people together whether we perform at home or abroad. Music knows no bounds – something which has become clear during our trips abroad. Even if you don't speak the same language, you can understand one another through the songs," says Sebastian Egerbacher of his recent trips abroad with the Schwoich singing group.

The singing group has twice been invited to Iceland and once to Norway – and the singers are highly regarded guests closer to home too. "At home, we play a key role in the village community – our parties and festivals throughout the year are very popular. It is also worth mentioning the 'Kranzlsingen' event which takes place every few years. During this event, we head from farm to farm with choirs we are friends with," Hans Harlander explains.



Milestones in the history of the group

>> 1892

Founding of the group by teacher, organ player and first choir master Johann Gunsch

>> 1898

Participation in the 50th anniversary of the reign of Emperor Franz Joseph I

>> 1918

New beginning following the First World War under the direction of Thomas Exenberger; the male choir performed at the community's official homecoming celebration

>> 1925

Purchasing of the first piano for the choir rehearsals

>> 1936

Dissolution of the 'Schwoicher Gesangsverein' and 'Kufsteiner Liedertafel'

>> 1945

Group re-founded as the 'Sängerrunde Eintracht Schwoich'

>> 1946

Admission to the 'Tiroler Sängerverband' association

>> 1947

First public performance as the 'Sängerrunde Eintracht'

>> 1952

Confiscation of all the musical scores by the Bad Häring police

>> 1952

Dissolution of the 'Sängerrunde Eintracht Schwoich' and changing of the group name to 'Sängerrunde Schwoich'

>> 1961

Introduction of traditional costumes for the singers: blue loden jackets, a red waistcoat, black trousers, a necker and black hat.

>> 1974

Lederhosen, white socks, a belt and shoes to the singers' traditional dress.

>> 1986

Radio recordings at the ORF studio in Innsbruck

>> 1991

Recordings for the first cassette $% \label{eq:condition} % \[\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{L}} = \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{L}} = \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{L}} \]$

>> 1992

Big celebration to mark the group's 100th anniversary

>> 2003

First trip to Iceland

>> 2005

Recordings for the CD 'Die lebfrischen Buam aus Tirol'

>> 2007

Invitation to take part in the programme 'so is's bei uns in Tirol' by Franz Posch at the Brucknerhaus in Linz

>> 2007

Second trip to Iceland

>> 2012

120th anniversary celebrations

>> 2017

Trip to Norway

Traditional belt worn by the Schwoich singing group.



A Ty Chri

A Tyrolean Christmas custom

'Anklöpfeln' is a Tyrolean custom which dates back to the 16th century. Most recently, the 'Anklöpfler' from Schwoich took seven years to get around the whole village. It is a truly biblical undertaking, in the truest sense. The village inhabitants provide the singers with snacks and schnapps and try to talk

them into staying. But after a few songs, the 'Anklöpfler' have to continue on their way, as is customary.

In Schwoich, there are at least eight male 'Anklöpfler' singers out and about, covering the four registers: Ist tenor, 2nd tenor, 1st bass and 2nd bass. The choir too is divided into these four voices. The choir master decides on the choice of songs. "The repertoire chosen differs from region to region. We sing lots of pieces in dialect, for example folk songs by Josef Pöll, Sepp Thaler and Ferdinand Cajka. But the classics are also an essential part of the 'Anklöpflern' tradition: 'Geh' Hansl pack dei Pinkerl z'sam' or 'Jetzt fangen wir zum Singen an', for example".

The 'Anklöpfler' aim to bring happiness and blessings for the coming year to people's homes – and the songs bring joy to their hearts.



Dates in winter

8 December 2018, 10:00 8 December 2018, 20:00 16 December 2018, 16:00 Pensioners' Mass in Kufstein
Singing concert in Kramsach
'Zomm kemma im Advent'
at the music pavilion in Schwoich
Christmas tree auction at the Gasthof Neuwirt

5 January 2019, 19:00





Cycling and cross-country are closely linked at this family business.

ycling and cross-country are both very popular sports. Probably because they work on a wide range of muscles and at the same time are gentle on the joints, making them among the healthiest endurance sports alongside swimming. They can also be practised at any age.

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Time to start thinking about your bike service for winter.

The new cycling season is approaching faster than you might think! To avoid queuing during peak service times in spring, we recommend giving your bike its annual service in winter. Then there is nothing stopping you from enjoying cycling! During the winter season, we offer a convenient pick-up & return service for customers. Simply arrange a slot.

More information at: www.schuler-sports.at www.facebook.com/schulersports | www.instagram.com/schulersports







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By two people who discovered their love of wood carving during childhood and have been transforming simple pieces of wood into unique works ever since – from cows to traditional masks.

he smell of wood is in the air. The unique spicy and homely fragrance fills the whole room. Outside the window, a big crowd can be seen. The cows are trudging along, row after row. Brown and white flecked ones. Among them is a young Alpine herdsman. It seems like he is trying to move on the two animals who are looking through the window with interest. Stefan Käser laughs and straightens up the wooden cows on his window sill. "This scene, the 'Almfahrt' (when the cattle are driven to the Alpine pastures in spring is as much a part of Tyrolean tradition as wood carving – they belong together". Wood carving has been a part of life in Niederndorferberg for as long as he can remember. Even as a young boy, he used to carve wood with a knife before attending the 'Schnitzschule Elbigenalp' woodcarving school as a youngster. "In the past, farmhands with sufficient talent would spend the winter carving cows and would place them on the ledges. And that's how the tradition associated with the 'Almfahrt' came about," he says of this cattle-based custom. These carvings are still sought-after today. Many people start out with two or three animals and then develop a whole herd over the years.

Two days to make one cow

A mountaineer abseils down from the ceiling and a carved mirror frame hangs on the wall. Taking a look around Stefan's workshop is a real voyage









of discovery. There are wooden works of art standing and hanging everywhere. These include endless religious figures. "Yes, our holy figures were once one of the main pieces produced by our carvers. A visit to the local churches immediately reveals just how strongly rooted in Tyrol woodcarving once was. During the Baroque era, there were large workshops working exclusively for the churches. The wood carvers would even spend many years just on decorating a single church," Stefan Käser explains. Many homes and apartments also contained lots of these religious statuettes in the past. "Changes in the way we live have also led to changes in the art of woodcarving. Modern crosses and stylised nativity scenes are now popular," says Stefan, looking at the wooden panel he is working on. He is in the middle of creating a motorbike as an anniversary gift. Stefan Käser carefully picks up a calf

which he has recently modelled from clay. The figures should be as life-like as possible, this is something he values. That's why he is always out in the meadows of his neighbour's farm, watching the cows and producing models. It takes him two days to carve a cow from a piece of wood.

"Woodcarving has a long-standing tradition in Tyrol. However the product is constantly changing with the mood of the day".

Stefan Käser, Woodcarver from Niederndorferberg

Gruesome carvings

A few kilometres further at the heart of Ebbs. "Welcome to the devil's kitchen!" Thomas Einwaller shouts out laughing as he swings open the door to his kingdom. Here too, visitors are greeted with a waft of wood scent in the air. On the workbench in the middle of the room is a row of neat and tidy carving knives. Wood shavings are dotted across the floor. Stefan Käser's workshop is reminiscent of many things but there are no cows here. Instead, the walls are adorned with terrifying masks. Masks for the traditional Krampus (devil) processions during Advent.

The artist from Ebbs is visibly proud to show off his works. Thomas discovered his passion for woodcarving at the farmers' markets in the region. "As a child, I would always watch the woodcarvers at work. I was fascinated by Stefan Käser's works in particular. I wanted to be able to create something from a simple piece of wood using my own hands too". Like Stefan Käser, Thomas also attended the 'Schnitzschule Elbingenalp' woodcarving school. "In the small village, there isn't much to do outside of lessons so we students spent a lot of evenings at the workshops". Thomas made the decision to pursue his second childhood passion and began to carve Krampus (devil) masks.

"It never ceases to be fascinating to take a block of wood and carve it into a mask with your own hands".

Thomas Einwaller, Wood and stone carver from Ebbs

"I have always been interested in the customs surrounding the 'Krampuslauf' or 'Teufelslauf' (traditional devils' procession at Advent) - a wonderful tradition". Thomas submersed himself in this traditional custom when the evil winter spirits would be driven out by people wearing gruesome masks and fur cloaks, chiming loud bells through the streets. While he explains, he takes one of his devil masks down from the wall and strokes the contours of the face. Leather. "Deerskin," he explains. "It has the biggest pores and works best". It was his brother Hans-Peter, a skilled producer of orthopaedic footwear, who came up with the idea of covering the carved masks in leather. "At some point, he had seen a mask where the forehead section was made from leather. He was so impressed that he covered one of my masks all in leather". And so the idea came about and demand increased. When his brother was killed in an accident in 2008, it was clear to Thomas that he needed





to continue the idea. "It's like a code of conduct for me to have a carved wooden mask as the basis for my work so that the tradition is preserved," he says. The traditional art of woodcarving is retained but the result is different. And Stefan Käser is well aware of this.

Thomas also carves animals from time to time. "There are times when I can't see any more masks," he laughs. He carves around 20 masks each year. It can take up to 50 hours to create just one of his creepy masks. The basic shape is created from stone pine pieces which are glued together. The basic structure is then formed with a chainsaw before a carving knife is used. Thomas glances across the workshop. There are still things to be done, the peak season for devil's masks has begun and the carving knives are calling him back to work again.





Krampus processions in Kufsteinerland

Krampus processions (Krampuslauf) take pace throughout Kufsteinerland around 5 December.

This is a wonderful opportunity to see the various wooden masks carved by different wood carvers in action.















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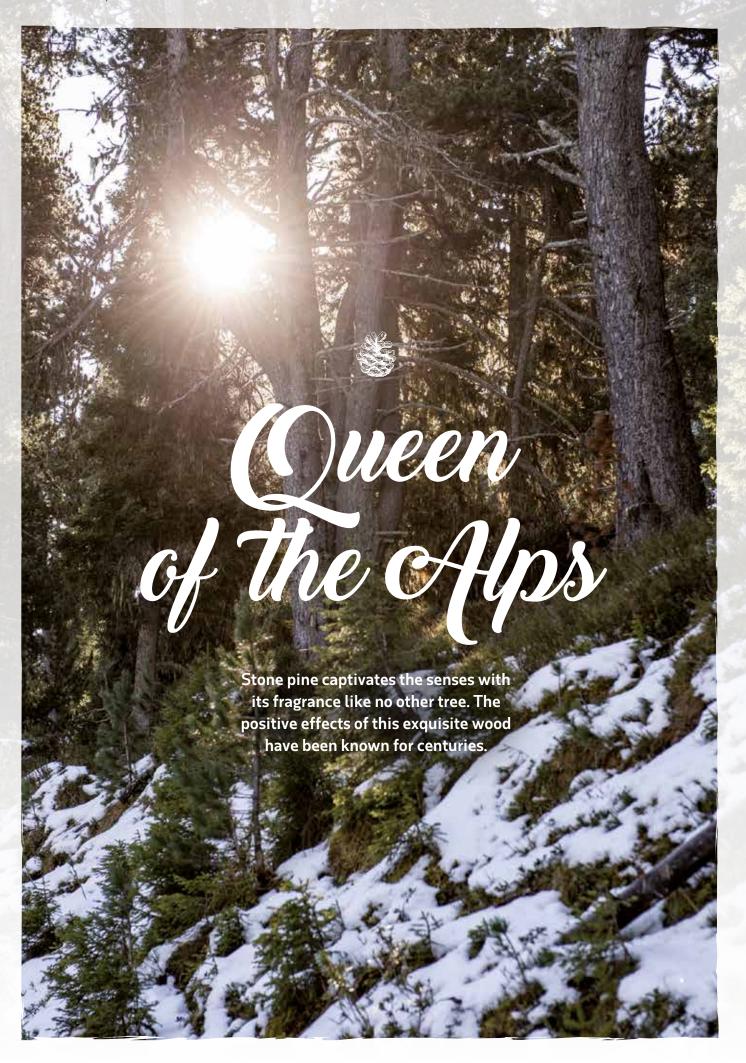
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We visited master carpenter Hannes Trainer in Thiersee and learnt all about Stone pine. Beneath the bark, this 'Queen of the Alps' has a lot more to offer than many people realise.

Stone pine is part of the pine family of trees and grows under particularly difficult conditions. No wonder then that it has been acknowledged to have properties such as energy, endurance and stamina. Taking a walk in a stone pine forest, however, requires you to head high up into the mountains. This evergreen conifer can only be found in the high Alpine regions. Of all the pine trees, stone pine grows the slowest and can even reach 200 to 400 years old. The 20 to 30m Queen of the forest has short branches which point upwards at the ends. The young trees have a smooth grey bark initially and over the years become browner and scalier. The largest stone pine forests in Tyrol are on the Glungezer in the Tux Alps and in the Zillertal valley. If you keep an eye out as you walk through the Kaisergebirge peaks, you might come face to face with a stone pine if you are lucky!

A gem of a tree

Stone pine is a very superior tree in many respects. In the highaltitude stone pine forests, the trees have to handle lower temperatures on summer days and prove their endurance capacity every single day. The stone pine trees never lose sight of their goal even when the winters seem to last forever or when the storm winds are blowing strong. They truly are a super tree!





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And Hannes Trainer from Thiersee is well aware of this. The master carpenter is often out and about in the forests in his search for the perfect stone pine. But what is 'perfect stone pine'? "The slower the stone pine grows, the more suitable the wood is for processing. A tree with lots of thick branches does not create beautiful markings on the planks of wood. The ideal trunk should be completely straight with a chestnut brown heartwood and branches the thickness of a thumb which are as evenly distributed as possible," explains Hannes Trainer at his workshop. And while the trees may often look rugged and fierce, the rough bark contains a soft core. The buttery–soft, velvety wood is ideal for working with. It is light at first but over time develops a darker red tone. But the pleasant fragrance remains unchanged," the master carpenter explains.

A scent which touches the soul

Everyone is familiar with the enticing scent of stone pine but few know why the tree smells so wonderful. Stone pine needs to have a very strong immune system due to the harsh climatic conditions at high altitude. This causes the tree to produce lots of resins which are primarily stored in the heartwood. During snow and storms, the stone pine is then protected from infection by the resin which kills off any germs. It is these resins and the essential oils they contain which are responsible for the tree's soothing aroma.

Hannes Trainer knows that this scent also has another benefit. "Unlike us, vermin cannot stand the smell. That's why food or clothing stored in stone pine boxes or cupboards are protected from worms and moths". The carpenter has been working with this exquisite wood for many years and uses it to furnish lounges and bedrooms and to make various items of furniture. Particularly popular are his bread bins with a stone pine lid which protect bakery items from mould. Hannes Trainer is also particularly passionate about making cribs from stone pine. "What better way to start out in life than to be surrounded by the soothing scent of this Queen of the Alps?"

The special effect of stone pine

Mountain farmers have believed in the healthy effect of stone pine for many centuries. For this reason, most old farmhouses still contain their wonderful stone pine parlours. Nowadays, the wood is used in a variety of ways: in bedrooms, as a filling for cushions, as furniture, decoration or in the form of essential oils.

The positive effects on the body have been scientifically proven. The scent of the stone pine reduces the heartrate – the effects of this beneficial fragrance can even save the heart 3,500 beats per day. Stone pine also provides a relaxing and healthy sleep, improves the circulation, has anti-bacterial properties and has a positive effect on treating colds.

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Geese to fall in love with the love with the love of t

St. Martin's Day goose is traditionally served with red cabbage and potato dumplings.

There are many legends surrounding the origins of the dish. What links St. Martin and the goose? Catrin and Johannes Anker from the Heimatstätterhof in Langkampfen have been keeping geese for many years and discuss how the geese live before they become a tasty dish.

Ovember 11th marks the day when St. Martin of Tours is honoured. Children are told the story of this humble man who even shared his cloak with others. Processions are held on St. Martin's Day. Small children march around the houses with home-made lanterns, singing "I'm going with my lantern and my lantern with me". They are often accompanied by a man on horseback who represents St. Martin.

St. Martin's Day and St. Martin's goose

Who was this man to whom this custom is dedicated? Legend has it that St. Martin of Tours was made a bishop against his will. It is at this point that stories differ. One story says that Martin hid in a goose pen to avoid this honour being conferred upon him. But the geese quacked so loudly that Martin was discovered. Another story claims that St. Martin was interrupted during a sermon. Again by a gaggle of quacking geese.

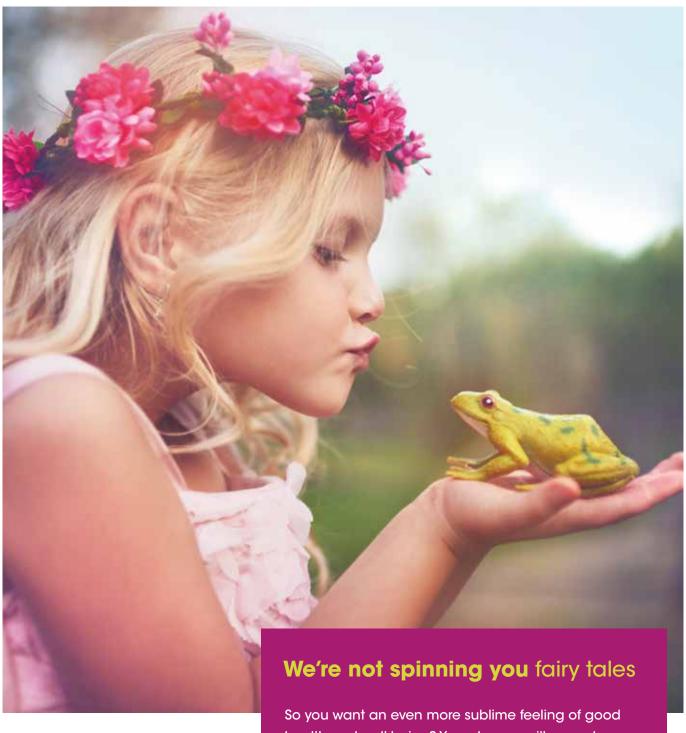
St. Martin's Day is inextricably linked with St. Martin's goose. In Austria, the dish is served with red cabbage and potato dumplings. Catrin Anker of the Heimatstätterhof has another (historically proven) explanation for why goose is eaten at the start of winter. "At the start of November, the farmers had to pay their annual feudal fees. This debt was often settled by giving natural produce. A goose was therefore slaughtered at this time and eaten by the feudal owners" Her husband Johannes Anker adds, "The farmers were happy not to have to feed the goose over the winter. They preferred to slaughter the geese before that".

Fluffy goslings

Catrin and Johannes Anker have built up their geese breeding farm over several years. The Heimatstätterhof is situated in Langkampfen right alongside the airfield. The geese live in a large meadow along the Innauen riverlands. Up to 300 animals are bred each year. The goslings are brought out into the farmyard at three days old – the goslings have yellow and very fleecy feathers.









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Tyrolean hotel & innkeeping culture at the foot of the Wilder Kaiser.

raditional meets modern is probably the best way to describe our philosophy. Landlady Maria Egger-Rieder and the 'Schanzer team' are committed to offering authentic and honest Tyrolean hospitality as well as being open to new things. This is reflected in the menu and in particular the hotel offers.

Pure pleasure - tasty treats from the hotel's own kitchens

The kitchen team place strong focus on regional and seasonal produce and cook up classics and fresh, modern dishes with passion. Wines to complement the dishes are also available and are stored in an old wine cellar with a stone vaulted ceiling.

Regional products are a core issue, especially when it comes to the cuisine. We place our trust in authentic and honest food sourced in particular from partners in the region.

The beef comes from the 'Thierberger Jahrling' veal breed, the dairy products from the local Alpine dairies, the fresh fish from the nearby fish farm, the herbs from the hotel's own gardens and much more, making your visit here a real culinary experience.

Back to the roots with the power of nature

We apply this philosophy for the family and also want to bring pleasure to our guests. In spring 2017, the hotel began to carry out its own farming again.

Our landlord Andreas Egger is a 'neo farmer'. He has his own small herd of sheep, initially at our wonderful mountain lodge in Rettenschöss and now at the new stables in Ebbs where we hope to soon also have a little flock of happy hens.

Top up on energy & relaxation

Relax in the cosy ambience of our hotel, nestled within the beautiful natural and cultural landscape of Tyrol's Unterinntal valley. Enjoy the hotel's personal level of service and set your soul free in the apple orchard or Finnish sauna with views of the Wilder Kaiser. Our new 'Kaiserblick' country house style guest rooms and modern 'Zirbe' guest rooms offer relaxation with a well-being vibe.

Our 4-star hotel based in a central location at the entrance to the Inntal valley is the ideal starting point for your activities. Whether cultural, sporty, a day trip or simply a day of relaxation... be impressed and become a friend of the hotel.



Picture credit: zur Schanz, dquadrat.a





Wirtshaus und Hotel Zur Schanz

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Quietly following the tracks

In autumn, it's also time for our wild animals to start thinking about the approaching winter. Thanks to the dedicated commitment of our hunters, the animals have plenty of food to see them through the winter.





t's gradually getting colder in beautiful Kufsteinerland and the first snows are coating the magnificent backdrop in a dreamy world of white. This is the time when our wild animals start to find it difficult to find enough food. For some it seems obvious and for others, they barely give it any thought. But our passionate hunters in Kufsteinerland deserve credit for making sure that the wild animals make it through the winter. Winter is a very tough time for the creatures which live in our magnificent forests and mountains. Wild animals are unable to find much food during these months and so they need more rest and quiet so as to survive the cold season unharmed. It is therefore important to be quiet and stick to the designated paths when padding through the snowy landscapes. If you stray from the paths or approach their feeding areas, this may endanger the animals by penetrating into their habitat which require protection.

The wild animals of Kufsteinerland and their food

We are blessed with a wide range of animal species here and we are proud of this and treat them with great respect. From chamois to deer, stags (so-called hoofed game), wood grouse and black grouse – you should be able to gain a glimpse of them as a guest in the region. Simply walk quietly and keep your eyes peeled as you walk through the forest or mountains.



The work of a hunter

If you think hunters are always out stalking animals and celebrating their trophy kills before relaxing in winter, you would be wrong. So what measures need to be taken in winter, what animals need to be fed and when does it all start?

he first preparations begin at the end of September/start of October. After all, it can already start to snow heavily around this time. After preparing the feeding sessions, purchasing the food and distributing it across the feeding stations, it's time for the so-called 'painting' of the young trees. This means that the young shoots are coated with a special ink to prevent or limit any chewing on them. The hunters voluntarily help the forest owners with this.

The animals are fed throughout the winter. The feeding stations are visited and monitored several times each week. This also applies to the feeding stations at higher altitude locations which can only be access on foot or on skis. It is important for wild animals in winter to maintain an energy balance because the animals have a reduced metabolism during this time.

What treats are given to the forest inhabitants?

The roe deer are fed quality hay and concentrated feed. The stags also eat hay as well as corn silage and apple pomace, i.e. the residue left over from pressing apples to make apple juice. By contrast, the chamois cope with winter themselves and build up their fat reserves in autumn. The hunters are meticulous at ensuring that the animals are not given too much food and that the food is easily digestible. It should only serve as a supporting food source.

So if you see any animal tracks on your next winter walk, spare a thought for the passionate hunters who do their utmost to look after our wild animals and preserve these beautiful sights.

This is the hunter's badge of honour,

That he protects and preserves his wild animals,

Lants as he should, and honours the

Creator through his creatures!

Oskar von Riesenthal



Chamois

Grasses, herbs, shoots and leaves from hardwood trees, bushes and dwarf shrubs, needles from conifer trees, lichen; mixed grazer



Stag

Grasses and herbs, leaves, buds, green shoots, fruit, tree fruit, cereals, bark; mixed grazer



Roe deer

Herbs, buds, leaves, flowers, crops, acorns, beech nuts; concentrate selector



Mormot

Herbivore



Fox

Omnivore



Badger

Omnivore



Wood grouse

In summer blueberries, leaves and insects; in winter needles, hoots buds



Black cock or black grouse

Leaves, buds, berries (especially blueberries); in winter, needles too



An idyllic romantic trip through the snow



he snowfall the night before has coated the branches in a layer of white candyfloss. But there is plenty to explore at the foot of the Wilder Kaiser, in this idyllic winter wonderland. A carriage ride is probably the most romantic way of enjoying winter. Wolfgang Kronbichler is sitting in the rider's seat, heading to one of his favourite places. He has been attaching his horses to the carriage since 1990. Initially this was just for his family until the requests suddenly started rolling in. From a Golden Wedding trip to a fun hen party and a relaxing voyage of discovery for holidaymakers. There are now 10 horses at the Salitererhof in Ebbs. From Haflingers to ponies. Negro takes a step forward. The dark black Hungarian thoroughbred gelding is Wolfgang's favourite horse to ride.





A speedy sledging session

The fastest route down into the valley in Ebbs is via the toboggan run.



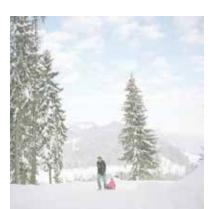
mused laughter fills the forest. The voices draw ever closer. There is the sound of snow crunching. Seconds later, two sledgers race past, leaning skilfully into the bend. In 2009, the passionate Alpine farmer and cheese–maker Gerhard Ritzer instigated the construction of a 3.2 km long sledging, hiking and forest trail from the district of Asching in Ebbs up to his Aschinger Alm mountain lodge. A leisurely 45–minute walk and a casual 350m of altitude. Part of the Aschingeralmweg trail had already been developed in 1979 by the local Sportring Ebbs and Heeressportverein associations. "It was a proper luge toboggan run and when partially iced over, even experienced sledgers could be toppled over," Gerhard

grins. Since its redevelopment and expansion, he has taken personal responsibility for preparing the route. One last bend and then the Aschinger Alm comes into view. The thought of crispy schnitzel and cheese dumplings with cheese from his own Alpine dairy certainly helps you quicken your pace towards the end.

An hour later, the white winter wonderland beckons. The sledges are ready and waiting for use just outside the door. "We provide the sledges for free. All you need to do is leave them at the end of the toboggan run," Gerhard explains before the sledging session begins. 10 minutes of high-energy winter fun.









The Aschinger Alm natural toboggan run...

... has been awarded the state of Tyrol's blue quality seal for toboggan runs, meaning it is a family-friendly track suitable for children



Relax and slow down, surrounded by the Tyrolean meadows and mountain landscape.

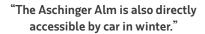
he Aschinger Alm Alpine guesthouse blends perfectly into the dreamy surrounding Alpine landscapes at an altitude of 1,000m – a paradise for winter hikers, sledgers and skiers. Here you can escape the stresses of everyday life, set your soul free and embrace nature.

Cuisine, fun & relaxation

Our regional treats and friendly service guarantee a fantastic day and our home-made cakes are enough to set pulses racing!

The Aschinger Alm has plenty to offer little guests too. With lots of variety on offer, for example a playroom in the cellar of the guesthouse which can even be accessed via a slide.

In good weather, the Aschinger Alm's sun terrace is the perfect place to while away the day whereas on cooler days, the cosy lounges and bar with a fireplace are a welcome treat. The multi-functional seminar room offers the latest presentation, sound and information systems and is ideal for all kinds of seminars and events.



Sledging fun for all the family

The Aschinger Alm natural toboggan run is a fantastic, wide family toboggan run with a pleasantly steep gradient throughout, leaving no wishes unfulfilled for guests of all ages. The wide track is perfect for a rapid descent down into the valley with nothing standing in your way! We are particularly proud that our toboggan run has been awarded the state of Tyrol's quality seal for natural toboggan runs for the second time. Free sledge hire is also available.

Speciality cheeses from the guesthouse's own Alpine cheese dairy

The speciality Alpine cheeses produced in summer can also be found on our menu. If you wish, you can also take a piece of our award-winning cheese home with you.

For more information, see www.aschingeralm.at and via facebook.com/aschingeralm.







Alpengasthof & Almkäserei Aschinger Alm

Alpengasthof Aschinger Alm, Ritzer family Oberbuchberg 34a, A-6341 Ebbs/Tirol Tel.: +43 5373 / 431 08 | E-Mail: info@aschingeralm.at Öffnungszeiten: Sun - Mon from 9.00 to 18.00 und Weds - Sat from 9.00 to 23.00 Uhr, closed Tuesdays



The greatest

In 2019, the people of Erl

story

will be performing their passion again



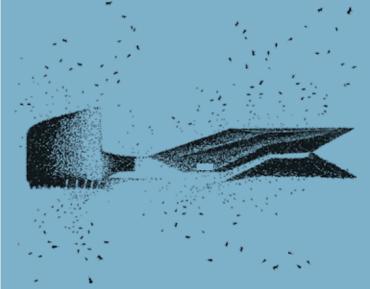
The Passion Playhouse in Erl holds 1,500 people. Right now the stage is quiet. But soon it will be full of life again – there is already a great deal of hard work going on behind the scenes. We spoke with Johann and Claudia Dresch about preparations for the 2019 Passion Play. As Chairman, Johann keeps abreast with developments and Claudia is press spokeswoman and ensures the event receives the required media coverage.



Tyrolean Festival Erl Winter

26 December 2018 – 6 January 2019

Festival Hall



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Vincenzo Bellini La Sonnambula

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Sat 5 Januray, 18:00

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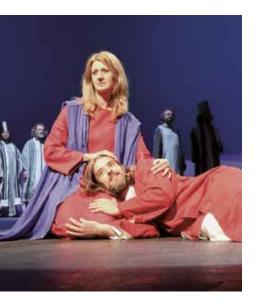








Claudia and Johann Dresch from the Erl Passion Play Association







uring the years when the Passion Play is staged, the people of Erl let their hair grow long and the men grow beards. Of the 1,500 inhabitants, over 500 people are involved with the Erl Passion Play. "This private change is symbolic of their passion," Claudia Dresch explains.

"We people of Erl have strong ties with tradition and keep our Passion Play going".

Claudia Dresch

Life on the stage

At the start of each cycle of Passion Plays, a survey is sent to all residents of the community of Erl. "Everyone involved must have a fixed residence in the community. Any specific wishes as regards casting should be expressed but we can't make any promises," Johann Dresch smiles. The allocation of roles is a sensitive topic and it is not always possible to meet all expectations. However enthusiasm for the play remains unchanged, regardless.

The Erl Passion Play operates like a professional theatre and every role is covered: wardrobe, staging, musicians, choir – they are all members of the village community. The number of members in the association remains constant. The Passion Play has a long–standing tradition in many families. "The people of Erl have been performing for over 400 years. In those days, performing the Passion Play was a source of praise and the village was said to be protected from the plague. Our many years of experience are very beneficial to us," Johann Dresch says of the beginnings of the association.

He himself was born into a traditional Erl family and first performed on stage as a child in 1968. Like all the residents of Erl, he started out as one of the people. "The people play a very important role and are choreographed accordingly in the production by Markus Plattner," says Johann Dresch of the events on stage.

Start of rehearsals Erl

The Passion Play in Erl is always being re-structured. "It is important for us to keep up with the times. We want to keep telling an old story in new ways so as





Official poster

to encourage people today to develop an enthusiasm for it," Claudia Dresch explains. The Passion Play has become more consumable over the decades. While the play lasted several days during the 18th century, its duration has been continually reduced ever since. The anniversary Passion Play in 2013 lasted a very acceptable 3 hours. 2019 will see a revival of Markus Plattner's production. Rehearsals begin at the start of November 2018 with a preliminary session bringing all those involved together.

A renowned Tyrolean author was brought on board to write the text of the anniversary Passion Play: Felix Mitterer modernised the text and shifted the focus to Jesus Christ as a person and his unending love for all human beings. Markus Plattner has created a visually stunning epic with his production.

The new approach is particularly apparent in the scene of the Last Supper – this is beautifully depicted in terms of the staging and technology. Several rings suspended from the theatre ceiling are used as a table. The apostles sit around the table and the women too are invited to take part in the Last Supper, as are the audience.

The charisma of the Passion Play

This down-to-earth yet equally modern approach has been very well received among the spectators. In 2013, 60,000 people wanted to see the anniversary Passion Play. "The hall was bursting at the seams. We were unable to accommodate any more spectators, despite scheduling extra performances. Those unable to acquire tickets were given the chance to book before anyone else this year," says Claudia Dresch.

And many of them have taken up this offer. Johann Dresch looks ahead. "We are also anticipating a high attendance this coming year. The Erl Passion Play has gained a reputation nationally thanks to the festival. Today around 50% of our spectators come from Germany and the other 50% from Austria. The new subtitling in English will also make the play accessible to those guests who do not speak German".

The performances of the next Passion Play will take place from May to October at the weekends, from 13:00 until 16:00. The final performance is some way off yet but the date has already been fixed. On the day of

the last performance, four hairdressers will come and cut the hair of the people of Erl again. And then, God willing, it will grow back again before the next Passion Play in 2025.



The people behind the Passion Play



Barbara Maier, 46, pastor's secretary

"I first became involved with the Passion Play in 1985 and in 1991, 2002 and 2008 was one of the people. In 2013, I was given a speaking role for the first time: I was cast as Mary of Bethany. I was also the 'understudy Mary' and rehearsed the role of the mother of Jesus. Due to the high demand, we had to schedule several additional performances and I was also able to perform the bigger role before an audience. Markus Plattner is a very talented director. He gets the best out of the individual actors and brings out their talent. I really enjoy being on the stage because you are transported to another world for a short time and gain insight for your own life. I particularly like being able to convey a message which inspires others through our play".



Peter Esterl, 44, teacher

"I was 5 years old when I first took to the stage as one of the people. Later I went on to play Titus, the son of Pilatus and then a Roman soldier, John, another apostle and finally a member of the supreme council. During the anniversary Passion Play in 2013, I was the understudy for Caiaphas. We are increasingly casting two people for the roles. In my position as project manager, I am responsible for allocating the roles. It's a big challenge because you cannot meet all expectations and you always have to think about the staging. I act as an interface between the director. Passion Play committee and actors. I act as mediator in the event of any discrepancies. Our statutes state that the people of Erl - represented by the committee - always have the last



Kurt Maier, 61, master baker

"It always amazes me that such a big stage - the biggest in western Austria - can be found in a village as small as Erl. When the people of Erl are up on stage, we are all working towards the same goal: we want to touch the audience on an emotional level. The entrance into Jerusalem always gives me a feeling of exhilaration as an actor - I always get goose bumps during that scene. I recently played the role of Simon of Cyrene who was required to help Jesus carry the cross on the Way of the Cross. He initially resisted but one look from Jesus was sufficient for him to accept his task. Simon of Cyrene therefore represents a willingness to help. When I am performing, I am someone else for that moment: I put myself in the shoes of that person and am able to convey different feelings".





Hallo Du - Fun Arena Ebbs

'Hallo Du' in Ebbs brings relaxation and leisure together under one roof. During the cold season, the warm soothing sauna area is the perfect place to relax. Those preferring to burn off some energy can explore the covered ice skating rink or bowling alley on-site.

Sauna indulgence in Kufsteinerland

At the heart of the leisure facility is a large sauna area, the perfect place for enjoyment and indulgence. Equipped with innovative technology, lots of flavour and style, the wellness oasis fills guests with enthusiasm – and makes them work up a sweat! Visitors can choose between Finnish saunas, soft saunas, soothing steam baths and much more over the 1,500 m² site. The sauna infusions with peeling treatments are particularly popular and are available from the sauna team each day. Whether in the large indoor or outdoor pool (complete with massage bench and whirlpool) or in the cosy relaxation rooms, 'Hallo Du' is the ideal place to relax and forget all about everyday life for a few hours. During the last expansion in autumn 2017, the additional 'KoasaLounge' relaxation room was created. This is characterised by its exclusive furnishings and magnificent panoramic views.

Icy fun on two blades

Whether with the family, for some romantic couple time or with friends: ice skating during the cold season is a must. As well as being lots of fun, gliding across the ice is good for the balance and excellent endurance training. At the Fun Arena in Ebbs, there is a covered ice rink extending over an area of 30 x 60m. Views of the surrounding mountains complete the experience for all the family. Of course, ice skating is not the only sport you can enjoy 'on ice'. The rink in Ebbs is also ideal for figure skating, ice hockey and curling. And after the sport, a cosy restaurant awaits – perfect for a culinary pampering.





Erlebnis- & Freizeitpark Ebbs GmbH

Gießenweg 20, A-6341 Ebbs Tel: +43 5373 42202-800 office@hallodu.at, www.hallodu.at

Opening times Sauna

Mon to Sun from 11:00 – 22:00 Women's sauna on Tuesdays

Opening times Ice rink

Mon to Thurs from 14:00 to 16:30 Fri from 14:00 to 16:30 and from 19:15 to 22:00 (ice disco) Sat from 11:00 to 16:30 and from 20:00 to 22:00 (ice disco) Sun from 11:00 to 16:30





t was 13 years ago that the current chairman of the ESV Bad Häring discovered his love of curling. A wonderful coincidence which began in his cellar.

'Curling is a traditional sport.'

Konstantin Knapp

"The sport has been pursued across the Inntal valley for many years. Today too, there are many members in Bad Häring. The ESV curling club is the third biggest association in Bad Häring, despite the fact that curling has always been a niche sport," says Konstantin. Even he did not give any thought to trying out the sport until he and his friend found his father's old curling equipment and gave it a try out of pure curiosity. A few members of the association saw them and explained the rules. The two became passionate about the sport and soon built up a team of 7 boys aged 12 to 14 within their friendship group. The ESV is very pleased about its young members. They are training the boys who will soon be entering competitions across Austria. The club has been federal state champion nine times and runner-up in Austria 12 times.

"The fascinating thing about curling is that it doesn't matter whether you are tall, short, fat, thin, old or young. It is a sport for everyone," says Konstantin. It is played in teams of four. "Everyone knows the strengths of the other team players and how to make use of them". The ground may consist of bitumen, asphalt, paving or ice. Beginners first have to understand the sequence of movement and then comes the precision work. Anyone wishing to take part in tournaments rather than just pursuing the sport as a hobby needs a strong mind because a competition can take 6 hours. "That can be very tiring," laughs Konstantin who still takes part in championship contests. He trains twice a week before competitions and also attends the Thursday session. "Anyone wishing to try out the sport can come along and play on these evenings". Equipment is provided by the association and tips are on offer too, if required. The Thursday sessions are particularly busy at the end of January. "Over 100 people from Bad Häring come along to train for the big village championships which are open to everyone". Curling fever sweeps through the whole village for three days, from the championships to the Stockschützenball.





TIP

Curling is on offer in plenty of places in Kufsteinerland. In winter and summer alike, on ice or asphalt. Sticks can be hired (sometimes on payment of a fee). Registration required.

The homepage of Kufsteinerland tourist board provides an exact overview of the offers with information on the individual curling facilities.

www.kufstein.com



Metal and the dragon

he horse rears up while George courageously attacks with a lance and kills the dragon. In the throes of death, the dragon squirms beneath the 4m high horse as cars drive slowly past. "St George is made from scrap metal, just like the horse and dragon," explains Idisor Winkler, visibly proud of his work. 15 years ago he created the scene which now adorns the roundabout in Niederndorf, supported by community worker Thomas Kitzbichler. Idisor Winkler's passion for art is evident in his stories but as a youngster, the idea of ever becoming an artist seemed hopeless.

"I grew up during the war era," says the 80-year-old from Niederndorf. "In those days, there wasn't much time left for art. It was more a matter of getting a job to earn money". And so his love of painting faded into the background. During the school holidays, Isidor Winkler was always invited to stay with his aunt, a nun in Bad Gastein. As a boy, he earnt pocket money as an altar boy and helped in the kitchen. A truly influential time. Isidor Winkler decided to become a chef. What he didn't realise was that this profession would take him back to art again, many years later. "Once I had finished training, I went abroad. My first post was in Cologne at the Opernrestaurant". He was very pleased to be able to attend performances, when there were spare seats. "My first performance was the Tannhäuser and that was the start". After Cologne, he went to Bonn, Berlin, London, Lausanne and Paris. The artistic French capital fascinated him as a young man in particular and he used his spare time to paint.

Meditation at the anvil

"I did that one too," Isidor Winkler looks away and pushes a photo over the table. A bull is shown with its horns pointing forwards and its tail in the air. Made from pieces of metal welded together. "It stands in the centre of Niederndorf". The dragon slayer and bull have been joined by endless other works of art over the years both in the Tyrolean village and beyond. He is currently working on an ibex. Life-sized. He works at the workshop of a farmer with whom he is friends. "Working at the anvil is like meditating for me.

'Working at the anvil is like meditating for me.'



Isidor Winkler at his workshop.





on my ibex".'



To look forward to in 2019. Event-highlights in Kufstein



Rock & Pop Festival KUFSTEIN unlimited

14-16 June 2019, Kufstein town centre

Several main acts on various stages, a dozen additional local and cross-regional bands, plus international walking acts and a large children's zone – the music festival KUFSTEIN unlimited transforms the town into a huge festival zone in June.

The biggest Rock & Pop Festival in Western Austria has become the event sensation par excellence in the fortress town.



2 May 2019, 6 - 10 pm, Kufstein town centre

Night Shopping

Several times a year you can enjoy late-night shopping Kufstein. The first Night Shopping of the year is always accompanied by open-air music and special activities in the streets and in the shops. Let the ever-changing motto surprise you! More than 100 businesses in the town centre will keep their doors open until 22:00 for the Night Shopping at the beginning of May.



7-10 June 2019, Kufstein Fortress

Knights' Festival

On the Whit weekend, the by now legendary Kufstein Knights' Festival will be opening its gates. Hundreds of knights, Vikings, jugglers and travelling artists join in every year when the mighty fortress walls once more provide the impressive setting for the lively goings – on. All around, many attractions of course also put children at centre stage. Every year, the fire show provides the hot highlight of the Knights' Festival.



12-13 June 2019, 5 - 11 pm, town park

Wine Festival

The Kufstein Wine Festival has its origin in the friendship between Langenlois and Kufstein dating back to the year 2002. Back then, the Kufstein residents helped Langenlois which was affected by flooding. The Lower Austrians thanked them by putting on a wine festival. Now many winegrowers from Langenlois and other wine-producing regions attend the festival year after year to let people sample their fine wines. To complete your evening of indulgence, local culinary establishments serve up regional treats and live music is also provided.



Advent programme

29 November - 22 December 2018

Peaceful Advent weekends: Relax & get in the Advent spirit!

Be inspired by the Advent ambience in the fortress town of Kufstein and the eight picturesque villages of Kufsteinerland. Experience the magic of this peaceful time of year in the mountains of Tyrol.

Christmas market at the Stadtpark

Kufstein Stadtpark, 23.11. to 23.12.2018

Hot tasty treats. Culinary delights from the region. A romantic Advent ambience between the small wooden huts and stands at the heart of the fortress town. Nostalgic adventures for children. Christmas flair with some fun and thought-provoking Advent tales. Atmospheric live music. An idyllic sea of lights.

Tuesday-Friday: 16.00 to 20.00 Saturday-Sunday: 13.00 to 20.00 Saturday 8 December (public holiday): 13.00 to 20.00 Monday CLOSED!

Christmas Magic at the fortress

Kufstein fortress, 24.11. to 16.12.2018

The Christmas Magic fair at the historic Kufstein fortress is a special Advent treasure at the heart of the town: during the hectic Advent period, this is the perfect place to focus on what is most important. Instead of the usual Christmas kitsch and glitter, visitors are greeted by beautifully lit walls and can experience originality paired with Tyrolean tradition before the historic backdrop of the fortress. There are some 30 festively decorated stands to browse too: anyone still looking for Christmas gifts will find everything from traditional crafts to delicious Tyrolean specialities here while brass bands and traditional 'Anklöpfler' musicians create a Christmas ambience outside. The Christmas bakery and crafts area offer some fun Advent activities for kids.

Saturday 24.11.2018, Sunday 25.11.2018 Saturday 01.12.2018, Sunday 02.12.2018 Saturday 08.12.2018, Sunday 09.12.2018 Saturday 15.12.2018, Sunday 16.12.2018

Atmospheric winter walk to the Thierberg chapel

Thursday, 29.11. / 6.12. / 13.12. and 20.12.2018

This walk leads away from the hustle and bustle of Advent up to the Thierberg with its old romantic pilgrimage chapel and special nativity scene. We listen to a short Christmas story before savouring the magnificent all-round views of Kufstein and the Inntal valley from the tower. We then take part in a little incense burning ritual which was used in ancient times to help the body and soul prosper. Then the walk returns back via the icy wintry Hechtsee lake.



Bad Häring Nativity walk

Friday, 7.12. / 14.12. and 21.12.2018

We set off in the twilight to the 'nativity show' through the former mining region and now spa resort of Bad Häring, accompanied by lantern light. We visit the village nativity scene with its life-size figures in the church square and continue on to the mining nativity and Hildegard-von-Bingen-Kapelle chapel with its striking Oriental nativity scene.

From here, we head for the four-part box nativity at the Antonius-Kapelle chapel before paying a visit to master nativity builder Walter Peer who has lots of interesting information to share about this ancient craft. There are lots of beautiful nativities and hand-made Christmas decorations to admire here.



Idyllic winter walk & wild herb incense burning

Saturday, 1.12. / 8.12. / 15.12. and 22.12.2018

Herbs have soothing and healing properties. During a leisurely walk around the idyllically situated wintry Thiersee lake, we reflect on the festive season and find inner peace. We are attentive to all the special features of this tranquil time of year and draw strength from the bitterly cold nature around us. We make our own personal blend of herbs using herbs collected in summer and relax with a freshly brewed cup of herbal tea, surrounded by the sensual fragrance. You can also take your own herbal mix home with you for Advent.



Additional event highlights

Kufstein Short Film Festival 2018

21. to 22.11.2018

University of Applied Sciences Kufstein

On 21 and 22 November 2018, the Kufstein Short Film Festival will take place, based on the motto of 'At the horizon – turning inward or breaking out?'

In the cosy atmosphere of the Arche Noe theatre, the Sport, Culture & Event Management course at the University of Applied Sciences Kufstein will be inviting visitors to change their perspective and look beyond their own horizons. The two-day festival presents culture fans in Kufstein with an immense range of short film genres and an impressive range of issues relating to the main theme. This is an area of conflict which is well worth exploring in our ever faster-paced world.

••••••

Advent here with us in Ebbs 29.11.2018 15.00

Ebbs, Messerschmied Distilllery

There are two small old houses in the centre of Ebbs. The 'Zuhaus' built in 1765 is home to the 'Naschzentrale' where guests can bake Christmas specialities with Jana & Stefan. And at the 'Messerschmiedhaus' built in 1536, Albert introduces visitors to the tradition of schnapps distilling. Afterwards, there are punch and homemade treats to enjoy in the forecourt.



Father Christmas procession 5.12.2018 19.00

Thiersee, music pavilion

Father Christmas procession

5.12.2018 14.00

Niederndorf, Eisschützenhalle car park

Father Christmas procession

5.12.2018 16.30

Kufstein, Stadtpark Kufstein

Father Christmas procession

5.12.2018 17.00 Uhr

Erl, forecourt of the fire station

Krippenweihnacht market 09.12.2018 14.00

Bad Häring, church square and primary school

The 'Krippenweihnacht' Chistmas market in Bad Häring features a nativity scene, crafts market, pastoral play and Christmas cinema and impresses guests of all ages.



Advent shopping evening Night Shopping

13.12.2018

Kufstein, town centre

Christkindlmarkt market

16.12.2018 14:00

Thiersee, Vorderthiersee lido

The popular Christkindlmarkt in Thiersee will get you in the Christmas spirit on 16 December with music, horse-drawn sledge rides, a children's programme and some delicious dishes.

Christmas in Erl: Christmas Oratorio

16.12.2018

Erl, Festival hall

A wonderful tradition and a unique chance to get in the mood for Christmas on the 3rd Sunday of Advent in the festival hall.

Zommkemma in Advent

16.12.2018

Schwoich, music pavilion

Take some peaceful time out in Advent and get ready for the Christmas celebrations with us! With music from a brass band, a one-act play from the local theatre group and the 'Sängerrunde' group singing traditional Christmassy 'Anklöpfl' songs. Plus plenty of tasty refreshments!

CONCERT: New Year's Eve concert

31.12.2018 18:00

Erl, festival hall

A wide range of arias and ensembles by Mozart, Verdi, Gounod, Dvorak, Donizetti and others performed by the young singers of the Accademia di Montegral who are best known from their productions last season.

Conductor: Beomseok Yi.

Concert: New Year concert

1.1.2019

Erl, Festival hall

In 2019, the new year will be welcomed in for the seventh time in Erl with a new year concert – now something of a tradition. A tradition for our audience too who secure their tickets for the matinée performance months in advance. The concert expresses its gratitude for this ongoing enthusiasm in the form of racy polkas, lively waltzes, spectacular overtures and choirs.

SPECIAL: Maximilian

3.1.2019 - 18:00 Erl, Festival hall

In 2019, the death of Emperorr Maximilian I (the first Habsburg emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, aesthete, debtor and favourite with the ladies!) will be marked for the 500th time. As a prelude to the 'Year of Maximilian' in the state of Tyrol, the festival will feature a SPECIAL dedicated to this first great European. This premiere will feature Emperor Maximilian I and his two great wives surrounded by various 'Schwarzmander'. Based on musical material from the Renaissance and texts by Maximilian and his contemporaries, Angelo di Montegral presents a portrait of the 'last knight' and his relationship with his wives, Mary of Burgundy and Bianca Maria Sforza.



Festival of 1000 Lights

5.1.2019 - 16:30

Kufstein, Unterer Stadtplatz and Römerhofgasse

From 16.30 to 20.30, the Unterer Stadtplatz and old town will be transformed into a sea of candlelight. Even after Christmas, the festival town will be an oasis of cosy and romantic vibes with Tyrolean treats, punch and mulled wine on offer.

Haflinger stallion licensing

Ebbs, Fohlenhof stud farm

Traditionally, the most promising three-year-old stallions are licensed on the first Saturday in February at the Fohlenhof Ebbs stud farm by the Haflinger Horse Breeders Association of Tyrol.

Kids' Carnival

3.3.2019

Kufstein

Carnival Tuesday

5.3.2019

Kufstein town centre

Easter gourmet market

19. and 20.4.2019 Kufstein Stadtpark

On Good Friday and Easter Saturday, the Easter market will open its doors again at Kufstein's Stadtpark from 9:00 until 17:00. Visitors can watch traditional crafts from the region being made as well as exploring lots of interesting activities. And of course, there will be some tasty regional treats to sample.



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