

**Girl power with
a sea view**

Germany's youngest female
captain in Travemünde

**Mermaid
meets Neptun**

Fishmongers with passion

**A bed under the
Baltic sky**

Unforgettable moments
in the sleeper beach basket

Magazine

for Lübeck and Travemünde

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Lübeck and Travemünde

The true beauty of things lies in the hidden. It does not want to dazzle with sheer scenery, it wants to be explored, it wants to be felt. What is hidden behind brick stones and fine sandy beaches, what makes Lübeck and Travemünde pulsate? This magazine enables a view behind the beautiful face of Lübeck's island-shaped UNESCO Old Town and zooms in on the shiny waves of the Baltic Sea to our unique seaside resort, which has begun to reinvent itself. And since the pulse of a city is defined by the people who live in it, our stories are all about them and their location in Lübeck and Travemünde – two so different places and yet inseparably linked. Welcome to our home town.

Tourist Information Lübeck

Located directly at the Holsten Gate, our Tourist Information is the ideal starting point for your discovery tour through Lübeck.

Tip: Try the delicious coffee specialties in our café bar and browse our collection of souvenirs.

🕒 Opening hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tourist Information Travemünde

In Travemünde, our Tourist Information is located inside the train station 'Strandbahnhof'. Our team is looking forward to your visit.

Tip: Enjoy freshly caught fish and delicious fishrolls in the unique fishing port.

🕒 Opening hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information: **+49 (0) 4 51/ 88 99 700** or visit our websites
www.luebeck-tourism.de or **www.travemuende-tourism.de**

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UNESCO World Heritage Site

Lübeck was awarded the proud title in 1987 thanks to the unaltered basic structure of the Old Town consisting mainly of 15th- and 16th-century patrician residences, public monuments, brick stone churches and storehouses.

Church diversity

The small area of the island-shaped Old Town features a surprisingly large number of churches. Five of them characterise Lübeck's famous silhouette with their impressive seven spires.

Over 70 enchanting alleys and courtyards

The island-shaped Old Town is home to a magical world of twisty alleys and beautiful courtyards. The diversity of these alleys and courtyards in Lübeck is something unique throughout the world.

Three world-famous Nobel Prize laureates

Willy Brandt and Thomas Mann were both born in Lübeck, while Günter Grass chose the Hanseatic city as his home. Each of the Nobel Prize laureates has a dedicated museum in Lübeck's Old Town.

Christmas city of the North

Lübeck is a unique Christmas wonderland from the end of November to the end of December. Ten different Christmas worlds invite to visit this exciting land of dreams.

Fair Trade city

Lübeck has been a fair trade city since 2012. Many cafés, restaurants, hotels, shops and food producers in particular ensure fair trading.



TRAVEMÜNDE

Traditional seaside resort

Travemünde was appointed a seaside resort in 1802. From then on writers, poets, artists and spa visitors from near and far came to Travemünde for their summer holidays.

Three beaches – three promenades

Travemünde offers beaches according to everyone's taste – be it the wide sandy beach alongside the promenade, a peaceful natural beach on the Priwall peninsula or the wild steep coast of Brodten. Relaxed strolling was invented here – over the imperial beach promenade, the Trave promenade up until the Priwall peninsula.

Sailing competitions from close-up

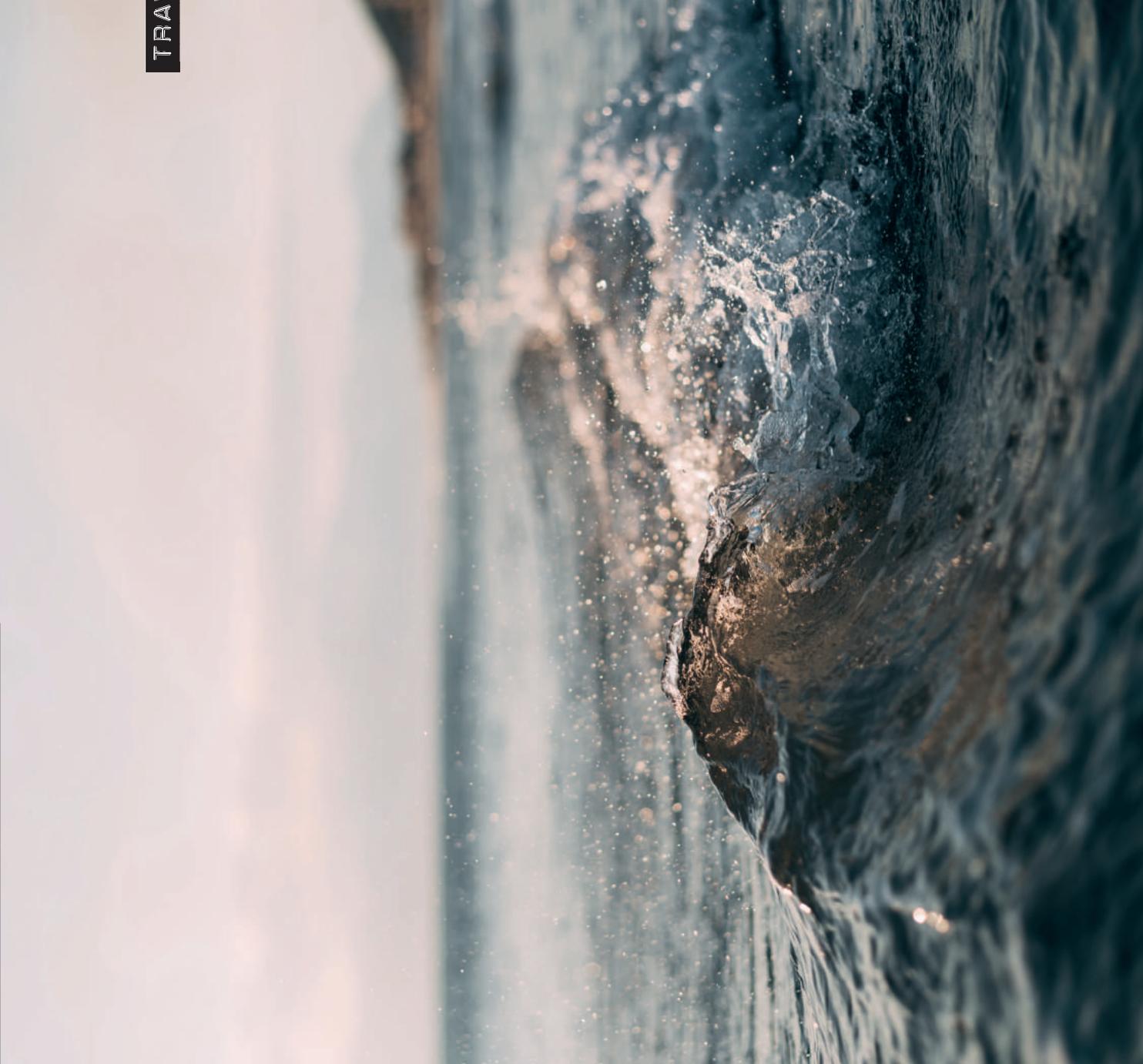
Every year, water sports fans from all over the world travel to Travemünde to experience the unique combination of international sailing and maritime festival at the Travemünde Sailing Week.

Beach chairs for day and night

A Baltic Sea holiday without a roofed wicker beach chair would be like sailing without wind. In Travemünde you can even book one of the highly coveted wicker beach chairs for a unique night on the beach.

BeachExperience

Pure slow down! Watch the ships on the Baltic Sea with a cocktail in the BeachLounge. Or get active on a sailing boat or a stand up paddling board.



In the courtyard of the Günter Grass-House there is always a place to ponder



MARGRIT WEGNER &
JÖRG-PHILIPP THOMSA

Two opposites collide

On the interaction between
church and culture in Lübeck

In the parsonage of Lübeck Cathedral, steaming coffee stands on the dining table and self-picked apples have been prepared. Margrit Wegner, pastor at Lübeck Cathedral, is sitting opposite Jörg-Philipp Thomsa, Head of the Günter Grass-House. Who better to conduct the discussion when the question is: Clerical Lübeck, secular Lübeck, two opposites with nothing to say to each other or which can indeed find a connection?

Discover new horizons

Günter Grass-House

Writer, graphic artist, painter and sculptor – at the Günter Grass-House literature meets the arts and the museum shows all facets of the world-famous Nobel Prize laureate.

Adults: € 7.00

Children: € 2.50

www.grass-haus.de

Museum of Natural History and the Environment

This museum gives fascinating insights into the natural history of Schleswig-Holstein. However, it also offers an interesting journey of discovery into the diverse flora and fauna in the Lübeck area.

Adults: € 6.00

Children: € 2.00

www.museum-fuer-natur-und-umwelt.de

Guided vault tour at St. Mary's church and the Cathedral

Accompanied by exciting stories and through many steps there is the history of Lübeck's churches at a lofty height. The mighty vaulting caps suddenly seem very close.

St. Mary's church:

Entrance fee: € 7.00

Pupils and students: € 3.00

Cathedral:

Guided vault tours only on request

Entrance fee per person:

€ 6.00 for groups of 10 or more persons

Viewing

Platform St. Peter's

From the 50-metre-high viewing platform there is an unforgettable 360 degree view of Lübeck and the brick churches St. Mary's, St. Jacob's, St. Giles', St. Catherine's and the Cathedral.

Entrance fee: € 4.00

Reduced: € 2.50



Domestically, the question has long since been settled between the two interlocutors. They are married with one child and they blend wonderfully as a couple and a team although their respective professions point in such different directions – or not? “We did indeed meet through our work”, says Jörg-Philipp Thomsa laughing. There was an idea at the time for a discussion group with prison inmates on the subject of ‘Guilt and Shame’ on the basis of the Günter Grass novella ‘Katz und Maus’ (Cat and Mouse). “I wrote an email to the Cathedral parsonage to find out, who I could best turn to in the prison on this subject, and whether, for example, a prison chaplain would be the right person to contact. Margrit replied and we met for lunch.” Both of them had already moved to Lübeck for their jobs although originally they come from different parts of Germany. Margrit Wegner was born in Hamburg and she was aware of her calling from an early age. “My home parish, church music and youth work were formative influences on me and led to my desire to become a pastor”, she explains. A degree in theology was followed by the post of assistant vicar at Hamburg’s Michel church and then that of vicar in the district of Steilshoop, characterised by high-rise apartment blocks, before trans-

ferring to Stockholm Cathedral in Sweden. Her first post as pastor finally took Margrit Wegner to the Chapel of St. Jürgen in Lübeck. But how did she come to be the first woman to become pastor at Lübeck Cathedral in 2010? “Martin Klatt who is now my colleague, encouraged me to apply”, she

“If you’re in Lübeck, you should drop by the Museum for Natural History and the Environment. A wonderful collection devoted to natural environments in Schleswig-Holstein, its fauna and flora, awaits visitors here. The exhibitions are also ideal for families.”

(Jörg-Philipp Thomsa)

recalls. “I was very keen on the idea of working there as I had already fallen in love with the Cathedral before even moving to Lübeck. I was attending a concert at the time and it was genuinely love at first sight.”

MARGRIT WEGNER & JÖRG-PHILIPP THOMSA

When Margrit Wegner takes up her post at the Cathedral, Jörg-Philipp Thomsa is already Head of the Günter Grass-House. Born and brought up on the Lower Rhine, he studied German and History at the University of Duisburg-Essen. He came to Lübeck for the first time in 2005 as a guest and was immediately fascinated by the town. “I liked the town so much that I returned one year later to serve an internship in the Buddenbrook House – ideal for a Thomas Mann fan like me”, says Thomsa with a grin. And it was here that they met for the first time after a reading: Günter Grass and Jörg-Philipp Thomsa. The start of an intensive collaboration. Thomsa becomes an academic trainee in the Günter Grass-House and finally its Head in 2009, always with the full support of the man who lent his name to it and who died in 2015.

There they are now, the pastor and the museum curator, and the original question about opposites. “There are definitely connecting elements in our work”, Jörg-Philipp Thomsa opines. “It’s a matter of great concern to both of us to relate the themes of our ‘bosses’ to today’s times and identify contemporary references. What are the questions that preoccupy people today?” For example, religion, finiteness, the question of guilt and responsibility – these are central, recurring themes in the works of Günter Grass. “That gave us the chance to find common ways of communication”, Margrit Wegner explains. “For example, one time we held a joint service with a reading from ‘Cat and Mouse’.”

Both of them place great emphasis in their work on addressing as wide an audience as possible and also involving the next generation. There are regular services in the Cathedral for children and productions of children’s musicals while the guided tours of the vaults – available on request – are very popular with young and old. “I can get the kids excited especially when I show them the marble angel blowing bubbles. I usually have bubbles with me so the children can blow some too. That’s really magical”, the pastor enthuses. Children are also very welcome in the Günter Grass-House. “Every year, we organise

a children’s festival in collaboration with the Willy-Brandt-House which is very well received, and we have the pleasure of greeting around 2,000 visitors”, Jörg-Philipp Thomsa recounts. “We would like to break down this misguided awe of art and culture”, he continues. “For example, when we opened the new Günter Grass-House in 2012, Helge Schneider came as the main act. And in 2019, we also have Jonathan Meese here with an exhibition. Lübeck needs this disruption in its cultural life.”

Cultural life in Lübeck enjoys an almost symbiotic relationship with the churches in the Old Town. The churches can also be experienced as cultural spaces. Its cultural heritage represents an obligation as Lübeck was after all the stage where major composers and organists such as Dietrich Buxtehude plied their trade. Even Johann Sebastian Bach followed the call once and came to the Hanseatic town to learn from the best. So it’s no surprise that Lübeck’s University of Music collaborates with the Old Town churches and that church music enjoys special status. “Culture in our churches is sometimes still not fully appreciated by outsiders”, Jörg-Philipp Thomsa states. “There are so many concerts staged in Lübeck’s churches, that is out of the ordinary.”

In this way, clerical and secular institutions join hands in Lübeck to shape the future of the town together, on an equal footing. With God and Grass and new paths of communication – opposites that resolve themselves. ●

www.grass-haus.de
www.dom-zu-luebeck.de



“A time of reflection in the middle of the day – midday prayers shortly after twelve in St. Mary’s church. Good music. Good words. What a blessing! And all free of charge as of course we don’t charge at the door for praying.” (Margrit Wegner)

Lübeck museums in the portrait



European Hansemuseum

European Hansemuseum Lübeck

How did Lübeck become the 'Queen of the Hanseatic League'? Who traded which goods with whom and why? How dangerous was travelling for the Low German merchants and how did they live in Lübeck? 800 years of Hanseatic history is presented as a living experience here – interactive, scenic and with expressive exhibits.

Entrance fee: € 13.00
Children: € 7.50
www.hansemuseum.eu

Holsten Gate Museum

Lübeck's famous landmark accommodates the permanent exhibition 'The power of trade', because trade ensured Lübeck's supremacy in the Baltic area during the times of the Hanseatic League. Seven rooms show fascinating exhibits and interactive installations. Historic ship models, suits of armour, weapons, legal instruments and merchandise give a glimpse into times gone by.

Entrance fee: € 7.00
Children: € 2.50
www.museum-holstentor.de

Willy-Brandt-House

Contemporary history can be experienced in multimedia and interactively. From a working-class boy to famous politician – the exhibition is dedicated to Willy Brandt's political life and allows the visitors to explore the historic past in many different stagings. Become active yourself and take a seat at the government bench. In the garden, a piece of the Berlin Wall reminds the visitor of Brandt's time as the mayor of the divided city.

Admission is free
www.willy-brandt.de

Buddenbrookhouse

Lübeck has dedicated an extraordinary literature museum to the novel and the Mann-family. The Buddenbrookhouse, scenery of Thomas Mann's novel 'Buddenbrooks' and ancestral home of the Mann-family will be extended by the neighbouring house from the year 2020 on. Behind the historic facades, a completely redesigned permanent exhibition will await the visitors on 2,500 square metres.

Entrance fee: € 7.00
Children: € 2.50
www.buddenbrookhaus.de

Industrial Museum History Workshop Herrenwyk

Until the 90s of the 20th century, Herrenwyk was a typical working class district of Lübeck. The permanent exhibitions of the museum show the history of the blast furnace, the Flender shipyard and its workers.

Entrance fee: € 4.00
Children € 2.00
www.geschichtswerkstatt-herrenwyk.de

Museum Quarter St. Anne's

A view into the World Heritage's living room – things of everyday life and elaborate exhibits tell Lübeck's cultural stories. St. Anne's Art Gallery, which presents art produced after 1945, St. Anne's Museum and the Art café as well as gardens and courtyards belong to the Museum Quarter St. Anne's.

Entrance fee: € 12.00
Children: € 6.00
www.st-annen-museum.de

Museum of Theatre Puppets

Theatre figures and backdrops, props and posters – the collection comprises more than 30,000 exhibits, some more than three centuries old, and is considered the largest collection of its kind in the world. Due to extensive renovation work, the building will be closed until the end of 2019.

www.theaterfigurenmuseum.de

Museum Behnhouse Drägerhouse

There is a comprehensive picture gallery with works from the 19th century and Classical Modernism in the historic premises of the two 18th century town palaces Behnhouse and Drägerhouse. Bourgeois domestic culture and bourgeois collecting are impressively combined here.

Entrance fee: € 7.00
Children: € 2.50
www.museum-behnhaus-draegerhaus.de



St. Anne's Museum Quarter

Further information on the museums can be found at:
www.luebeck-tourism.de

St. Catherine's church

The present museum church used to be the centre of the Franciscan Order in the entire Baltic Sea area. Built in 1300, the church with its sacral architecture belongs to the most beautiful brick churches of Lübeck. The southern front side is decorated with the Masterpiece 'Raising of Lazarus' of the Venetian painter Jacopo Tintoretto, one of many breath-taking pieces of art that found their place in the church rooms.

Entrance fee: € 2.00
Children: € 1.50
www.museumskirche.de

Lübeck's long night of open museums

Museums, galleries and theatres such as the Brahms Institute, the European Hansemuseum or St. Peter's open their doors each year on the last Saturday in August and invite to discover the extraordinary cultural offers until midnight. Many of them put on special tours or events just for the occasion. Activities to join in, music and tasty treats – Lübeck has a rich and diverse cultural scene.

www.die-luebecker-museen.de

Border Documentation Site Lübeck-Schlutup

Besides Berlin, Lübeck was the only West German city located directly at the inner-German border. The border museum documents the history of the East-West border near Lübeck with a comprehensive collection of uniforms, reports, photo documentaries and video films of the opening of the border in 1989. It's also interesting to see simple everyday items such as communist-era chocolate wrappers and washing powder boxes.

Entrance fee: € 3.00
Children: € 2.00

DOROTHEE GAEDEKE

Dorothee Gaedeke is the first female boss to rule the roost at Priwall ferries

Girl power with a sea view

Germany's youngest female captain is holding her own as the new boss of the Priwall ferries.

She is young, slight and blond and she knows what she wants. As the youngest female captain in the German shipping industry, Dorothee Gaedeke dropped anchor in Travemünde in 2018, swapping 'her' coaster ILKA for the Priwall ferries in the seaside resort. The 30-year-old is now the first female head of ferry operations run by Lübeck urban transport, and she is mastering her job with conviction and professionalism.

Born in Lübeck, Dorothee Gaedeke inherited her love of the sea from a young age. Even as a child, she was allowed to accompany her father on sailing trips across the Baltic where the rocking of the waves gently lulled her to sleep. No wonder, therefore, that she very soon knew what she wanted to be when she grew up: a captain! So after school, she single-mindedly completed her degree in Marine Engineering in Bremen. It was quite clear to her that she was entering a male-dominated domain. "Sometimes I was the only woman in the courses and the same again later on board ship", she says. As a woman, do you have to be better than a man? "Yes, that is expected of you, in fact, you always have to prove yourself. It wasn't always easy", she recalls looking back. "As the only woman in the crew, I frequently had to defend the honour of women in a

"My favourite place in Travemünde is the steep coast of Brodten. I like to take walks here at weekends and I can really relax while doing so - preferably with my fiancé and our dog Momo. Always with a view of the sea, of course."

(Dorothee Gaedeke)

man's profession, but the clear hierarchy on board helped to define your position. Everybody did their job and there was no room for prejudice or macho talk." After only 24 months as a 1st Officer, she achieved her goal, and was awarded her captain's licence as one of the few women in Germany to hold this qualification. Respect!

Dorothee Gaedeke sailed all over the North Sea and the Baltic in the MS ILKA before deciding to return to land and swap her place on the bridge for the job in the small ferry building in Travemünde. The reason was love which was yearning for her on land. But she didn't want to do without the familiar roll of the waves completely. So together with her fiancé, she fulfilled a dream and bought a sailing boat. "That was the deal", she says laughing. "I can't give up the sea altogether." And the two of them spend all their free time on the water, as he too shares her passion for the waves and the sea. That is happiness!

For Dorothee Gaedeke, the job as manager of ferry operations represents a major challenge as she is responsible for 34 employees – from the ship's captain to the check-out staff – three large car ferries and the two Norder ferries for foot passengers and cyclists. And of course it also includes the smooth operation of ferry traffic to Priwall and back. No easy task as after all, the ferries carry more than three million passengers and around one million vehicles per year. She recounts that she also enjoys taking the helm on one of the ferries from time to time, and her eyes light up, but that is a rare occurrence for reasons

of time, she says. Her new honorary office also promotes girl power in a male domain. She has been elected as the first female chairperson of Lübeck's Association of Ships Officers and Captains. "A great honour", she says proudly and smiles with great self-assurance. "As a woman, I can really make waves." Hats off to her! ●



Never cease to be amazed

Promenade Tour

The urban seaside resort is in an atmosphere of change and is reinventing itself. A highlight is the round tour along the redesigned Trave promenade and the Priwall promenade which are connected by two ferries. The stroll leads on to the 20-metre-wide and 1.7-km-long beach promenade. Numerous cafés and fish roll kiosks offer snacks in a front-row-location, with a sea view, of course.

Hotel Projects Travemünde

Where Trave promenade and beach promenade meet, Travemünde's newest accommodations offer comfort in a prime location: the a-ja resort with 242 rooms, a spa landscape and an XL outdoor pool, as well as the High End Travemünde, a luxurious holiday apartment house with around 100 attractive apartments. The Priwall will also be home to exclusive apartments in a unique water and dune location as part of the 'Priwall Waterfront' project.

Fishermen's Harbour

The traditional fishermen's harbour receives a rejuvenating cure. Apart from holiday apartments and flats also a promenade will be built here that will adopt the original charm of the harbour. Also in the future freshly caught fish can be bought right on the spot from the fishing boats and numerous sunny spots in cafés and restaurants will offer a splendid view of the sailing boats and ferries that enter and leave the port. In 2019, the 'Festival of Sandsculptures' will take place for the first time at the fishermen's harbour.



**Every-
thing
flows**

Sporty on the Water

Being surrounded by the rivers Trave, Wakenitz and the Elbe-Lübeck-Canal, Lübeck is the perfect location for water sports. From here, one can set off to varied canoe trips or stand up paddling tours while enjoying the sun and untouched Northern German nature. Those in need of a small break can dock at the Strandsalon: the beach bar on the peninsula Nördliche Wallhalbinsel offers delicious drinks, small snacks and a true holiday feeling.

Lübeck's favourite place to linger and let your mind wander. With the perfect view over the Old Town bank of the river Obertrave, the so called 'Malerwinkel' (Painters' Corner) is a popular meeting spot for artists, musicians, locals and tourists. Especially in summer it is a place where people make music, dance and relax – a true insider's tip.

Malerwinkel – the 'Painters' Corner'

Lübeck's waterways

The rivers Trave and Wakenitz surround the island-shaped Old Town and invite to a maritime discovery journey. Be it on your own in an electric boat or during a trip with a launch – the UNESCO panorama of Lübeck is fascinating also from the water-side. With an excursion boat the route leads along idyllic nature up to Travemünde.



The 'completest' overall work of art

There is scarcely an artist in the modern era who polarises public opinion to the same degree as Jonathan Meese. He was born in Tokyo in 1970 and grew up in Ahrensburg in Schleswig-Holstein. Now five art institutions and cultural facilities in Lübeck are focusing on his work. The Overbeck Society, the St. Anne's Art Gallery, the Günter Grass-House, St. Peter's Church of Lübeck and the 'Kulturwerft Gollan' are not only presenting his work for the first time in Germany's northernmost state but also showing it to an extent hitherto not seen. Meese's wide-ranging artistic disputes - from painting, sculpture, graphic design and photography via film, opera, installations and performance all the way to poetry and texts - are the subject of much controversy. But why? Meese queries the present system of society and would like to replace it by a 'dictatorship of art'.

Oliver Zybok: You are preparing an elaborate exhibition project in Lübeck entitled 'Zuhause' (At Home), a kind of overall work of art with the participation of five cultural institutions in the Hanseatic town: the Overbeck Society, the St. Anne's Art Gallery, the Günter Grass-House, St. Peter's church in Lübeck and the Kulturwerft Gollan. This is the biggest project that you have ever staged. What can we expect?

Jonathan Meese: We are eagerly awaiting the completest overall work of art, and Lübeck will be raised to the status of 'Art State!' Lübeck will be de-ideologised from its home, in other words readied for the future by art. Art is the space devoid of fear! Lübeck will be entrusted to art without guide! I will have art per se staged in Lübeck!

Zybok: What do you associate with the Hanseatic city of Lübeck in general terms? You grew up in Ahrensburg, and during your childhood and youth, you were frequently to be found in this town on the river Trave.

Meese: Lübeck for me is a suburb of 'at home!' Lübeck is a construct of love in the name of arch-marzipanitis! Lübeck is a haven of the 'futuremost' if it gives itself over to art unconditionally! Lübeck is the town which can renew itself through the performance of art! Only art can catapult Lübeck into the future: A.R.T. = F.U.T.U.R.E! Art is never terrifying!

Zybok: There have already been several on-site meetings in Lübeck, and among other things, you have viewed the exhibition sites. All those involved in the 'Zuhause' project recently visited you in your studio in Berlin. A great sense of euphoria could be felt in all these encounters, an unbelievable anticipation. Does that surprise you because you have often been embroiled in very heated controversy in the general public? In this context, I would just like to mention the two cues: State Theatre of Mannheim and Bayreuth.

Meese: Art only generates future! Art is provocative as long as there are still ideol-

ogues/ideologies. Slowly but surely, people are starting to have enough of the ideologues/ideologies! Art provokes all ideological power systems into extinction! Art is the 'free play of all forces!' People finally understand how to classify ideologues/ideologies as the worst, dumbest apparitions and the most devoid of future!

Zybok: You are a major critic of any form of ideology. Could you explain that briefly?

Meese: Art is the absence of ideology! Ideology is only ever the prevention of future! Ideology means peer pressure devoid of freedom! Ideology fogs every brain! No child is ideological! Only the 'adult brain' straitjackets people! Ideology always means nothing but brainwashing, indoctrination, egomania, ingratiating and scaremongering! Man without ideology is a sustainable model, so evolve yourselves! Art dethrones all ideologues/ideologies! Art depoliticises everyone/everything!

Zybok: Do you think the excesses of an unbelievably resurgent populism in the world are the result of ideologies?

Meese: Every form of politics dulls the senses! Any politics belong in the past! Any politics are wrong! Any politics are a lottery! Any politics are ideological! Anything that is wrong at the moment is the result of politics, i.e. ideology! Politics and religion frighten people! Anybody who wants to choose the future must de-ideologise themselves and rely on art! Art is synonymous with the future!

Zybok: What does that mean for Lübeck?

Meese: Lübeck must become the 'home' of art! May Lübeck embrace art totally! Lübeck must subordinate itself to art! May Lübeck recognise the constitution of 'ART' as its boss! Art will give Lübeck a future! Art will become Lübeck, Lübeck will become art, Lübeck will become a home for art! Lübeck will be directed by A.R.T: Arch-Lübeck will follow! ●

www.die-luebecker-museen.de

Art is at home in Lübeck

Overbeckgesellschaft

Through contemporary art, the association Lübecker Kunstverein makes art and society-related topics a subject of discussion. Each year, five exhibitions, exclusively created for the Overbeckgesellschaft as an exhibition venue take place here. Guided Tours, round table talks and lectures give the visitors an understanding of it.

Gallery for one night

This Old Town house, in the past was used as a grocery shop, today functions as a gallery for the artist Gabi Bannow. Amidst the original shop fittings, she also exhibits in the hallway. Her central theme is the human being, mostly presented in acrylic paints. Events such as readings, concerts and parties make the premises a vivid spot in the Old Town.

Defacto Art e. V.

A location of a different kind dedicated to art – a petrol station. Near the Holsten Gate, the former petrol station has become an exhibition and working place for artists. The association is an open forum for diverse forms of art and wants to create a connection between artists and supporters.

Here's where our

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MARGRIT WEGNER & JÖRG-PHILPP THOMSA

Two opposites collide

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CLEMENS DIETRICH

The gin man

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The 'completest' overall work of art

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JANA NITSCH & PETER BELLI

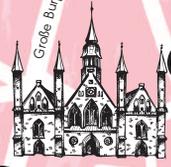
Christmas city of the North



CASTLE GATE



Museum Harbour



33



GRASS



28



Holsten Gate



TOWN HALL



Painter's Corner



6

stories take place



↑ Brodten steep coast

Old Town

Nordermole

Passat

Fishermen's Harbour

**DOROTHEE
GAEDEKE**

Girl power with
a sea view

**PETRA &
MIKE WÖBKE**

Mermaid
meets Neptune

PRIWALL

A bed under
the Baltic sky



CLEMENS DIETRICH

Barkeeper Clemens Dietrich is renowned for his creative creations



The Gin Man

Where cocktails are more than just a drink



Clemens Dietrich is standing behind the bar in his natural habitat or at least that's what it feels like. There's no need of a table to talk at here because you are familiar with this situation from the TV: You can have a good conversation with the bartender at the bar.

Carefully he lays a slice of bacon on the iced glass, looks up and grins devilishly from behind his beard: "How did I end up here? My pooch did a pooh outside the front door."

What used to be a building site on Lübeck's Untertrave riverbank and apparently a popular route for walking your dog, has been the polished diamond of 'Dietrich's' – café, wine bistro and bar since 2015. The man behind the bar is Clemens Dietrich, qualified restaurateur, youth travel guide and first and foremost a passionate bartender with a vision. "We work to the credo of 'If you drink, do it right', he explains and gives the gin its last tea infusion. And guests entering the small bar get an immediate feel for how you do it right, Dietrich-style. The restrained music, the atmosphere, the light, the service – the all-pervading style is one of a chic after-work club with much understatement. Here you don't just take a drink, the drink is celebrated – in its preparation, in the way it's served and in the drinking. A leap in time: Berlin 2004, Oranienburger Straße, the party mile and in the thick of it, Clemens Dietrich behind the bar. "That's where I got started in this profession. Pure bartender cliché with 150 cocktails at the double, plenty of show, not so much quality, a lot of partying and lots of women", says Dietrich with a wink of the eye and he grins again. His seasonal job as a youth travel guide fits the picture and he sticks with it even later during his years training to become a qualified restaurateur in Kleinmachnow near Berlin, his home since his childhood. Finally, on one such youth trip, Lübeck appears on the scene in the form of – you've guessed it – a woman, his wife who is a native of Lübeck. Today the two of them live in Lübeck, have a small son and Clemens Dietrich has found his passion in life, 'Dietrich's'.

The bar is famous among residents of Lübeck and connoisseurs of the restaurant scene for its extensive range of gins. Around 200 select drops are to be found on the wooden shelves behind the bar which take up the entire wall. "Actually, this specialisation on gin was not planned from the outset. Things just turned out that way because my regular customers

asked for more and more varieties", explains Dietrich who has now started experimenting and even wins international competitions with his outstanding creations. Here the gin is given an infusion of black tea or blended with a cold brew with cocoa beans. The exquisite results are well received by his sophisticated clientele as is the exceptional service. "The customer is of course king here, and we are his court and want to deliver service to match. After all, nobody wants to be king of a back court(yard)", says Dietrich in praise of his dedicated team. Everybody works hand-in-hand here with the same objective: pleasure for all the senses with a 'drink and serve style' of the highest quality. This aspiration is paying off, and 'Dietrich's' is featured in the most prestigious guides, acting as an ambassador for Lübeck's young restaurant scene. "The goal along the way? To establish a top world bar in Lübeck and to be mentioned in the same breath as Lübeck marzipan and our UNESCO World Heritage status", states Clemens Dietrich, rolling up his sleeves and paving the way. So raise your glasses to the toast of gin gin! ●

www.dietrichs-luebeck.de



Where does a chef go to eat and where does he enjoy drinking in Lübeck? Clemens Dietrich is an avowed fan of Nadia Weller and her 'LabSaal' in Beckergrube. Here, the quality, atmosphere and service are just right; they speak the same language when it comes to cuisine. The same applies to 'Torrio's', a classic American bar in Königstraße with fine drinks and real characters behind the bar.

Neue Rösterei

Once one has made a step into the slightly hidden courtyard of the roasting house, the delicious aroma of freshly ground coffee rises to the nose. Curious for more? Next to high-quality coffee specialities from all over the world, the Neue Rösterei offers deliciously prepared sandwiches and selected craft beer. Also worth-seeing: one of the live concerts in the café's cosy courtyard.

Cafebar

One could spend the whole day in the cosy Scandinavian-styled rooms or in the outdoor-area on Huxstraße street with its small boutiques and shops. The Cafebar offers delicious breakfast, great coffee, homemade pastry, different snacks and classic long drinks and cocktails in the evening – the package is just right.



Kaffeehaus

Hanseatic coffee culture can be experienced traditionally in the rooms of the coffee house featuring Gotland marble plates and wooden floorboards. The architecture-award-winning café offers seasonal products from the region and attaches value to an original, genuine taste experience. An experience for the eye and the palate at the same time.



Fresh wind in Lübeck's gastronomic scene



Gotteskeller

Beneath Lübeck's traditional restaurant 'Schiffergesellschaft' (Seafarers' Guild) lies the small quaint bar 'Gotteskeller'. After its opening in 1401, people in need received food and financial support here. Today the guests can spend a wonderful evening in a leisurely atmosphere while enjoying freshly tapped beer, good wine or selected cocktails.

Labsaal

Cooking soul food – according to this credo Nadia Weller cooks in her intimate restaurant in Beckergrube. Regional, fresh, creatively interpreted classics, preferably in organic quality, these are the attributes of her kitchen. Regular cultural events such as readings or concerts take place in the Labsaal.



Tonfink

Cosy café in the afternoon, trendy bar with live music and other cultural events at night, the Tonfink is versatile and convincing with its concept. Fair trade and regional origin are obligatory for a product to find its place on the menu. All dishes are homemade, nothing comes from a packet. Table soccer and a public bookcase are additional offers for distraction.



A bed under the Baltic sky

Unforgettable moments are guaranteed in the sleeper beach basket

Further information:
www.365tage-glueck.de

Since 2016, guests in Travemünde have been able to enjoy the perfect sunrise on the Baltic Sea beach, snuggled up in soft bed linen with a cup of coffee in their hand – in one of the four cosy sleeper beach baskets. They are located on the beach promenade on the broad sandy beach with a direct view of the sea.

It is the ultimate childhood dream to spend a night on the beach under a clear starry sky. This dream can now come true here in the Bay of Lübeck – and with a degree of comfort that can only be offered by your bed at home or in a hotel. Because who wants to leave for home or their holiday accommodation after a beautiful day on the beach with a swim in the Baltic Sea, a lot of sunshine and even greater relaxation? The day can be brought to a better close over a glass of red wine directly by the seaside, with your feet in the sand and the roar of

the waves in your ear – this is pure bliss. The sleeper beach basket is 1.40 metres wide and equipped with fluffy cushions and thick duvets, romantic lighting, a bottle of water for the night and some light reading matter for the evening. A tarpaulin can be fastened over the entire area of the chair, protecting you from wind and weather. Two lateral portholes and the transparent front of the tarpaulin reveal a view of the Baltic Sea beach and the sea itself even if the cover is pulled up. At night, these windows can nar-

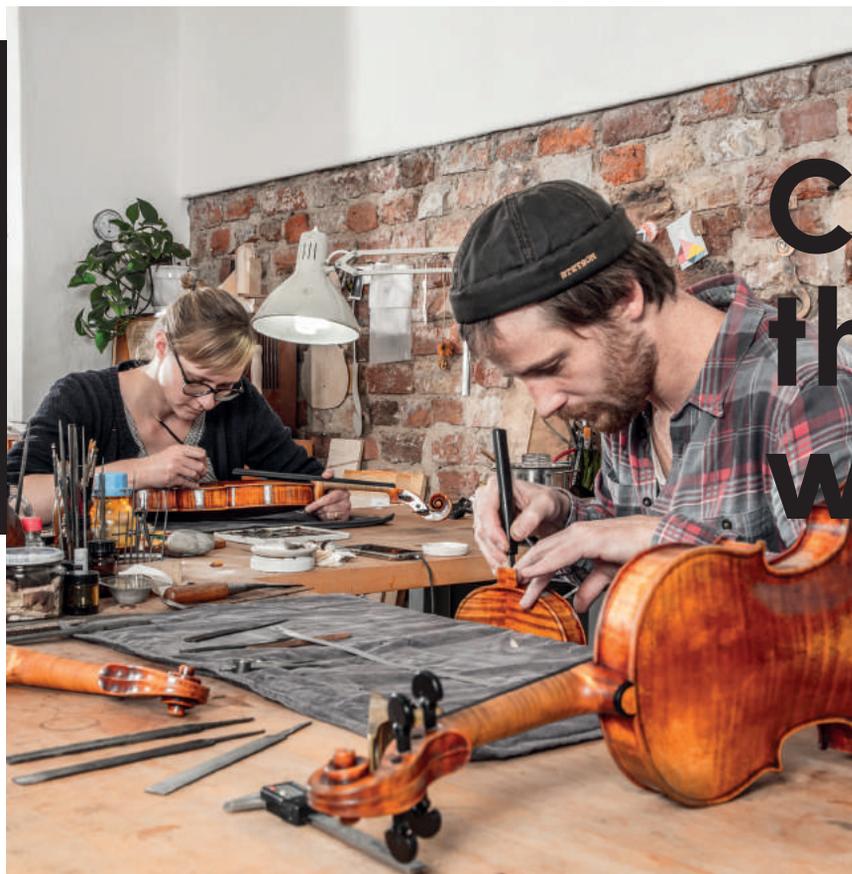
It's a magic moment when the first tender pink rays appear on the horizon at daybreak, and the beach in Travemünde is bathed in the dewy dawn. The seagulls strike up their maritime concert, and a new day begins in the real North.

turally be obscured from prying eyes. In the morning, you are woken not by the alarm but by nature – with the soft red hues of dawn, the roar of the surf, a concert of seagulls and the aroma of coffee. Because on request, a complete breakfast can be served directly at the sleeper

beach basket. Tables and chairs are at the ready on the small wooden terrace – this is how the day should begin. Freshly invigorated and well rested, guests can then explore their surroundings. Travemünde has a lot to offer. Anyone wanting to get to know the bay from a different perspective should undertake an extended walk along the steep coast of Brodten. Over the course of centuries, the sea has fashioned a rough cliff here as high as a tower. On one side, you have a free view over the Baltic Sea, the white sails of the ships and big vessels coming to Travemünde from Scandinavia. Landwards, the scene is dominated by gleaming rape fields in the spring and blooming North German flora by the wayside. And later take a refreshing dip in the Baltic Sea waves, soak up the warming sun or maybe spend a second night in your sleeper beach basket under the starry sky – it's so hard to tear yourself away. ●

JULIA JOSTES AND SIMON EBERL

Julia Jostes and Simon Eberl repair used string instruments in their workshop and manufacture new handcrafted instruments



Cut from the right wood

With their violin workshop, Julia Jostes and Simon Eberl have fulfilled a dream



Julia Jostes and Simon Eberl set up their own violin production workshop in Lübeck in 2016. The young couple spent a long time searching for the perfect location for themselves, their two children and their shared craftsmanship. After detours to Berlin and Hamburg, the family found a new home in the Aegidien district in the historic Old Town.

In their workshop, Julia Jostes and Simon Eberl make stringed instruments in the best tradition of craftsmanship with much passion, patience and love of detail. These two violin makers from the Frankfurt region learned their rare craftsmanship at the renowned international State Vocational School for Instrument Making in Mittenwald. It was there that the two got to know each other and fell in love. After their trade examination, they became journeymen in order to gain experience with other violin makers and perfect their own art.

Their desire to set themselves up in business with their centuries-old craft led them to Lübeck in 2016. “We took an immediate shine to the town, it was all so beautiful and the history of this old Hanseatic town was visible everywhere”, says Simon Eberl going into raptures. “First and foremost, however, the Academy of Music is here as well as many theatres, and that played a role in our choice of location as a violin maker needs professional musicians as potential customers.” The discovery of an empty shop in the Old Town – the former Musikhaus Porsche – proved the tipping point for the couple as they had the chance to convert it to a violin production workshop based on their own ideas. “I took that as a sign”, Julia Jostes recalls. “I knew then we had found our destination in Lübeck.” They are very impressed with the neighbourliness in the Aegidien district, everybody knows each other and they say hallo; they are there for each other. And as the two of them live no more than 50 metres from their workshop, a harmonious blend of work and family is guaranteed.

The couple has specialised in the maintenance, repair and above all the production of new violins, violas and cellos. The works of the Italian masters such as Giuseppe Guarneri and Antonio Stradivari are still in demand as the classic models to emulate. Every new instrument that leaves the workshop is a unique specimen, hand-made in an elaborate process, and always bearing the personal signature of Julia Jostes and Simon Eberl. The tonewood used forms the most important basis for a truly outstanding tone. “For that reason, the two of them personally select all the woods that they use for their instruments from the tonewood dealer they have come to trust. For the top, we normally use high-quality spruce from the Dolomites in northern Italy, and for the bottom, ribs and scroll, we take maple wood from Bosnia.”

To swap notes with other violin makers and discuss their craftsmanship, Julia Jostes and Simon Eberl take part in competitions and workshops, for example the renowned Oberlin Violin Makers Workshop in Ohio, USA. In 2018, they took part in the



competition of the Violin Society of America where they won the silver medal ‘for Tone in Quartet’. The open community practised by the younger generation of violin makers is very popular as the days of secretiveness commonly found in workshops of yore, are now over. “Today, we meet at conventions and share our knowledge”, Simon Eberl relates. “For example, violin making has made big strides in quality over the last ten years, and some of the new instruments today can hardly be distinguished any more from an old masterpiece in terms of tone.” ●

www.geigenbau-jostes-eberl.de

“Our favourite place: In the summer, we often take the kids to the Krähenteich open air pool, which is just around the corner in an idyllic location on the island-shaped Old Town. There we often come across our neighbours in their bathrobes with a towel slung over their shoulder. This engenders a real holiday feeling, and the children love the large grassy play area.”

(Julia Jostes)

Lübeck sounds

Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival

Since 1986 the festival gives the audience an understanding of classical music at unusual places. Be it a rustic barn, a former industrial warehouse, an old shipyard or a romantic castle, the stiff structures of the opera houses and concert halls are opened and the music brings everyday places to life.
www.shmf.de

Music by the Sea

Sometimes loud, sometimes quiet – sometimes jazzy, sometimes classical: Travemuünde swings with the sound of the waves when the concert series “Music by the Sea” accompanies the guests into the summer months.
www.travemuende-tourism.de

Brahms Festival and Brahms Villa

During the annual Brahms Festival, professors and students from the University of Music delight their audience with symphonies, chamber music and solos composed by Brahms and his contemporaries.
www.mh-luebeck.de

Travejazz Festival

Once a year you can hear jazz music at its best on Lübeck’s island-shaped Old Town. The special blend is the main reason for the tremendous success of the festival, where nationally and internationally renowned jazz musicians, as well as artists from the region fill the Hanseatic music venues with the sound of soul.
www.travejazz.de

With hand, heart and soul Petra und Mike Wöbke take to their job at their fishmonger's shop like ducks to the water

A photograph of Petra and Mike Wöbke in their fish shop. Mike, on the left, is wearing a grey chef's coat and an orange cap, holding a large fish. Petra, on the right, is wearing a blue shirt with a red sash and is smiling while holding a white tray. The background shows a tiled wall with a poster for 'Fischer's Premium FISCHE' and a small figurine of a mermaid.

Mermaid meets Neptune

It's been years since there has been any meat on the table in the Wöbke's home; they are fish-eaters with a passion. Fish is on the menu five times a week, in all its variations. Husband Mike takes on the cooking duties in their home, which wife Petra finds an excellent idea.

Fisch-Wöbke is somewhat hidden away in Kurgartenstraße/corner of Rose – a little distance from the shopping promenade Vorderreihe in Travemünde. This specialist fish shop is known to holiday-makers and 'genuine' Travemünders for its home-made salads and tasty smoked fish. During the main season, customers even put up with queuing up in front of the shop. You can catch sight of the tempting specialities through the shop window – from smoked eel 'Schlutuper style', via herring, halibut, kippers, rollmops and butter mackerel all the way to cold-smoked nori salmon and salmon confectionery. There is also fresh fish but only to order.

Petra Wöbke has been the boss in the fish shop since 2002. The family business was founded in 1962 by her mother. The 18 square metre shop in Travemünde has been open since 1970, fitted out single-handedly at the time by Petra's father. Even as a child, Petra Wöbke frequently stood behind the counter and played 'shop'. Even back then, the Wöbkes had specialised in smoked fish from their own family production, and things have stayed that way. The smoked fish is delivered fresh from the oven by sister Manuela who has taken over the family smokehouse in Lübeck-Karlshof from her father. The fish rolls to go are very popular for those looking for a snack between meals, and they are freshly prepared in the shop with the desired filling. Today, Petra Wöbke is a tough businesswoman with 14 employees, Hanse entrepreneur and much in demand as a specialist for work in the Hanse Association. In her free time, Petra Wöbke performs charity work at the outpatient children's and youth hospice 'Die Muschel' (The Mussel) and supports grieving families. "This is a subject close to my heart", says the 58-year-old who takes pleasure in being able to help.

Husband Mike wears the trousers in the salad kitchen. Every day, this trained cook with thirty years' experience with fish conjures up as many as twenty different salads with his team – including sea algae salad and ten types of marinades, some classic dishes but also with a liking for innovative creations of his own. His biggest hits are the

siness, therefore, which is opening up and ensuring that the family business constantly receives new ideas. This includes so-called 'pairing' as they express it in professional circles. Because "fish has to swim" as they say, and at his tastings, Mike always recommends a matching white wine or a light red wine with the fish. Great idea! The

“You can also experience maritime harbour atmosphere up close and personal in Travemünde’s fishermen’s harbour. Freshly caught fish is sold here directly from the cutters every weekday from 9 a.m. The professional fishermen sail out to sea early in the morning, and usually they bring back cod and flounder, sometimes there is some saithe in the catch. In the spring, there’s herring.” (Petra and Mike Wöbke)

mild herring fillets with herbs and red onions of which he sells around 200 kilos every week during the summer season. Mike Wöbke sees himself as an 'ambassador' for fish and would like to enthuse people for fish as high-quality food of the future. To do so, he underwent additional training as a 'fish sommelier' in 2017 and since then, he has been happy to share his knowledge. He offers courses and lectures on the subject of fish and tasting sessions for his in-house fish specialities. A completely new line of bu-

couple Petra and Mike are particularly proud of their latest award from the specialist fish magazine 'Seafood Star' 2018 for the 'best fish concept at a tourist location'. Incidentally: Even if the holiday guests have long since returned home, they don't have to do without the tasty smoked fish because they can have their ideal fish from Wöbke delivered throughout the country to their home address by forwarding agent. Just give us a call! ● www.fischwoebke.de



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Of tradition and beautiful things



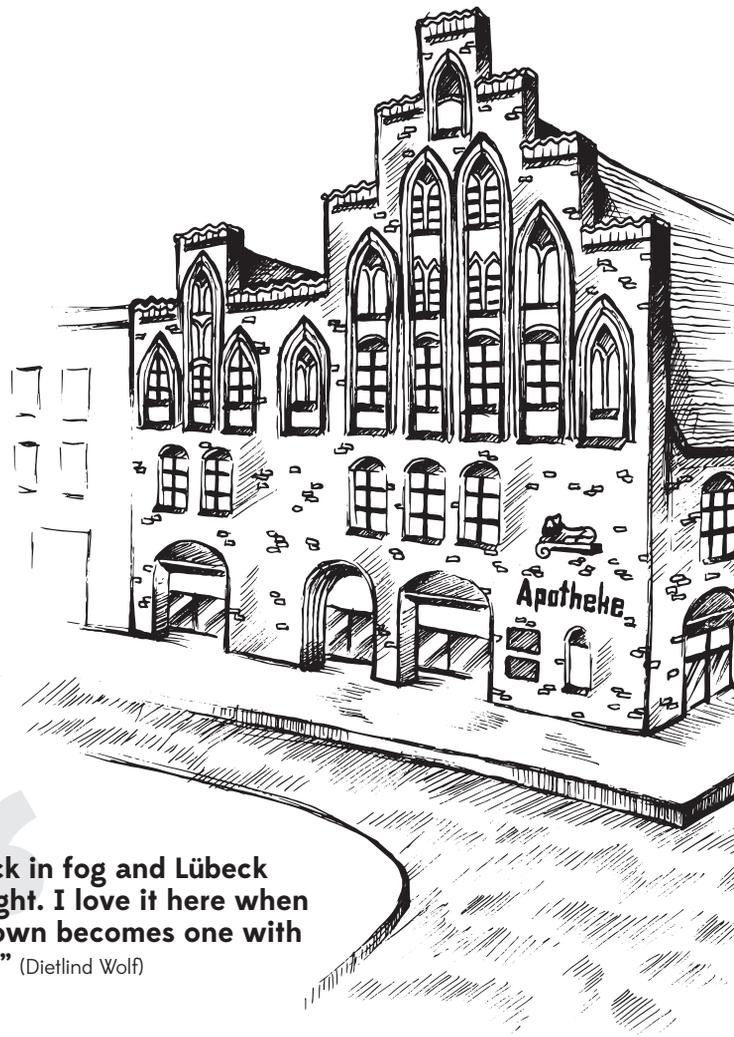
DIETLIND WOLF &
MARCUS NIENDORF

Sometimes that's the way things go: two things fit together like pieces of a jigsaw. In that case, it's fate that has decided to bring two worlds, two life stories, two people together. That's doubtless what happened when the paths of Marcus Niendorf and Dietlind Wolf crossed. He is a pharmacist and owner of Lübeck's Löwen Pharmacy, she a multi-talented artist. And their common vision is their 'Löwenmanufaktur'.

There is a smell of lavender, cardamom and sandalwood in the air. The starry sky on the high ceilings is hand-painted, the furnishings a harmonious blend of restrained modernity and antique treasures from the 18th century. A visit to the Löwen Pharmacy is like travelling through time. Essential oils are in the air and visitors are assailed from all sides by the history they transport. This proud patrician house is a jewel at the heart of the Old Town as it is Lübeck's oldest town house. Built around 1230, it is even around 250 years older than our famous Holsten Gate. "The Empress Elisabeth, wife of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV, resided here during a state visit in 1375", Marcus Niendorf relates.

And there is much to relate for this Lübeck pharmacist as in fact he could equally well have become a historian or architect, such is his seemingly limitless knowledge of the history of this brick building which has been so closely linked to his family history since 1812, the year the Löwen Pharmacy was opened. The Hanseatic tradition, the age of the Buddenbrooks, the chronicles of Lübeck have left their mark and can still be felt in the rooms of the Löwen pharmacy. The concept, with which Marcus Niendorf has forged his niche, fits well with this atmosphere so steeped in history. "I took over the pharmacy from my father as the youngest of four children in the fourth generation. After the war, he rebuilt the business and made it profitable. And, of course, it was expected of me that I would continue the tradition. That is a great source of pleasure to me, especially because I have found a strategy which I think has the potential to ensure the survival of the pharmacy in the way I envisage."

We are talking about the hand-made Löwen production business. Since 2006, Marcus Niendorf has been developing traditional formulas based on sources from the family archives of his great grandfather. The idea of turning the clock back and creating a counter-movement to the rapidly automating world of the pharmacy had been going through his head for some time, and it took more definite shape on a visit to a convent pharmacy in Florence. He received support



“Lübeck in fog and Lübeck by night. I love it here when the town becomes one with itself.” (Dietlind Wolf)

in the initial period from the nursing staff at Lübeck's University Clinic. A calming oil with which to treat patients suffering from panic attacks was needed, and it brought success. The birth of a new product line: oils for the psyche. They bear expressive names such as 'Löwenbändiger' (lion-tamer), 'Balsam für die Seele' (balm for the soul) or 'Löwenkraft' (strength of a lion), and they have proven their worth with customers of the Löwen manufactory. "It all fits together with perfect logic", says Niendorf, "here we have this house steeped in history, I have this inexhaustible family archive and my specialist knowledge as well as my vision of the Löwen manufactory in the pursuit of which I have devoted all my efforts."

Indeed, the decidedly broad product range now includes herbal formulas in the areas of the mind, the immune system, travel and birth, to name but some. And yes, visually



DIETLIND WOLF & MARCUS NIENDORF

too, it fits perfectly with the 'beautiful old pharmacy world' of the Löwen Pharmacy. This is where Dietlind Wolf comes into play. Marcus Niendorf's matching piece of the jigsaw, so to speak, as they share the same interests and the same vision. "Things have to be beautiful." Architecture, art, design, tradition, love of detail and authenticity, these are the things that the two – at first sight so different – protagonists of this story have in common.

Dietlind Wolf is an artist through and through. "I was born creative, if you like, that was evident even in kindergarten. Luckily they followed the Montessori principle which gave me many opportunities to express my creativity. I still have a lot of pictures of myself from this time", she recalls. And so after completing her Abitur school-leaving exams, she embarks on a decidedly varied artistic career. Textile design in the haute couture field in Italy and Switzerland, a restaurant run as a collective, a teaching job in Hamburg at the Academy for Fashion and Design, prop styling for international magazines, principally in the area of food, and finally photography and her own line of ceramics. When their paths cross, Dietlind Wolf had had her studio in Hamburg for many years. Love finally led her from there to Marcus Niendorf and to Lübeck. And here the two of them now live, in a venerable patrician house, above the Löwen pharmacy, at the heart of things in Lübeck's World Cultural Heritage Site, the UNESCO Old Town. The conversion work on the 120 square metres on the top floor is far from finished; it's an ongoing process. "We take a lot of pleasure in architecture and we have a lot of ideas in our heads, some of which can be realised and some maybe not", the pair muses. In the pharmacy below, on the other hand, the creative energy on show knows no bounds. "The Löwen manufactory is our baby, and to a degree also our legacy for Lübeck", Marcus Niendorf explains, looking at his wife. Once again, it is clear how well this couple complement each other as the two creative talents are developing the beautiful product design on their own, creating the perfect stage for their tinctures and creams in the photos in their online shop. With an unbelievably sure eye for style, Dietlind Wolf creates the perfect setting for the product, herbs, miniature bowls and drawings – once learned never forgotten, and



"Whenever I need to take a break and recharge my batteries, I go to the goldsmiths 'Galerie Nimbus' belonging to Hannes Kuhn and Ulla Herz and I look at their simply wonderful things."

(Marcus Niendorf)

some people are simply born with it. "I am passionate about conveying the authenticity of something in the photo. Luckily, this trend already exists in food photography and I would like to apply it to pharmaceuticals, too", she explains. Perhaps it is this very authenticity which makes the overall package so charming. Pharmacist and artist, Lübeck and the Old Town island and a vision of tradition and beautiful things. ●

www.loewen-apotheke-luebeck.de
www.dietlindwolf.blogspot.com



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JANA NITSCH &
PETER BELLI

Christmas city of the North

Faces of the Christmas markets

At Christmas time, the Christmas market in the UNESCO Old Town of Lübeck is a particularly favourite place with a long tradition. Already in 1648, the Christmas market at the Town Hall was mentioned in a historic document for the very first time. Today, each year ten Christmas worlds turn Lübeck into the Christmas capital of the North and amaze visitors from near and far. In the festively lit Old Town visitors find the traditional Christmas market located next to the historic Town Hall, art and crafts markets inside the Hospital of the Holy Spirit, inside the Hoghehus building and St. Peter's church, and the lovingly designed Fairytale Forest at St. Mary's churchyard. The Christmas Wonderland with the kids' skating rink and the pixie forest located next to the European Hansemuseum are especially nice for families with children. A journey back in time to the Middle Ages can be experienced at the Historic Christmas market at St. Mary's church and the Maritime Christmas market on Koberg. It reminds of the tradition of the old maritime quarter around St. Jacob's church. The Starlit Forest at Schranggen is a comfy meeting spot amidst the pre-Christmas hustle and bustle. Festive Christmas concerts, Christmas at the Buddenbrook's and contemplative church services in the Old Town churches complete the inviting Christmas programme. During Advent, the advent bazaar in Niederegger café attracts visitors with delicacies made from marzipan. The 'Christmas City of the North' will officially be opened with the family service in St. Mary's church called 'Adventsleuchten' and a light procession through the Old Town streets. Oh, you merry Christmas!



by my studio in the Essigfabrik (vinegar factory) and take their time in selecting their favourite pieces, or ask me to produce a piece of jewellery based on their own ideas.” Her pieces of jewellery are unique, hand-made specimens of silver, gold and gemstones. “I love experimenting and I often work with text and tongue in cheek to give my creations an individual touch”, the bubbly artist says in describing her work. For example, she likes to use everyday objects in her jewellery pieces such as bottle caps, buttons, Lego blocks and coffee beans – there are no limits to creativity. She calls her concept “the life of things” which also includes devoting a poem or song to her “babies” as she lovingly refers to her jewellery pieces.

Whenever the four walls of her Christmas cubbyhole drive her into claustrophobic rage as she jokingly explains, she also likes to play her accordion as

music is her second passion besides her work as a goldsmith. She performs over 70 times a year with her husband Marcus as the ‘TroubaDuo’, and the two of them have already recorded various CDs. They play a mix of klezmer, Balkan beats and street music. Jana Nitsch has also made a

name for herself in Lübeck as a poet. ‘Das Wortgewand’ (word garment) is the title of her volume of poetry, a collection of songs, poems and illustrations. An all-round artistic talent! ●

Jana Nitsch

One of the best known and most beautiful Christmas markets is the Artisans’ Market in the medieval Hospital of the Holy Spirit which is held in the church hall, in the former ‘residential cubbyholes’ in the nave and the historical cellar vault. Here, around 120 artisans from Germany, Scandinavia and the Baltic states show the diversity of their old and new craft techniques. Jana Nitsch, goldsmith, poet and musician from Lübeck, has been among the select exhibitors for many years.

“I always get butterflies in my tummy even when setting up the Christmas market”, says Jana Nitsch, her eyes shining. “I love the days before things kick off. I enjoy seeing the other exhibitors

again and the family atmosphere. There is such a feeling of anticipation.” The trained goldsmith (34) has been exhibiting her unusual jewellery in the Hospital of the Holy Spirit for the last eight years, and being allowed to return every year is almost like receiving the ultimate accolade. Jana Nitsch has furnished her six square metre ‘cubbyhole’ with a mobile workbench, two glass cabinets and small folding travel cases in order to present her craft and creative jewellery collection in the best possible light in the smallest

possible space. “The Christmas market in the Hospital of the Holy Spirit gives me home advantage and great advertising”, says this artisan who is a native of Lübeck. “Many visitors also later drop

“My favourite place is the ‘Essigfabrik’. Not only because this old factory building is the home of my goldsmith’s workshop at Kanalstraße but also because it’s a young cultural centre and a genuine creative hotbed with great artists, exhibitions, concerts and readings. From time to time, I make music here in Bistro Balsamico with TroubaDuo and other artists, so you’re welcome to drop in!”

(Jana Nitsch)

One special location which has excited the smallest visitors to the Christmas markets for generations, is the Fairytale Forest at the foot of St. Mary's church. It first opened its doors in 1962 and since then it has put a smile on children's faces every year at Christmas time. The fairytale motifs originally served as shop-window decorations for the Karstadt department store almost 60 years ago before

there was no way to keep your writing neat." He went to school in Lübeck from Grade 4 onwards but only from November to March when the family set up its winter camp on Volksfestplatz. Otherwise, this family of travelling show artists moved from funfair to funfair right across the country, and little Peter went to a different school every week with the other travelling show children. It didn't do him any harm, "I always had lots of friends",

Peter Belli

re they were moved to the St. Mary's churchyard as a pre-Christmas attraction for families with children. The cherished tradition of the Fairytale Forest now includes 23 'berths' where the finest fairytale figures of the Brothers Grimm and others can be found – from King Thrusheard and Cinderella, via Hansel and Gretel and the Sleeping Beauty to Pippi Longstocking, Jim Button and Max and Moritz.

One person who has been there from the beginning and who is particularly fond of the Fairytale Forest, is travelling show artist Peter Belli who was born in 1963. Even as a small boy, he helped his parents at their sweet stall in the Fairytale Forest, was allowed to take care of the fairytale figures, inspected tickets for the children's merry-go-round with his two brothers and did his homework in the last carriage of the children's railway. "I was rocked backwards and forwards and every time the carriage went over the sleepers, it shook – and

the 56-year-old happily recalls, but when it came to his two daughters and his grandchildren, he always set great store by a permanent school and good training. He would have liked best of all to be a car mechanic but the family business was more important, and so Peter Belli learned all the manual skills from his father and in the end took over his parent's business. "There's nothing a travelling show worker can't turn his hand to", he explains with a grin. "And if there's something he can't do, he keeps trying until he can." No sooner said than done – and so this likeable travelling show artist with his heart in the right place is today a genuine self-made man. Crêpes, fishing for ducks and pitching at cans make up his business with the addition of doughnuts and the children's railway in the Fairytale Forest.

When the Fairytale Forest Association 'Pro Lübeck e.V.' ran into financial difficulties at the beginning of 2000 and there was a threat of the forest being



sold to Denmark, Peter Belli took over the chairmanship of the association and bought up the fairytale figures and their berths at a stroke. "The Fairytale Forest is quite simply part of Lübeck, otherwise there's something missing in the Christmas market", he states in justification of his commitment which continues to this day. "It's simply a part of our childhood – not just for me but for generations of Lübeck residents."

The association is regularly dependent on donations in order to fund the restoration of the mobile fairytale figures and their wooden berths and to construct new ones year for year. Brockensammlung Lübeck, for example, recently adopted Mrs. Holle and Pippi Longstocking. "Without our supporters and sponsors, the Fairytale Forest would not be able to survive", says Peter Belli. "I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for this commitment." His own dedication goes without saying for him even if it takes up a lot of his time and work. He takes charge of almost all the repair work himself, "although my wife and some volunteers sew the clothes for the dolls, that's not really my bag." ●





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