

## GINGERBREAD AND GEMÜTLICHKEIT

### Plan a Holiday Getaway and Shopping Spree at The Osthoff Resort's "Old World Christmas Market"

**ELKHART LAKE, WISCONSIN** – *Gemütlichkeit*. That German word that slips dramatically off the tongue accomplishes what no single English word can. Single-handedly, it describes the warm and mystical spirit of good fellowship that reaches out to embrace a welcome visitor at holiday time.

It is a commodity that you'll find in good supply should you visit the annual "**Old World Christmas Market**" at The Osthoff Resort at Elkhart Lake in southeastern Wisconsin (this year, **November 30-December 9**). It has *gemütlichkeit* aplenty to satisfy all of the senses.

There is the sweet aroma of gingerbread and roasting almonds and cashews and the taste of roast bratwurst and mulled wine. You'll find the fragrance of boughs of fresh greenery and hear the sound of German holiday music.

Then there are the colors—the bold primary colors of hand-carved wooden toys, the glittering hues of blown-glass ornaments and holiday reds and greens. Be alert for Sankt Nikolaus, as that venerable gentleman roams the market enjoying the season.

The Osthoff's holiday market is based on Germany's famous *Christkindlesmarkt*, a tradition dating back to 1545. Every year, on the first Sunday of Advent in the picturesque market square in Nuremberg, the holiday season gets officially underway with the opening of that ancient city's outdoor holiday market.

The Osthoff's version of the celebrated *Christkindlesmarkt* attracts close to 100 vendors who, in keeping with European tradition, occupy simple timber booths adorned with boughs of fresh greenery. There is one welcome modification, however. The entire market is under canvas, protected from the elements and warmed by propane heaters.

"Our annual holiday market is patterned on the original and has itself become a holiday tradition for many families," says Lola Roeh, The Osthoff's general manager, "particularly when combined with a holiday-season getaway."

“With the success of the market, now in its tenth year, it is attracting original work by European and regional artisans,” says Roeh. “That gives visitors the opportunity of finding one-of-a-kind gift items as they get a head start on their holiday shopping.”

Packed snugly into the massive marquee is a tempting mix of imported European gifts and items crafted by local artisans. Find hand-carved wooded toys, festive decorations and a variety of jewelry, clothing and CDs with German holiday music. Look especially for knitted alpaca clothing (including wraps and shawls), fur hats made in northern Wisconsin and yellow and red amber jewelry.

You’ll also find a variety of carved Russian-style Santas that are traditionally painted, as well as high-quality stacking dolls. There are Polish pottery, Hungarian-style beeswax candles, Scandinavian rosemalling, Dutch chocolates in the shape of wooden shoes and Czech blown-glass ornaments. Local and regional items include fresh wreathes, baskets created from grapevines and incorporating bittersweet and fresh cedar and jewelry crafted from antique German and Swiss beads.

Food booths ply market-goers with hot mulled wine, hot apple cider, blackberry wine, wiener schnitzel with potato pancakes and red cabbage and authentic Nuremberg bratwurst made by a vendor who brings traditional spices and seasonings from Germany and contracts with a local sausage-maker to produce these tasty wurst.

The Osthoff Resort is just an hour north of Milwaukee, less than two hours from Madison and about three hours from Chicago. For more information contact The Osthoff Resort, 101 Osthoff Avenue, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020-0151, 800-876-3399—or check the Web site at [www.osthoff.com](http://www.osthoff.com).

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