

# ZUFRIEDENHEIT

THE MAGAZINE OF HOTEL GASTHOF ZUFRIEDENHEIT

ENGLISH EDITION

## COUNTESS UTA

MIDDLE AGES'  
PRETTY WOMAN

## RIVER HIKING

ALONG SAALE  
AND UNSTRUT

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FORGOTTEN  
STAR ARTIST

HOTEL UND RESTAURANT

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GASTHOF  
ZUFRIEDENHEIT



Saale-Unstrut

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HEYMANN-LÖWENSTEIN

ON HIS PHILOSOPHY



## DEAR GUEST, DEAR FRIENDS,

With this special English-language edition of our guest magazine “Zufriedenheit” we would like to introduce to you the charms of our hotel and to the sites and activities that the area around Naumburg and the valleys of the rivers Saale and Unstrut offer to their visitors.

This is where history runs deep, where important developments took place, where Luther, Bach, and Nietzsche worked and walked, to name just the most popular shapers of today`s culture whose impact extends far beyond this beautiful region.

We bring to you here for example: the nearby “graduation works”, where salt was produced 300 years ago, the studio of a near-forgotten “rockstar” artist, the medieval ages` most beautiful woman who had to endure being turned into snowwhite`s evil stepmother, the local “terroir” wines of the Heymann-Löwenstein family, and the slow pleasures of kayaking on our rivers. Enjoy reading - or better yet: plan on coming, and soon!

We will happily assist you in putting together the most fascinating itinerary exploring the heart of Europe in the center of Germany.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Matthias Albrecht

Hotel Director



**OUR FREE  
NEWSLETTER**  
(sorry in German only)

Simply scan the QR-Code,  
subscribe to our Newsletter,  
and be on top of current  
specials and events always.





## „ZUFRIEDENHEIT“ IN OUR COURTYARD

The courtyard combines the sheltered comfort of an enclosed space with the sense of boundless freedom under open skies. It holds the warmth captured in sunny daylight hours well into the night. Here you can enjoy yourself and relax! Throughout the day, the courtyard radiates a different atmosphere.

In the morning, the birds are chirping while breakfast guests plan their excursions for the day. There is so much to see, so pack some energy! Under the sunshades at noon, it feels like being right in the courtyard of an Italian villa. Business people meet for lunch here. In the afternoon the courtyard then belongs to the connoisseurs of proper coffees and homemade cakes. A real “Kaffeeklatsch” is part of it. In the evening, the romantic fountain fills the air with tender patter. The stonemason took his inspiration for the water-spouting griffin’s head straight from the ornaments

of the nearby cathedral. And at night, the magic of moonlight covers all in its mysterious silvery shine. Have a last chilled glass of

the local white and let your thoughts wander. This is how the days pass here, while the memories will last forever.



# THE FAIREST OF THEM ALL

CATHERINE PETER



Photography can bring a new ideal of beauty into the world. Or spread one that already exists. But it can also bring back to life a somewhat forgotten ideal of beauty. Which is all the easier if the grace of the original does not fade away - time does not have the same effect on sandstone as it does on flesh and blood.

In the summer of 1924, Walter Hege photographed the Romanesque cathedral of his hometown of Naumburg. The following year, the volume "Der Naumburger Dom und der Meister seiner Bildwerke" (The Naumburg Cathedral and the Master of its Imagery) was published with 87 plates by "Deutscher Kunstverlag Berlin" and went through five editions until 1935.

Several of these photographs are dedicated to the depiction of the twelve donor figures that stand opposite each other in the western choir of the cathedral: among them Margrave Ekkehard with his famously beautiful wife Uta.

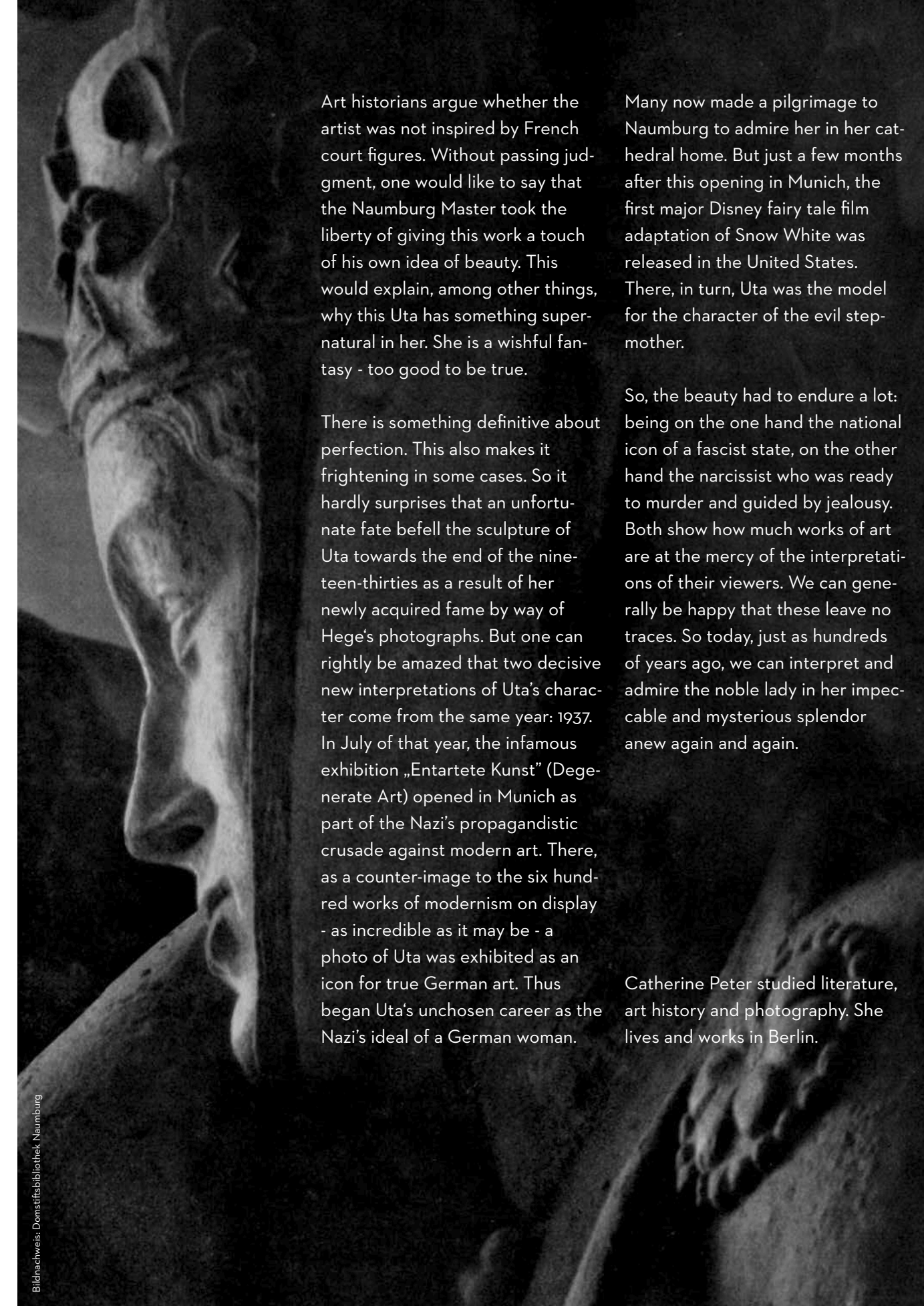
Not much is known about the personality of Uta von Ballenstedt and the life she led, just a few key facts: Born in 1000, she married the noble margrave in 1026. The marriage remained childless. She died in 1046.

Since artists remained anonymous in the Middle Ages, not much more

is known about the so-called Naumburg Master, who immortalized Uta 200 years later as a donor of the cathedral building. He probably came from the North of France, learned his art in Reims, and was involved in the most important church artworks of the European Middle Ages. Among other things, we also owe to him "The Damned in Chains" of Mainz Cathedral.

A particularly beautiful shot by Walter Hege shows Uta in profile. The light illuminates her face in such a way that it looks as if the eyes are looking up alive. In another photo, which also served as the cover of the illustrated book, she can be seen from the front. A classically simple portrait that unfolds the beauty of Uta in two dimensions without the use of special photographic means. A serious face, clear, symmetrical features, a straight nose, her hair hidden under a veil and a crown of lilies. Even today, it corresponds to our idea of undeniable beauty. In a third photo, she can be seen full-length next to her husband. Together, they radiate true-to-life authority and composure. Whether the sculptor was able to work from a description of Uta or even an illustration is uncertain and probably unlikely.

The changing perception of Uta over time shows just how defenseless works of art are against the willful interpretations of their audiences. The image of Countess Uta was forced to serve both as the Nazis' supposed ideal of womanhood and as Disney's caricature of malice and jealousy. Only we can free her from such claims at last, moved by our emotions at the sight of her in Naumburg Cathedral.



Art historians argue whether the artist was not inspired by French court figures. Without passing judgment, one would like to say that the Naumburg Master took the liberty of giving this work a touch of his own idea of beauty. This would explain, among other things, why this Uta has something supernatural in her. She is a wishful fantasy - too good to be true.

There is something definitive about perfection. This also makes it frightening in some cases. So it hardly surprises that an unfortunate fate befell the sculpture of Uta towards the end of the nineteen-thirties as a result of her newly acquired fame by way of Hege's photographs. But one can rightly be amazed that two decisive new interpretations of Uta's character come from the same year: 1937. In July of that year, the infamous exhibition „Entartete Kunst“ (Degenerate Art) opened in Munich as part of the Nazi's propagandistic crusade against modern art. There, as a counter-image to the six hundred works of modernism on display - as incredible as it may be - a photo of Uta was exhibited as an icon for true German art. Thus began Uta's unchosen career as the Nazi's ideal of a German woman.

Many now made a pilgrimage to Naumburg to admire her in her cathedral home. But just a few months after this opening in Munich, the first major Disney fairy tale film adaptation of Snow White was released in the United States. There, in turn, Uta was the model for the character of the evil step-mother.

So, the beauty had to endure a lot: being on the one hand the national icon of a fascist state, on the other hand the narcissist who was ready to murder and guided by jealousy. Both show how much works of art are at the mercy of the interpretations of their viewers. We can generally be happy that these leave no traces. So today, just as hundreds of years ago, we can interpret and admire the noble lady in her impeccable and mysterious splendor anew again and again.

Catherine Peter studied literature, art history and photography. She lives and works in Berlin.

# CATHEDRAL OF TECHNOLOGY

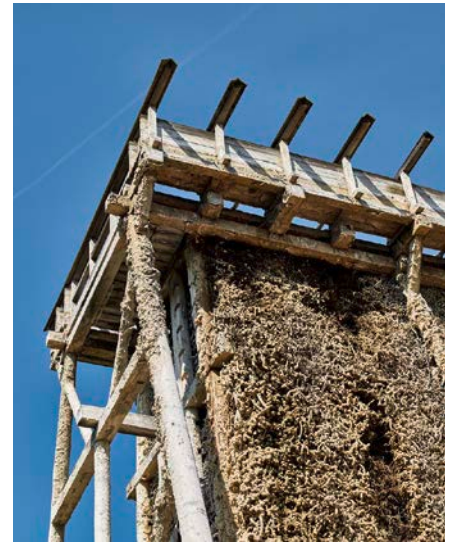
Imagine just how precious salt must have been when this massive structure was erected for its extraction. Bad Kösen is home to a monument to early industrial ingenuity that is unique in Europe.

High above the river Saale standing on a steep rocky slope a huge wooden structure impresses the viewer on the Saale bridge in Bad Kösen to this day. It is a so-called graduation house, built about 240 years ago, an imposing 320 meters long and 20 meters high. An almost forgotten testimony of industrial culture which one might drive past in ignorance. And miss a sight to see!

What happens in a graduation house is easily explained: The water of a faintly saline well is partially evaporated so that the salinity of the remaining liquid increases, that is, the brine gets concentrated, up to a point that makes further processing for salt production economically worthwhile. Resourceful engineers in times past piled brushwood and twigs of blackthorn high and used the effects of wind and sun to vaporize the dripping salt brine finely and at the same time remove impurities that remained sticking to the branches as „thorn stone“.

From the middle of the 19th century already, the heyday of such facilities was soon followed by a steep decline. By then the mining of rock salt deposits allowed more cost-effective salt production and made the elaborate graduation houses obsolete. Just imagine how precious salt must have been when this huge structure was built. The graduation house in Bad Kösen today thus stands as a rare monument to early

industrial history. Most others have long been demolished, but a few found a new purpose as open-air inhalation systems in places that realized in time the potential of saline waters as a means of therapy and took to marketing it as such. The striking structure at Bad Kösen thus serves as a good example of this development from early salt works to modern health resort. It can still be visited today thanks to the efforts made to preserve the entire facility complete with pumps and tubing to a degree rarely found elsewhere. This delights not only technology enthusiasts among the visitors, but also those who want to do something good for their respiratory tracts!



## OPENING HOURS DURING THE SAISON (APR - OCT)

Wednesday - Friday:  
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Saturday, Sunday & Public  
Holidays:

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM





## WINEMAKER HEYMANN- LÖWENSTEIN

“Our terroir wines are a cultural alternative to the industrial wines in a globalized wine market. They invite you to a journey into a world between structure and chaos, to uncertainty and surprise, to challenge and authentic enjoyment. All our wines are produced exclusively with wild yeasts and without any enzymes or fining agents and they mature mainly in large wooden barrels. In addition to the classic dry taste - depending on the grapes harvested - we also vinify nobly sweet “Auslese” wines and refine individual batches according to the champagne method as a „Fantasy of Slate Terraces“.

„Slate Terraces“ we call the wines we produce on the plots of our First Growths sitting on the slate of

Devonian “Rittersturz” layers, retaining heat and contributing to the wine’s unique minerality and complexity. But when is a wine actually a terroir wine? The French word alludes strongly to soil and region, but - depending on the interpretation - also to the personality of the winegrower and a little of what in German we call “Heimat”. Hence, a terroir wine is a wine in which all these dimensions still can be tasted in the glass and traced back to their origin. Terroir is origin. But what does a vineyard taste like, what does a region taste like?”

Find out over a fine dinner at Gasthof Zufriedenheit where regional winemaking meets its culinary complement!



“Terroir wines take us on a journey through different regions, geological formations, and climatic conditions. They accompany us to various cultures, people, dreams and fantasies. They mirror our souls and expand our consciousness. They are perhaps the most enjoyable aspect of emancipation.” Reinhard Löwenstein, Heymann-Löwenstein winery

■ **Weingut Heymann-Löwenstein**  
Bahnhofstraße 10  
D-56333 Winningen  
☎ 02606 1919  
[www.hl.wine](http://www.hl.wine)

# RIVER HIKING ON THE SAALE

FROM CAMBURG TO NAUMBURG THROUGH THE VINEYARDS



If you do not just want to visit the famous medieval cathedral in Naumburg, but also look for an experience close to nature, the river Saale is the perfect place for you. River hiking is the new cycling, of course, and a wonderful way to get some exercise, yet decelerate and travel slow. The Saale offers some excellent opportunities for this and the river sections around Naumburg are particularly attractive in terms of scenery, sights, and recreation. And if you love comfort, Gasthof Zufriedenheit is the perfect place to rest.

## CANOE RENTAL

Saale-Unstrut-Tours  
Blütengrund 6, D-06618 Naumburg  
T: +49 (0)3445 202051  
M: +49 (0)163 2020510  
E: [info@saale-unstrut-tours.de](mailto:info@saale-unstrut-tours.de)  
[www.saale-unstrut-tours.de](http://www.saale-unstrut-tours.de)

Your starting point could be the ancient small trading town of Camburg. Then, soon after passing Tümppling Castle, the first vineyards come into view. Behind the confluence of Ilm and Saale near Großheringen, as the Saale now leaves Thuringia and turns eastward, the two castles of Saaleck and Rudelsburg can be seen from the river, sitting proudly on steeply sloping rugged limestone rocks. Next, an imposing graduation house, a unique monument to early industrial history, follows above Bad Kösen. Just behind it, not visible from the river, there is the Doll Museum in a roman house dedicated to the famous doll-designer Käthe Kruse. Definitely worth a break and some

shore leave not just for young travelers. Afterwards you continue towards Naumburg. The vineyards right and left now reach down to the banks of the Saale, dotted with picturesque vineyard cottages. Finally, you reach Naumburg's Blütengrund opening into a beautifully blossoming landscape right where the rivers of Unstrut and Saale meet. And in the evening, this eventful day winds down in the city of Naumburg with its many historical sights.



MORE  
INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE TOUR





# A VISIT TO MAX KLINGER

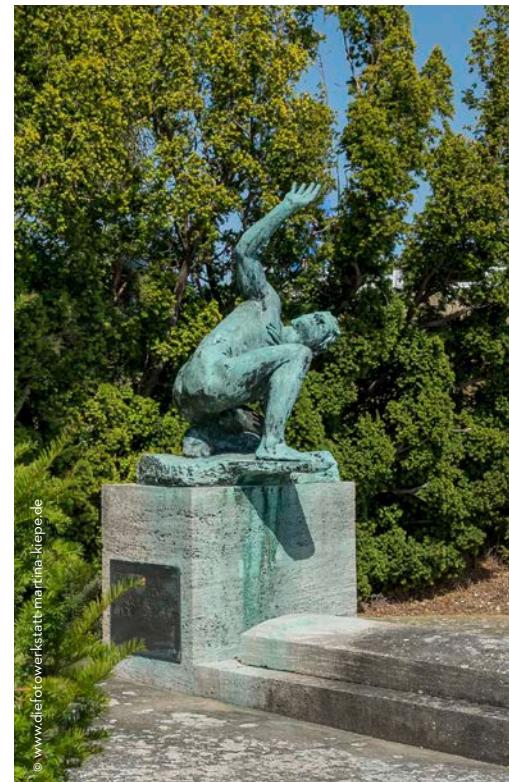
He was what you would call a rock star today. Famous and admired among the artists of his time, often leaving audiences deeply divided, shattering conventions with his chosen subjects. Max Klinger. Painter, graphic artist, sculptor, a man of many talents. His monumental Beethoven memorial with a giant eagle at the half-naked composer's feet is pure drama. Some say: Pure kitsch. But visually powerful and unforgettable no less. His gigantic painting of Jesus Christ's meeting with Zeus and the Olympic gods is as spectacular as provocative.

Born 1857 in Leipzig, Max Klinger returns to his birthplace time and again after stints in Europe's metropolises until finally in 1903 he acquires a vineyard with a small cottage in the hills near Naumburg. He is at this point one of the most important artists in Germany and looks for a place of quiet and seclusion. He has the cottage expanded into a house with a studio and takes residence there before he dies in 1920 and gets buried right there on the "Klingerberg".

While the grave with the sculpture of a kneeling athlete is still largely preserved as his widow (and probably also Klinger himself) had wished, the house and studio went through turbulent times and did not experience the appreciation that they deserve. Only in 2006 the building was restored to its original condition and is now hosting changing exhibitions on Klinger's life and his art. An atmospheric place that allows art lovers to become immersed in the surroundings that Klinger himself had once called the "Tuscany of the North". A place that brings to life where and how this exceptional but unjustly forgotten artist has worked during his final years. Certainly, yet one more cultural treasure that is worth a visit to Naumburg.

## OPENING HOURS

April 1 to October 31:  
Tue to Sun, 10 AM - 5 PM  
Open on public holidays.



## EXPERIENCE NAUMBURG

Naumburg – so charming, so historic, so pretty. And right in the middle of it all: the Hotel Gasthof Zufriedenheit. In less than two minutes you can reach the Naumburg Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, stroll between baroque town houses on the historic Steinweg in the footsteps of Friedrich Nietzsche or visit Max Klinger’s vineyard in Großjena.

- 2 nights incl. breakfast
- A bottle of Saale-Unstrut wine
- A 3-course dinner
- Entrance to the cathedral



BOOK DIRECTLY!



© Getty Images/Stockphoto

## MIDWEEK SPECIAL

Naumburg’s sights enchant you every day of the week. Therefore, enjoy relaxed hours between Sunday and Thursday. In addition to attractive rates, we invite you and your family on a city tour with Naumburg’s historic tram – the „Alte Zicke“.

- Arrival Sun to Thu
- 1 night incl. breakfast
- 1 city tour with the historic tram



BOOK DIRECTLY!



## SAALE VALLEY WINE TREAT

Our special offer “Saale Valley Wine Treat” includes two restful nights at Gasthof Zufriedenheit, a savoury 3-course dinner in our Gault&Millau listed restaurant, breakfast in the mornings, a picnic basket and a hiking map for your excursion to the local vineyards. As a welcome we offer a bottle of local Saale-Unstrut wine and a delicious fruit tart.

- Two nights in a Garden Room incl. breakfast
- Free upgrade to a large Double Room (subject to availability)
- A bottle of Saale-Unstrut wine as a welcome gift
- A delicious fruit tart
- A hiking and cycling map of the Saale valley
- A traditional picnic basket
- A 3-course dinner in our restaurant (not on Mondays)



BOOK DIRECTLY!



© Getty Images

## NAUMBURG CATHEDRAL

One of the most important monuments of the European High Middle Ages, UNESCO World Heritage site, prime example of romanian architecture, stained glass, and sculptures, among them the world-famous statue of Countess Uta. Side chapel windows designed by contemporary artist Neo Rauch. Recently re-done splendid altar painting by Michael Triegel. Museum houses cathedral treasure. Open daily, times vary. It is recommended to book a guided tour at [fuehrung@naumburger-dom.de](mailto:fuehrung@naumburger-dom.de)

## NIETZSCHE HOUSE

Home of famous German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche's mother, who moved here when her son was 14. Later she took her son in to live with her again when he fell ill in the later stages of his life. The building now houses a permanent exhibition dedicated to documenting the life and work of the philosopher. The library gives visitors the opportunity to learn more about Nietzsche's writings. Open Tuesday through Friday afternoons, in summer also on weekends. [www.nietzschehaus.de](http://www.nietzschehaus.de)

## HILDEBRANDT ORGAN

Only organ world-wide to have remained in the original state as played by Johann Sebastian Bach, who is also thought to have influenced the instrument's design and musical concept. Located in Wenzelskirche near Naumburg's market square the organ attracts an international audience when renowned European organists convene here for annual concert series such as "Orgelsommer" or "Hildebrandt Tage". Also concerts at noon daily May through October. [www.hildebrandt-orgel.de](http://www.hildebrandt-orgel.de)

## KLINGER HOUSE

Max Klinger in his time was a famous and provocative German artist, compared to Rodin and working internationally as a sculptor and painter. Once established, he took residence in the vineyards near Naumburg and built a studio there. The studio today presents changing exhibitions of Klinger's work. One of his statues marks his nearby grave. The view out to the valley had him coin the phrase of the "Tuscany of the North". Open Tuesday through Sunday 10 to 5 from April through October. [www.museumnaumburg.de/max-klinger-haus\\_grossjena](http://www.museumnaumburg.de/max-klinger-haus_grossjena)

## VINEYARDS

Wine-growing goes back centuries at Saale and Unstrut, two rivers with their valleys creating the northernmost and smallest of the recognized wine producing regions in Germany and arguably a most interesting one. You will rarely find its products on your restaurant's wine list, because so much of it is consumed locally or ordered direct by dedicated wine-lovers. Vineyards can often be visited and wines sampled. Check times with local producers such as Hey, Pawis, or Gussek and others.

## SEASONAL FESTIVITIES

Naumburg celebrates on many occasions throughout the year and all of them see visitors mingle with the friendly locals. In June "Kirschfest" commemorates the medieval legend of Naumburg's children successfully appealing to the leader of an invading army to spare their home town. A good reason for lots of good food and wine. The "Weinfest" with the potters' market takes place in late August and in December "Advent in den Höfen" turns many backyards into small charming Xmas markets. [www.naumburg.de](http://www.naumburg.de)



GASTHOF  
ZUFRIEDENHEIT

NAUMBURG / SAALE

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