

The Best of Munich & the Bavarian Alps

Sprawling **Munich (München)**, home to some 1.5 million people, is the capital of Bavaria, and one of Germany's major cultural centers (only Berlin outranks it in terms of museums and theaters). It's also one of Germany's most festive cities, and its location, at the foot of the Alps, is idyllic.

Thomas Mann, a longtime resident of Munich, wrote something about the city that might have been coined by an advertising agency: "Munich sparkles." Although the city he described was swept away by two world wars, the quote is still apt. Munich continues to sparkle, drawing temporary visitors and new residents like a magnet from virtually everywhere.

Some of the sparkle comes from its vitality. With its buzzing factories, newspapers and television stations, and service and electronics industries, it's one of Europe's busiest and liveliest places. More subtle is Munich's amazing ability to combine Hollywood-type glamour and stylish international allure with its folkloric connections. Few other large cities have been as successful as Munich in marketing folklore, rusticity, and nostalgia for the golden days of yesteryear, yet this rustic ambience coexists with the hip and the avant-garde, high-tech industries, and a sharp political sense. This is what lends the city such a distinctive flair.

As Americans migrate to New York or San Francisco to seek opportunity and experience, so Germans migrate to Munich. Munich is full of non-Bavarians. More than two-thirds of the German citizens living in Munich have come from other parts of the country, and tens of thousands are expatriates or immigrants from every conceivable foreign land. Sometimes these diverse elements seem unified only by a shared search for the good life.

Outsiders are found in every aspect of Munich's life. The wildly applauded soccer team, FC Bayern München, is composed almost entirely of outsiders—Danes, Belgians, Swedes, Prussians—and the team was trained by a Rhinelander throughout its spate of recent successes. The city's most frequently quoted newspaper mogul (Dieter Schröder) and many of the city's artistic movers and shakers are expatriates, usually from north Germany. What's remarkable is the unspoken collusion of the whole population in promoting Bavarian charm, despite the fact that real dyed-in-the-wool Bavarians risk becoming a distinct minority in their own capital.

Virtually everyone has heard the city's many nicknames—"Athens on the Isar," "the German Silicon Valley," and "Little Paris." But none seems to stick. More appropriate is a more ambivalent label—"the secret capital of Germany."

Munich's self-imposed image is that of a fun-loving and festival-addicted city—typified by its Oktoberfest. This celebration, which began as a minor sideshow to a royal wedding in 1810, has become a symbol of the city itself.

Redolent with nostalgia for old-time Bavaria, it draws more than 7 million visitors each year. For these 16 days every fall, raucous hordes cram themselves into the city to have a good time.

Oktoberfest is so evocative, and so gleefully and unashamedly pagan, that dozens of places throughout the world capitalize on its success by throwing Oktoberfest ceremonies of their own. These occur even in such unlikely places as Helen, Georgia, where citizens and merchants reap tidy profits by wearing dirndls and lederhosen, playing recordings of the requisite oompah-pah music, and serving ample provisions of beer in oversize beer steins. No one has ever marketed such stuff better than Munich, but then, few other regions of Europe have had such alluring raw material from which to draw.

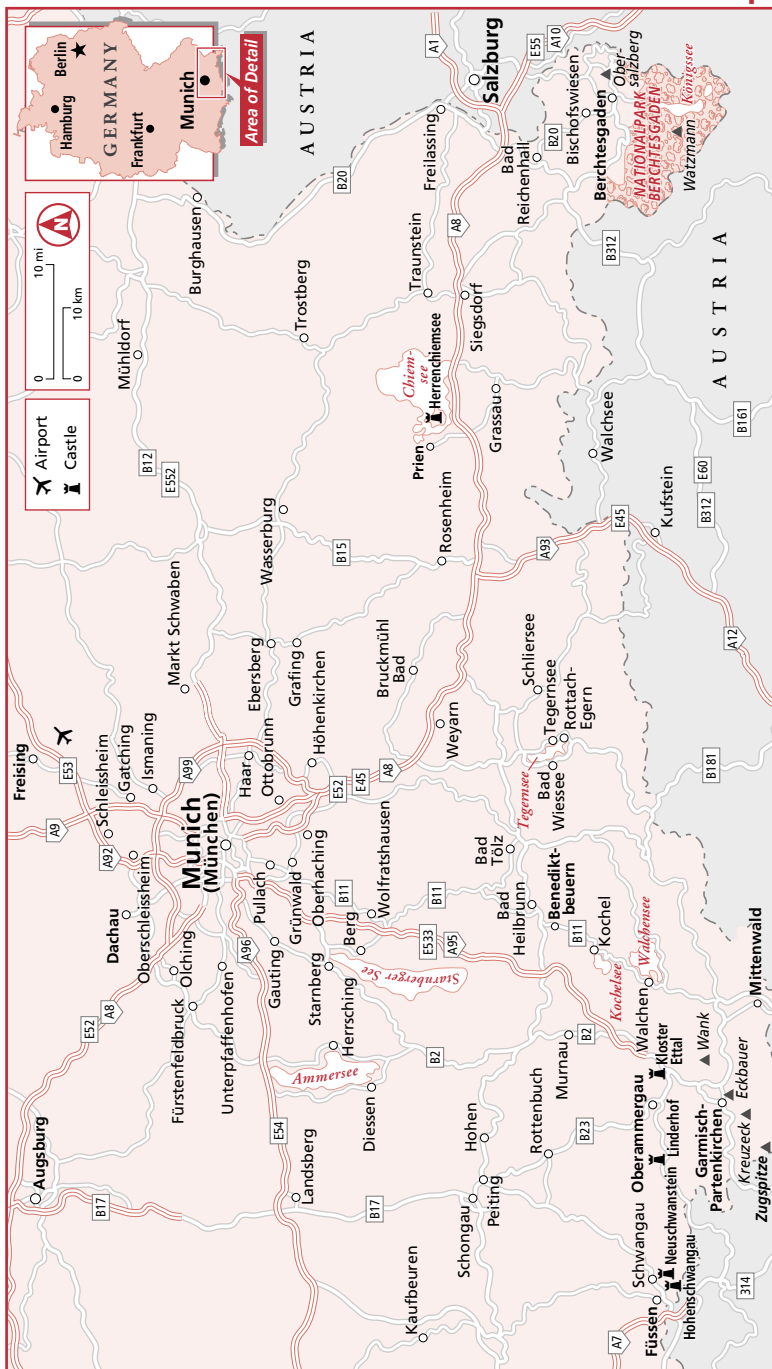
A somewhat reluctant contender for the role of international megalopolis, Munich has pursued commerce, industry, and the good life without fanfare. You get the idea that in spite of its economic muscle and a roaring GNP, Munich wants to see itself as a large agrarian village, peopled by jolly beer drinkers who cling to their folkloric roots despite the presence symbols of the high-tech age.

Underneath this expansive, fun-loving Munich is an unyielding, ongoing conservatism and resistance to change, both religious and political. But as a symbol of a bold, reunited Germany forging a new identity for the 21st century, Munich simply has no parallel. As such, it continues to exert a powerful appeal.

1 Frommer's Favorite Munich & Bavarian Alps Experiences

- **Socializing at the *Biergarten*:** If you're in Munich anytime between the first sunny spring day and the last fading light of a Bavarian-style autumn, you might head for one of the city's celebrated beer gardens (*Biergarten*). Our favorite is Biergarten Chinesischer Turm (p. 92) in the Englischer Garten. Traditionally, beer gardens were tables placed under chestnut trees planted above storage cellars to keep beer cool in summer. Naturally, people started to drink close to the source of their pleasure, and the tradition has remained. It's estimated that, today, Munich has at least 400 beer gardens and cellars. Food, drink, and atmosphere are much the same in all of them. See the "Beer Gardens" section of chapter 5 for more recommendations.
- **Enjoying Munich's World-Class Music:** The city is home to outstanding classical music; notable are the Bavarian State Opera (p. 142) and the Munich Philharmonic (p. 142). Prices are affordable and the selection is diverse. The season of summer concerts at Nymphenburg Palace (p. 104 and p. 105) alone is worth the trip to Munich.
- **Nude Sunbathing in the Englischer Garten:** On any summery sunny day, it seems that half of Munich can be seen letting it all hang out. The sentimental founders of this park with their romantic ideas surely had no idea they were creating a public nudist colony. Even if you don't want to take it all off, you can still come here to enjoy the park's natural beauty. See p. 112.
- **Exploring the Zugspitze:** There is no grander and more panoramic alpine view in all of Bavaria than that which can be enjoyed by ascending the Zugspitze, the tallest mountain peak in Germany, separating the German and Austrian frontiers. A playground for hikers in summer, the mountain range

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becomes a snowfield for winter skiers, who enjoy slopes beginning at 2,610m (8,700 ft.). Once you've scaled the heights, you'll feel on top of the world. See p. 196.

- **Snacking on Weisswurst:** Munich's classic "street food" is a "white sausage" made of calf's head, veal, and seasoning, about the size of a hot dog. Smooth and light in flavor, it is eaten with pretzels and beer—nothing else. Weisswurst etiquette calls for you to remove the sausage from a bowl of hot water, cut it crosswise in half, dip the cut end in sweet mustard, then suck the sausage out of the casing in a single gesture. When you learn to do this properly, you will have become a true Münchner. See "A Taste of Bavaria," in appendix A for more on Weisswurst.
- **Getting Away from It All at the Hirschgarten:** For a glimpse of what Munich used to be like, flee from the tourist hordes and traffic to the Hirschgarten or "Deer Meadow." A "green lung" between Donnersberg Bridge and Nymphenburg Park, the area has been a deer park since 1791. In 1890, the largest beer garden in the world was built here, seating 8,000 drinkers. The Hirschgarten remains Munich's most tranquil retreat, a land of towering oaks, chestnuts, and beeches, attracting those with a love of the great outdoors—and especially those who like to pack a picnic lunch or enjoy an open-air game of chess. See p. 112.
- **Exploring Trendy Haidhausen:** Visitors rarely venture into this district on the right bank of the Isar River. For decades it was known as a blue-collar and low-rent sector of Munich. In the 1970s, however, hippies and artists created a cross-cultural scene that made Haidhausen, not Schwabing,

the hip place to hang out. Today, it is the place to see and be seen—especially if you're a *Schicki-Micki* (a club-going Bavarian yuppie), a person who dresses only in black, or one of the *Müeslis* (European granolas). The place to go is one of the bars or cafes around Pariser Platz or Weissenburger Platz. Take the S-bahn to Ostbahnhof or Rosenheimerstrasse and get with it! See p. 112.

- **Attending Oktoberfest:** It's called the "biggest keg party" in the world. Münchners had so much fun in 1810 celebrating the wedding of Prince Ludwig to Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen that they've been rowdying it up ever since for 16 full days between September 21 and October 6. The festival's tent city is at the Theresienwiese fairgrounds, and the Middle Ages lives on as oxen are roasted on open spits, brass bands oompah-pah you into oblivion, and some 750,000 kegs of the brew are tapped. There are even tents where *Bierleichen* (beer corpses) can recover from drunkenness, listening to soothing zither music. See chapter 9.
- **Seeking R&R at Olympiapark:** Site of the 1972 Olympic Games, this 296-hectare (740-acre) park and stadium is a premier venue for various sporting events and concerts. You can swim in one of the pools, and you'll find all the jogging tracks and gyms your heart desires, even an artificial lake. To cap off your visit, take the elevator to the top of the Olympiaturm for a panoramic view of Munich and a look at the Bavarian Alps. In summer, free rock concerts blast from the amphitheater, Theatron, by Olympic Lake. See p. 113 and p. 114.
- **Going from Vie de Bohème to Schicki-Micki in Schwabing:** In

fin-de-siècle (end of the 19th century, or Belle Epoque) Munich, Schwabing was the home of the avant-garde. Artists, writers, poets, and musicians of the era, including Thomas Mann, called it home. Jugendstil (Art Nouveau), the Blue Rider painters, and Richard Wagner made this area the cultural capital of Europe before 1914. A revival came in 1945, as new cultural icons such as Rainer Werner Fassbinder arose. Schwabing lives on, although today it's gentrified and populated by fashion editors and models, along with what have been called "swinging aristocrats." Although you might come here to walk in the footsteps of Wassily Kandinsky or to see where Paul Klee or Rainer Maria Rilke lived and worked, you'll also get exposure to *Schicki-Mickies*. Walking, strolling, shopping, and people-watching are the chief activities today. See p. 96.

- **Soaking Up the Wittelsbach**

Lifestyle: Just northwest of the city center lies Nymphenburg Palace, begun in 1664, an exquisite baroque extravaganza surrounded by a 198-hectare (495-acre) park dotted with lakes, pavilions, and hunting lodges. It was the summer home of the Bavarian rulers. We prefer to visit in either summer, when outdoor concerts are on, or spring, when the rhododendrons are in bloom. Go inside the palace for a look at the painted ceiling in the Great Hall. In such works as *Nymphs Paying Homage to the Goddess Flora*, Bavarian rococo reached its apogee. See p. 104.

- **Spending an Afternoon in the Botanischer Garten:**

If you're not a plant lover, you'll be converted here. Laid out between 1909 and 1914 on the north side of Nymphenburg Park, it's one of the most richly stocked

botanical wonders in Europe. You can wander among the 16 hectares (40 acres) and some 15,000 varieties of plants; a highlight is the alpine garden with rare specimens. In late spring, the heather garden is a delight. See p. 112.

- **Checking Out Market Day at**

Viktualienmarkt: The most characteristic scene in Munich is a Saturday morning at this food market at the south end of the Altstadt. Since 1807, Viktualienmarkt has been the center of Munich life, dispensing fresh vegetables and fruit from the Bavarian countryside, just-caught fish, dairy produce, poultry, rich grainy breads, moist cakes, and farm-fresh eggs. Naturally, there's also a beer garden here. There's even a maypole and a statue honoring Karl Valentin (1882–1948), the legendary comic actor and filmmaker. Even more interesting than the market produce are the stallholders themselves—a few even evoke Professor Higgins's "squashed cabbage leaf," Eliza Doolittle. See p. 112.

- **Rafting along the Isar:**

Admittedly, it doesn't rival the Seine in Paris, but the Isar is the river of life in Munich. If you can't make it for a country walk in the Bavarian Alps, a walk along the left bank of the Isar is an alternative. Begin at Höllriegelskreuth and follow the scenic path along the Isar's high bank. Your trail will carry you through the Römerschanze into what Münchners call "The Valley of the Mills" (Mühlthal). After passing the Bridge Inn (Brückengewirt), you will eventually reach Kloster Schäftlarn, where you'll find—what else?—a beer garden. After a mug, you'll be fortified to continue along signposted paths through the Isar River valley until you reach Wolfrathausen. Instead

of walking back, you can board a raft made of logs and “drift” back to the city, enjoying beer and often the oompah-pah sound of a brass band as you head toward Munich. See p. 117.

- **Taking a Dip at Müller’s Public Baths:** Müllersches Volksbad, at Rosenheimer Strasse I (S-bahn to Isartor), is one of the most magnificent public baths in all of Germany. This is no dull swimming pool but a celebration of grandeur, fin-de-siècle style. Karl Hocheder designed this Moorish/Roman spectacle between 1897 and 1901, an era of opulence. When the baths opened, they were hailed as the most modern baths in all of Europe, surpassing anything but those in Budapest. Completely renovated, the baths today have a “gentlemen’s pool” with barrel vaulting and a “ladies’ pool” with domed vaulting. There are also sweat baths and individual baths for those who like to let it all hang out—but in private. Alas, the *Zamperlbad*, or doggie bath, in the basement, is no more.
- **Spending a Night at the Hofbräuhaus:** Established in 1589 by

Duke Wilhelm V to satisfy the thirst of his court, the Hofbräuhaus is not only the city’s major tourist attraction but also the world’s most famous beer hall, seating more than 4,000 drinkers. In 1828, the citizens of Munich were allowed to drink “the court’s brew” for the first time, and it turned out to be habit-forming. A popular song, “In München Steht ein Hofbräuhaus,” spread the fame of the brewery. To be really authentic, you drink in the ground-floor *Schwemme* where some 1,000 beer buffs down their brew at wooden tables while listening to the sounds of an oompah-pah band. More rooms, including the *Trinkstube* for 350, are found upstairs, and in summer, beer is served in a colonnaded courtyard patio with a lion fountain. The waitstaff, in Bavarian peasant dress, appears carrying 10 steins at once. Pretzels are sold on long sticks, and white *Radis* (radishes) are cut into fancy spirals. The Hofbräuhaus is where the good life of Munich holds forth. See p. 149.

2 Best Hotel Bets

For complete hotel information for Munich, see chapter 4, “Where to Stay.”

- **Best Historic Hotel: Kempinski Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten München** (© 800/426-3135 in the U.S.) is one of the most famous hotels in the world—the lineage of this hospitality stretches back to 1858. Maximilian II himself took a personal interest in the hotel’s establishment, even going so far as to aid its founder financially. The Walterspiel family brought it to worldwide prominence, and over the years it has entertained the greats and near-greats. See p. 48.
- **Best for Business Travelers:** The **Hilton Munich Park** (© 800/445-8667 in the U.S.) is a modern 15-story structure, completely geared to welcome the business traveler and provide all needed services. It is close to many corporate headquarters and has the best conference facilities of any hotel in the city. Actually, the hotel was an office block until pressed into service as a hotel for the 1972 Olympics. After business is concluded, you can unwind at the hotel’s health club. See p. 52.
- **Best for a Romantic Getaway:** **Romantik Hotel Insel Mühle**

(☎ 089/8-10-10), constructed around a 16th-century mill, is a romantic choice with its antique decor and its rooms with sloping garretlike ceilings. It is known for its old-world restaurant with massive beams and a wine cellar. Though far removed from the hustle and bustle, it's only 9.5km (6 miles) west of Munich's Marienplatz. See p. 66.

- **Best Trendy Hotel:** The **Mandarin Oriental** (☎ 089/29-09-80), small and deluxe, in a neo-Renaissance building, is the choice of visiting celebrities, including fashion models, dress designers, and the media elite. Its discreet style and formal elegance make it the right address for those who don't want to be "too obvious"—that is, by staying at one of the lavish, bigger hotels. See p. 49.
- **Best Lobby for Pretending You're Rich:** **Bayerischer Hof & Palais Montgelas** (☎ 800/223-6800 in the U.S., or 089/2-12-00) is a real old-fashioned European formal hotel with a deluxe lobby filled with English and French furniture and oriental rugs. It's been called the "living room" of Munich. "Meet you in the lounge of the Bayerischer Hof" is often heard. As hotels go, there's no more impressive place to go for a drink. See p. 48.
- **Best for Families:** **Four Points Hotel by Sheraton Munich Olympiapark** (☎ 089/35-75-10) is right at Europe's biggest sports and recreation center and rents many triple rooms that are ideal for families. It's among the most modern and best-kept places in the city, and your child will enjoy meeting some of the sports heroes who often stay here. At Olympiapark, the entire family can use the sports facilities, including a large

Olympic-size swimming pool. See p. 64.

- **Best Moderately Priced Hotel:** Built as a private villa at the start of the 20th century, **Hotel Olympic** (☎ 089/231-89-0) has been converted into a hip, attractive, and affordable hotel. Rooms are minimalist, all white, and stylish. See p. 58.
- **Best Budget Hotel:** **Uhland Garni** (☎ 089/54-33-50), a family-run place, is one of the most inviting of the small hotels of Munich. Behind a facade with summer geraniums, it welcomes you into rooms converted from grand apartments built a century ago. It's also a good choice for families, as many units contain bunk beds for children. See p. 62.
- **Best B&B:** **Gästehaus Englischer Garten** (☎ 089/3-83-94-10), close to the Englischer Garten and its summer nudes, is an oasis of charm and tranquillity in fashionable Schwabing. An ivy-covered former private villa, it offers attractively furnished rooms; those in the annex are really small apartments with tiny kitchenettes. When the weather's right, breakfast is served in the rear garden. See p. 62.
- **Best Service:** **Eden-Hotel-Wolff** (☎ 089/55-11-50) employs some of the most thoughtful staff in Munich. Although hotels like the Bayerischer Hof (p. 48) offer state-of-the-art service, the attentive, efficient, unhurried yet down-to-earth English-speaking staff here gets the job done just as well, anticipating all your needs. See p. 49.
- **Best Location:** **Hotel An der Oper** (☎ 089/2-90-02-70) is in the virtual heart of Munich. Stay here and you'll be just steps away from the central Marienplatz. Moments after leaving the hotel,

you can be shopping along the Maximilianstrasse or exploring the traffic-free malls just steps from the Bavarian National Theater, and all for a reasonable price. See p. 56.

- **Best Health Club: München Marriott Hotel** (☎ 800/228-9290 in the U.S., or 089/36-00-20) has the best-equipped fitness center of any hotel in Munich—a swimming pool almost 13.5m (45 ft.) long, whirlpools, hydrojets, a solarium, and state-of-the-art exercise equipment. There's also a *Kosmetik-Kabine* for beauty treatments and massages, plus separate saunas for men and women. Residents of the Marriott use the club for free; nonresidents pay 15€ (\$17) for a day pass. See p. 63.
- **Best Hotel Pool:** The state-of-the-art indoor pool at the **Arbella Sheraton Grand Hotel München** (☎ 089/9-26-40) is on the 22nd floor, offering not

only views, but its own waterfall. Although many hotels in Munich have swimming pools, none compete with this choice. And that's not all—you get five whirlpools, along with two mixed saunas (open to both men and women), and a trio of steam rooms inspired by ancient Rome, each ideal for après-swim (after your swim). This hotel is in the verdant suburb of Bogenhausen, only seven subway stops from the center of town. See p. 65.

- **Best Spa Hotel:** The great curative spa of Bad Reichenhall is the finest and best-equipped in the Bavarian Alps. Reigning supreme here is its best hotel, **Steigenberger Axelmannstein** (☎ 08651/77-70), which is set in lovely gardens of 3 hectares (7½ acres). Its spa equipment is always kept in the finest condition, and its bedrooms, cuisine, and on-site entertainment make it one of the great discoveries of Bavaria. See p. 180.

3 Best Restaurant Bets

For complete restaurant information for Munich, see chapter 5, “Where to Dine.”

- **Best All-time Favorite: Boettner's** (☎ 089/22-12-10). In business since 1901, albeit not in the same location Boettner's offers a cuisine that is better than ever, and still uses only top-quality ingredients like lobster and fresh white truffles. Housed in a Renaissance structure in the center of Munich, the restaurant has a cuisine lighter than in the past but still featuring those rich old Bavarian favorites for those who want to indulge. See p. 69.
- **Best Newcomer:** A luxe restaurant ranking at the top of all those in Bavaria, **Schuhbecks Südtiroler Stuben** (☎ 089/2166900) opened

to instant acclaim in Munich. A culinary celebrity, chef Alfons Schuhbeck blends Eastern and Western cuisine in his sublime offerings, depending a lot on California for his inspiration. The menu is forever changing based on the best produce in any season. See p. 72.

- **Best Spot for a Romantic Dinner: Grünwalder Einkehr** (☎ 089/6-49-23-04) lets you escape from the urban sprawl of Munich to a “green lung” retreat 13km (8 miles) south of the city center. In a 200-year-old former private home in a rustic setting, you can feast on French-inspired dishes that include many Gallic favorites. It's truly the best place around to get away from it all. See p. 70.

- **Best Spot for a Business Lunch:** **Mark's Restaurant** (☎ 089/290980), in the deluxe Rafael hotel, is the chic business luncheon spot of Munich. The movers and shakers of the Bavarian capital gather in the informal lobby-level setting of Mark's Corner to make the big deal. Menu items change according to the season and the inspiration of the chef, and, as you dine, you can practically feel euros changing hands. See p. 74.
- **Best Spot for a Celebration:** **Kay's Bistro** (☎ 089/2-60-35-84) is number one on the see-and-be-seen circuit. Sophisticated and chic, it's also lots of fun. It's filled nightly with a glamorous clientele who like not only good food but a festive restaurant in which to celebrate their latest deal, marriage, or divorce (whatever). The decoration is always changing based on the season, but the French and international cuisine remains eternally alluring. See p. 73.
- **Best Wine List:** **Geisel's Vinothek** (☎ 089/55-13-71-40), in the Hotel Excelsior, is the best spot in Munich for a taste of the grape. Dedicated to Bacchus, this deliberately unpretentious choice has one of the city's finest collections of Italian, French, Austrian, and German wines—all sold by the glass. You can also order Italian cuisine. See p. 81.
- **Best Value:** **Palais Keller** (☎ 089/2-12-09-90) offers the most bang for your euro, although it's housed in the cellar of one of the most elegant hotels in Munich. Its well-prepared cuisine of Bavarian and German dishes is priced about the same as that found in far less desirable beer halls and *Weinstuben* (wine taverns) nearby. Let a smiling waitress in a frilly apron introduce you to *Tafelspitz* here, the fabled boiled beef dish. See p. 82.
- **Best for Kids:** **Mövenpick Restaurant** (☎ 089/5-45-94-90) is right in the heart of Munich and is decorated with a whimsical theme; different rooms are devoted to different cuisines, everything from the Longhorn Corner for Texas-style steaks to Grandma's Kitchen for some old-fashioned cookery. Kids like to come here for a full meal of just *Rösti*, those fabled Swiss fried potatoes. See p. 77.
- **Best Continental Cuisine:** **Tantris** (☎ 089/36-19-59-0), in Schwabing, serves the city's most refined cuisine, a treat to the eye as well as the palate. Hans Haas is one of the top chefs of Germany and is forever sharpening his culinary skills as he wines and dines the celebrated people of Europe. Nothing in Munich equals the service, flavors, and delight found here. See p. 86.
- **Best French Cuisine:** **Bistro Terrine** (☎ 089/28-17-80) has food that tastes so authentically French that you'll think you're back in Lyon. Menu items are often more inventive than the Belle Epoque atmosphere of this Art Nouveau bistro in Schwabing implies. The menu changes with the seasons—for example, in autumn, nuggets of venison might appear with hazelnut-flavored gnocchi and port wine sauce. See p. 86.
- **Best Seafood:** **Austernkeller** (☎ 089/29-87-87) prepares not only the freshest oysters in town but also an array of delectable seafood selections that range from mussels to clams and sea snails to the wonderful lobster Thermidor. The kitsch collection of plastic lobsters shouldn't put you off: The food is far more worthy than the decor. See p. 73.
- **Best Bavarian Cuisine:** **Nürnberg Bratwurst Glöckl am**

Dom (☎ 089/29-52-64) is Munich's coziest restaurant. Here you can enjoy Bavarian cuisine so authentic that it's hardly changed since the restaurant opened in 1893. Bavarians, often looking as stern as one of the Dürer prints on the wall, come here for all their favorite dishes—just like grandmother made a hundred years ago. See p. 82.

- **Best Outdoor Dining: Locanda Picolit** (☎ 089/396447), an Italian restaurant in the heart of Schwabing, offers an outdoor terrace in summer with a view over a garden that's one of the most evocative in Munich. The place suggests a Mediterranean world. Menu items change with the season, and you can enjoy the agrarian bounty of Italy while doing some people-watching and soaking up the fresh breezes blowing across Munich at the same time. See p. 87.
- **Best Italian Cuisine.** One of Bavaria's great Italian restaurants, **Acuarello** (☎ 089/470-4848), brings the sunny flavors of the Mediterranean to Munich. The cuisine is vivid and modern and never depends on the clichés of the Italian cuisine. Instead of dining on a tired old plate of spaghetti, you might be served pigeon breast in a dark nut sauce with a parsley mousse. See p. 88.
- **Best For Celebrity Watching:** One of the most iconoclastic restaurants in Munich, **Lenbach** (☎ 089/549-1300) serves a first-rate Continental and Asian cuisine. Its diners often make the next day's gossip columns. That might be Catherine Zeta-Jones devouring a plate of foie gras and

sweet roasted peppers; Richard Gere digging into the grilled scampi with fresh herbs, or Robert Redford ordering the Thai curry with tiger prawns. See p. 76.

- **Best Beer Garden:** In the Englisher Garten center of Munich, **Biergarten Chinesischer Turm** (☎ 089/3-83-87-30) is our favorite place for soaking up the local suds—some of the best in the world—and lingering over long, filling Bavarian meals such as homemade dumplings, a specialty. To the sound of an oompah-pah band, you can drink the night away while devouring huge baskets of pretzels to soak up some of the alcohol. See p. 92.
- **Best For People-Watching:** Right on the Marienplatz (what Times Square is to New York), the virtual heart of Munich, you can enjoy coffee and snacks at **Café Glockenspiel** (☎ 089/264256). This is the most frequented cafe in Munich, and it gets especially busy at 10:30am daily when hordes show up to watch a miniature tournament staged by the clock on the City Hall facade. Sit back and enjoy your coffee and pastry as an international parade of humanity marches before you. See p. 91.
- **Best Picnic Fare: Alois Dallmayr** (☎ 089/2-13-51-00) offers not only Munich's best picnic fare but also Germany's. With the food you can gather up here, you could even invite the queen of England for lunch in the Englischer Garten. One of the world's most renowned delis, this supermarket of goodies has elegant selections like foie gras, but it also offers more democratically priced (and mundane) fare. See p. 74.