

Press Information Summer 2016



## Tradition and Modernity – boundless summer of culture in Gastein

**Gastein has always been regarded as a mecca for creative figures from the worlds of art and culture. Franz Schubert, Arthur Schopenhauer, Thomas Mann and Gustav Klimt – all of them opened themselves to the inspiration of summer in Gastein. And Gastein continues this tradition, our dedication to art and culture reflected in modern art festivals, atmospheric concerts and traditional heritage events this summer yet again.**

### **sommer.frische.kunst. – art festival in Bad Gastein**

Once merely a chic spa destination for the rich and beautiful, today's alpine metropolis is a magnet for cosmopolitan free spirits, avant-garde creative geniuses and contemporary artists. As a place between tradition and modernity, for as long as anyone can remember Bad Gastein playfully unites an urbane metropolis with the peace and tranquility of the mountain world.

Franz Schubert, Arthur Schopenhauer, Thomas Mann and Gustav Klimt – they all opened themselves to the inspiration of summer in Bad Gastein. Bad Gastein continues this tradition and, with its summer festival, gives birth to a new one.

sommer.frische.kunst. enriches summer in Bad Gastein with fresh art: The kunstresidenz becomes the focal point for internationally renowned contemporary artists, the art festival – with its light installations and contemporary art – lends a whole new radiance to Bad Gastein, while the music program of *summer jazz in the city* serves up groovily swinging sounds on those balmy summer evenings.

All summer long, from June until October, exhibitions, installations, open studios, creative workshops, concerts, summer theatre and countless other artistic and cultural activities promise marvelous, invigorating summer getaways in Bad Gastein.

### **Spa concerts with a rich tradition – an evocative ambience meets venerable classics**

A truly unique ambience is created when the musicians of the Kurorchester, performing amid the wonderful atmosphere of the Alpenarena in Bad Hofgastein or famous Merangarten gardens in Bad Gastein, turn a balmy summer's evening into an incomparable experience with their delightful music. But even in bad weather those nostalgic feelings are still awoken, for the classical concerts in the beautiful setting of the Bad Hofgastein Kursaal or in the venerable Wiener Saal of Hotel Europe in Bad Gastein are a source of un-failing enchantment.

## **Harvest Festival 2016 and Village Anniversary Festival**

As summer in Gastein valley draws to a close, high season for those who appreciate some of the finer things in life is about to begin. For it is then that we celebrate the biggest festival of all in the region: Harvest Festival. This year yet again, all three Gastein towns are officially participating "Harvest Festival Communities". The rich cultural landscape and the living tradition of the farmers turn Harvest Festival into a memorable experience for locals and guests alike. And here that also means celebrating true to ages-old traditions: Whether at an "Einheiga" at various farms, or at colorful *Almabtrieb* homecoming parades and festivities, all create quite a stir throughout the region. Farmers' markets, where specialties direct from the farms in the valley and hills are offered, along with entertaining folk music are guaranteed to captivate visitors year in and year out.

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