

# OKTOBERFEST

by Lorin Kleinman, Jennifer Cutting, and Stephen Winick

## HOW TO CELEBRATE OKTOBERFEST ANYWHERE

On October 12, 1810, Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig married Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen in a multi-day celebration in Munich. The site of the wedding became known as the Theresienwiese (or Wiesen for short), Theresa's field. Every year since, there has been a party on the Wiesen to commemorate this wedding. Over the years, it got bigger and bigger, until it turned into the modern Oktoberfest, with six million visitors per year, rides, booths, and giant beer tents that hold up to 10,000 people each. For the first time ever, Oktoberfest is cancelled this year. But you can still celebrate Oktoberfest at home!

## WHAT TO WEAR

A dirndl (a dress with a fitted bodice and full skirt, short blouse, and apron) for women; a white or checked shirt and Lederhosen (leather shorts or knee-breeches) for men. Lots of people sell them online, at every possible price point.

## BEER!

Only beer from Munich breweries is allowed at Oktoberfest. The six breweries that have big Oktoberfest tents are:

- Augustiner
- Hacker-Pschorr
- Hofbräu
- Löwenbräu
- Paulaner
- Spaten



*Oktoberfest in München, Bavaria. Photo from Wikimedia Commons*

Look for a special Oktoberfest brew from these breweries at your local Beer and Wine shop. It's traditionally served in one-liter increments, and for extra authenticity, use a German glass beer stein. There's an example here: <https://www.kegworks.com/libbey-oktoberfest-bavarian-isar-beer-mug-1-liter-masskrug/>

## FOOD

The most archetypally Bavarian foods are pretzels and sausages.

There's a recipe for pretzels here: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/161586/papa-drexlers-bavarian-pretzels/>. If you don't have quite that much patience, you can find take-and-bake Bavarian-style soft pretzels in the freezer section of some Aldi's grocery stores.

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Bratwurst is a very traditional kind of sausage. It goes well with sauerkraut, and don't forget lots of mustard!

Roast chicken is another popular Bavarian dish. Here's a recipe to try: <https://germanfoods.org/recipes/oktoberfest-roast-chicken/>

Or if you're feeling more ambitious, Schweinshaxe (pig's knuckle) is a classic Oktoberfest meal. There are instructions here: <https://www.curiouscuisiniere.com/german-roasted-pork-knuckle/>

Enjoy the **Oktoberfest Pub Sing**, and *prosit!*

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*Lorin Kleinman is an Anglo-American who grew up in Munich, has gone to Oktoberfest a lot, owns a collection of dirndls, and has beer garden furniture in her back yard. In 2019, she took Jennifer Cutting and Stephen Winick on a marvelous tour of Munich and medieval Bavaria.*