

WILKOMEN IN EUROPA

If you've never found the occasion to travel to Europe, I would highly recommend it. It's an excursion that every American should take at sometime in their life. Me and my two favorite ladies spent two October weeks touring Europe this fall.

No where else on our planet can one enjoy so many varied cultures, menus, customs, languages, traditions and architecture in so small a geographic area. When you're in Dutchland's Bavarian Alps you're only two hours from the gold and silver jewelry gems of Florence, and three hours more to Rome's ruins. All travel times, of course, given based on 200 Kilometer per hour (120 miles/hour) autobahn cruising speed of the Mercedes Benz.

When you're nestled in the grape growing vineyards of the Rhine River Valley you are only four hours from Paris and less from Amsterdam. But, please no wine probing before you leave. Wine probing? Oh, yes that's where you visit several wineries' guest houses to taste their various wines. Visability after wine probing is not good.

However, if you're not so inclined to drive yourself, Europe has the most progressive, modern and timely passenger rail system in the world. You honestly must be watching out the window of your train in Zurich, Switzerland to know when the train has started, because the tracks are ultra smooth.

The Europeans need no assistance in maintaining a self-sufficient economy. From agriculture to commerce they have impressive progressive standards. It's pleasurable to enjoy the transition from a modern industrial city like Frankfurt and its accelerated pace to the live-as-you-go reduced pace of resort areas such as Berchtesgarden and Garmish-Partenkirchen. Waking up respectively to the hum of trains, buses and cars contrasted with arising at the base of the Bavarian Alps to total silence broken only by the clanking cow bells of the grazing dairy cows.

Throughout Germany you'll have a chance, by stopping at a Zimmer Frei (Room Available) sign, to stay with a rural family. You'll be treated royally. More than likely, you'll be given a room in a large structure of Bavarian architecture which quite likely serves as shelter for all family members to include the family livestock. Don't let that bother you, however, because the German's housekeeping standards make their barns livable for people. The rooms will be so clean that you could literally eat off the floor. That reminds me of the time in 1972 when we stayed with a family on the Bodensee along the Switzerland Germany border. After my wife inquired about the beautiful sheets we had slept on the night before, the Frau told us that they were hand embroidered wedding presents from a relative. Also, the fragrance of the fresh-cut alfalfa hay stored in the barn below that day was fitting.

Then you'll also be invited down to their breakfast table to enjoy some homecooked German pastries and rye bread with homemade fruit jams. Try to match that in the land that Columbus found.

I believe above all else my greatest pleasure in Europe is traveling the winding roads of the Bavarian Alps and seeing the small villages nestled in the valleys among the mountain ranges. Traversing the narrow hair pin curves is for only the skilled driver. But, one of the rewards of your journey will be the multitudes of flowers you will see spilling from the balcony and window flower boxes. Flowers are everpresent. Seldom do you see a rural home in Germany that isn't adorned with flowers throughout.

There are many attractions in Europe to suit almost any traveler's taste.

But, if you have only a limited stay don't miss these attractions:

British Museum and changing of the guard in London.

Berchtesgarden and Garmish-Partenkirchen in the Bavarian Alps of Germany.

Vienna the Hapsburg residence and the Vienna Woods.

The Louve Museum in Paris.

Can't miss Rome and its ancient ruins.

Black Forest in Germany.

Salzburg, Austria to see the sites where the classic film Sound of Music was filmed.

Also while you're in Austria the small resort town of Lucern on the shores of a crystal clear lake with surrounding mountain ranges will leave you breathless.

And castles galore too, including Nueschwanstein, Linderhof and the Bestiles of Rotemburg.

The cathedrals, castles and Alps are to be cherished, but the real take home value of your trip is embodied deep in the culture of the older villages. It's in the way Europeans respect their natural resources; the centuries old work ethic resulting in an industrious healthy economy with clean cities and countryside; the high priority placed on national and citizen welfare that emanates from their strong family structure. These are reinforcements to anybody's value system that are a worthy experience.

Auf Wiedersehn

But, I'll return again.

Carl Landgrebe

THE TRIPLEX "RING"

Mowing Practices

Sometimes the triplex ring syndrome can be completely resolved by modifying mowing procedures. To begin with, insist that the mower go more slowly as he makes the final pass around the green with the triplex. A fast-running vehicle will do much more damage during a turn than a machine that is moving slowly.

Because the symptoms of triplex ring will tend to be more pronounced during stress periods, especially during the summer, any practice or schedule which relieves the severity of the wear or decreases the number of times the perimeter area is cut during that time will help reduce turf damage. If the grass is not growing too fast, skip the cleanup pass every other day or bring the final cut in from the edge by six to 12 inches every other day so that the tires do not always travel in the exact same path. Consider using hand mowers on the greens which exhibit triplex ring symptoms, however, so the time needed to mow a few of the worst greens with hand mowers is usually not prohibitive. A good alternative would be to use the triplex to mow the green but use the walk-behind mowers to make the cleanup passes, a practice which many clubs use successfully for all 18 greens throughout the season. Other alternatives would involve mowing every other day with hand mowers or using triplex mowers only on weekends. Some golf courses use the triplexes only during the spring and fall, when the labor supply is likely to be at its lowest point.

Finally, raising the cutting height slightly during stress periods can help, but this should be something of a last resort. If a program of light, frequent verticutting is used to groom the greens, be sure that a perimeter pass is **not** made with the verticutting units.

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