



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Medieval spectacle with an historical backdrop

Maximilian Ritterspiele Horb 2018

Traditionally all hell breaks loose in Horb am Neckar over the third weekend in June. The little town with an impressive historical backdrop is the scene of one of Europe's biggest medieval spectacles: the Maximilian Ritterspiele Horb (Maximilian Knights' Tournament in Horb). About 30,000 visitors from all over the region travel annually to experience knights mounted high on horses, the big medieval market and a wide diversity of other attractions like jugglers, minstrels, camp life and the festival parade.

The tournament site will once again take on a central role at the 22nd Horber Ritterspiele from 15 to 17 June 2018. Additionally to the big tournament shows, there will be several other performances like medieval dances in the tournament ring on both Saturday and Sunday. Taking place parallel is the large medieval market in the alleyways and streets around the centre of Horb and up to the market square. "Hawking" their wares are about 200 traders and craftsmen, including soap boilers, calligraphers, glass painters, armourers, wood carvers, elixir purveyors, leather braiders and many more. In between are enticing stands with a feast of foods and all sorts of thirst quenchers – from knight's beer to mead. Amongst the colourful folk at the Horber Ritterspiele are also jugglers and minstrels, fire-breathers, stilt walkers and drummers, artistes, medieval music groups and there's the medieval camp giving visitors an authentic insight into what life was like 500 years ago. And naturally for the younger fans of knights, there's also the children's Knights' Tournament at the riverside.

The colourful goings on, which catapults Horb back to medieval times for the duration of the June weekend, is based on an historical event. In 1498, King Maximilian, later the German Emperor, signed, for the state of Württemberg, the agreement governing the successor to

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the throne in front of the Horb town hall. He disempowered the inept Duke Eberhardt and enabled southern Germany to blossom economically in the years afterwards – from today's point of view it was the begin of a democratisation process. And a good reason to celebrate the historical event with a festival – especially as Maximilian was a fervent fan of knights' tournaments.

Maximilian Ritterspiele Horb

15-17 June 2018, Horb am Neckar

Further information:

www.ritterspiele.com

www.facebook.com/MaximilianRitterspiele

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