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Frankfurt Airport: Gateway to Germany's Summer of Festivals 2004 - Enjoy Historic Wine Celebrations and Many Other Events in the Frankfurt/Rhine-Main-Neckar Region

Frankfurt/Main (ots) -

With its central location and excellent rail and road intermodal links, Frankfurt Airport (FRA) serves as an ideal base for discovering Germany's parade of festivals and other events this summer. Indeed, the surrounding Frankfurt/Rhine-Main-Neckar Region offers an especially rich blend of historic wine villages, scenic river valleys, relaxing spa towns, vibrant urban venues and forest-blanketed mountain areas such as the Taunus, Vögelberg, Odenwald and Rhön. Most of the country's wine regions can be reached within 90 minutes. The outstanding Rheingau and Hesse Bergstrasse wine areas are less than 30 minutes away. Yes, there is something for everyone: the romantic Middle Rhine World Heritage Valley and other UNESCO Heritage Sites; the cathedral cities of Fulda, Limburg, Mainz and Speyer; the famous castle city of Heidelberg; or Hanau - birthplace of the Brothers Grimm and the start of the German Fairy Tale Road. Via FRA it is also easy to tour the rest of Germany, with its vast historic and cultural offerings. The following list of events is known as well as some waiting-to-be-discovered places is just a sampling of summer 2004. More details are available at: www.hessen-tourismus.de and www.germany-tourism.de.

Via FRA - Events to Enjoy in the Frankfurt/Rhine-Main-Neckar Region:

- May 1-31, Wiesbaden: Intl. May Festival (www.staatstheater-wiesbaden.de)
- until July 17, Hanau: 20th Brothers Grimm Märchenfestspiel, theater festival presenting the beloved fairy tales of Hanau's most famous sons (www.hanau.de)
- May 28-31, Wiesbaden-Biebrich: 68th International PfingstTurnier horse show
- May 28-June 6, Michelstadt (Odenwald): 50th Bienenmarkt country fair celebrating bees and a lot more (www.michelstadt.de)
- June 4-8, Lorsch: Johannisfest, at this World Heritage Site (www.lorsch.de)
- June 4-6, Frankfurt: International Dragon Boat Festival, on the Main River
- June 5, July 10 and Sept. 4, Heidelberg: Castle Illumination and Fireworks
- June 5-6, Rüsselsheim: Kunsthandwerkermarkt, handicrafts at the ramparts
- June 11-12, Wiesbaden: 27th Theatrum Wilhelmstrassenfest, Germany's largest street festival held in the beautiful Hesse state capital (www.wiesbaden.de)
- June 11-13, Hanau: Lambofest (www.hanau.de)
- June 11-13, Frankfurt: Rose and Light Fest (www.palmengarten.de)
- June 16, Frankfurt: JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge, with 50,000 runners
- June 18-20, Bad Homburg: 100th Gorden Bennett Race, oldtimer car rally through the Taunus starts at this historic spa town (www.bad-homburg.de)
- June 18-27, Heppenheim: 44th Hessentag state fair (www.hessentag2004.de)
- June 19, Rudesheim: Great Medieval Banquet, feast at 100 meter long table
- June 23-July 2, Frankfurt: Opernplatzfest, food/music festival at Alte Oper square
- June 25-Aug. 14, Heidelberg: Castle Festival, with theater and music concerts
- June 26-Aug. 28, Rheingau: 17th Rheingau Music Festival, enjoy classical and other music at historic venues in the Rheingau wine region (www.rheingaufestival.de)
- June 28-30, Bingen am Rhein: Bingen Swingt, jazz festival (www.bingen.de)
- July 1-5, Darmstadt: 54th Heinerfest, Germany's second largest downtown fest

- July 2-4, Assmannshausen: Red Wine Festival near Rüdesheim am Rhein
- July 2-5, Hochheim am Main: Hochheimer Weinfest, Rheingau's largest festival is held every summer in this ancient wine town celebrating its 1250th anniversary
- July 3, Frankfurt: Sound of Frankfurt, one of Europe's largest open-air concerts
- July 3, Rüdesheim/Bingen: Rhine Illuminations, with fireworks and festive boats at these gateway towns to the Middle Rhine UNESCO World Heritage Valley
- until July 4, Fulda: St. Boniface - From Angle-Saxon Missionary to Apostle of the Germans, exhibition plus many events during the 1250th Bonifatius Jubilee
- July 16-18, Idstein (Taunus): Hessenjazz Festival, with over 75 bands
- July 23-25, Hockenheim: Formula 1 German Grand Prix auto racing
- July 31-Aug. 1, Aschaffenburg: Carillon Fest in Schloss Johannisburg
- Aug. 5-8, Offenbach am Main: Bierfest (www.offenbach.de)
- Aug. 6-8, Floersheim (Wicker): 31st Wicker Weinfest (www.floershiem.de)
- Aug. 13-22, Wiesbaden: Rheingau Wine Week, Germany's largest wine fest
- Aug. 12-15, Bad Nauheim/Friedberg (Taunus): 3rd European Elvis Festival
- Aug. 20-23, Rüdesheim: Traditional Wine Fest (www.ruedesheimer-weinfest.de)
- Aug. 27-29, Frankfurt: Museum Embankment Festival (www.frankfurt.de)
- Aug. 27-30, Bad Homburg: Latern Festival (www.laternenfest.de)
- Aug. 29-Sept. 1, Sept. 5-7, Mainz: Weinmarkt festival (www.info.mainz.de)
- Aug. 6-9, Weinheim: Altstadt Fest, with handicraft market (www.weinheim.de)
- Sept. 4-12, Bensheim: Bergsträsser Winzerfest wine fest (www.bensheim.de)
- Sept. 9-Nov. 7, Weinheim: 100 Years Salvador Dali - Master of Graphics exhibition in the Wachenburg fortress (www.weinheim.de)
- Sept. 10-12, Bad Orb: 8th International Blasmusikfest (brass instruments)
- Sept. 16-Oct. 17, Frankfurt: European Culture Days Poland, presented by the European Central Bank in cooperation with Narodowy Bank Polski (www.ecb.int)
- Sept. 17-19, St. Goar/St. Goarshausen: Rhine in Flames near the Loreley
- Sept. 17-Oct. 10, Schwetzingen: 29th Mozartfest (www.schwetzingen.de)
- Sept. 25-Oct. 3, Ingelheim am Rhein: Red Wine Festival (www.ingelheim.de)
- Oct. 6-10, Frankfurt am Main: Frankfurt Book Fair, world's largest book fair for the publishing industry and book lovers everywhere (www.buchmesse.de)

Via FRA - Other Events to Enjoy Around Germany:

- May 28-June 6, Baden-Baden: Herbert von Karajan Whitsun Music Festival
- June 4-6, Idar-Oberstein: 9th Jazz Festival (www.idar-oberstein.de)
- June 4-July 4, Würzburg: Mozart Festival (www.wuerzburg.de)
- June 18-Aug. 29, Hanover: Herrenhausen Festival (www.hannover.de)
- June 26 -27, Sangerhausen: 29th International Rose Festival, at the Europa Rosarium with the world's largest collection of roses (www.sangerhausen.de)
- June 19-Sept. 18, Quedlinburg: 24th Summer of Music (www.quedlinburg.de)
- June 26, Würzburg: Fire Magic; multimedia light, music, fireworks show to celebrate the 1300th anniversary of Würzburg (www.wuerzburger-feurerzauber.de)
- July 3-Aug 28, Kassel region: North Hesse Summer of Culture, featuring music and theater of northern Europe (www.kultursommer-nordhessen.de)
- July 8-July10, Calw: Hermann Hesse Colloquium on Steppenwolf
- July 7-Aug. 28, various locations in the East German states of Saxon-Anhalt, Saxony, and Thuringia: MDR Summer of Music (www.mdr.de/musiksommer)
- July 25-Aug. 28, Bayreuth: Richard Wagner Festspiel, opera (www.bayreuth.de)
- Aug. 6-8, Saarbrücken: Saar Spectacle, water/water sports festival
- Aug. 13-15, Cologne: Ringfest, modern music festival (ringfestkoeln.de)
- Sept. 6-12, Sangerhausen: ULTIWA 2004, unique DVV/IVV three-day wandering marathon in the "Land of the Star Disk", with music and more (www.ultiwa.de)
- until Sept. 19, Berlin: MOMA in Berlin - Masterpieces from New York's Museum of Modern Art, special exhibition with the Nationalgalerie Berlin
- Sept. 25-Oct. 10, Stuttgart: 159th Cannstatter Volksfest, (www.stuttgart.de)
- until Aug. 29, Ulm: Albert Einstein 1879-1955, exhibition about Ulm-born Einstein as prelude to the Relativity Theory centennial in 2005 (www.stadthaus.ulm.de)
- Oct. 15-April 2005, Halle: The Malleable Sky, Landesmuseum für Vorgeschichte presents European Bronze Age artifacts incl. the Nebra Star Disk (www.archlsa.de)

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