Christkindlmarket Reveals 2023 Mug, Merch & Other Specials

Reindeer Scavenger Hunt, Beer Stein Holding, Wine Tasting & More

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, October 31, 2023

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(CHICAGO and AURORA, IL) (October 31, 2023)

The Christkindlmarket is finally bringing back its popular mug three pack and adds on novel items like its first ceramic beer stein, reindeer mug, tree growing kit as well as fun German events and interactive photo ops in Aurora.

While last year's souvenir mug combined elements from all three locations, visitors can now get location-specific ones with unique designs at each market. The Chicago mug is mint green on the outside and features a wine red on the interior. It shows off downtown landmarks like the City Hall building and Daley Plaza's Picasso. The Aurora mug is a combination of mint and dark green and includes elements like the Paramount Theatre and bald eagles that can be found along the Fox River. The Wrigleyville mug is mint green and grey colored and shows off Hotel Zachary, the intersection sign of Clark & Addison, and much more. What all three mugs have in common is its special shape, a round base with a tapered top. Each mug sells for \$8 on its own but can also be purchased with a hot beverage from various vendors, ranging from mulled wine to hot chocolate.

For anyone who will not be able to make it to all locations, it is still possible to get all three mugs - three packs in Christkindlmarket giftboxes are available for \$25 at the info booths at all markets.

The non-alcoholic beverage mug this year shows a festive-looking reindeer on the front and a comic market scene on its back. Another popular visitor favorite is back in its third year: the annual Christkindlmarket ornament, hand-painted and glass blown in Europe, portraying a market scene with holiday elements on its ice blue background (\$41 at all info booths).

Market enthusiasts who are always on the lookout for authentic German items will be excited that the Christkindlmarket introduces its first ceramic beer stein with a holiday-themed design on it, priced at \$20. It is even possible to "plant" a piece of the market at home now – at all three locations, the first Christkindlmarket Christmas tree growing kit will be available for purchase for \$12.

As every year, the mug and merch are limited and available for sale as long as supplies last. This year, the Christkindlmarket will not have an online shop. All items can only be purchased on-site.

Apart from all these exciting souvenir item add-ons, the Christkindlmarket wants to spoil their guests with plenty of new experiences. Aurora, with more than 50 vendors in 2023, will be the hosting location for authentic German events and fun for the whole family! New interactive photo ops include a gingerbread sleigh and a reindeer scavenger hunt. It is worth to check out the event's Instagram account between November 1st and 7th as followers can actively participate in a reindeer naming and mug giveaway contest.

Besides that, every *Twinkly Thursday*, visitors will have the opportunity to witness glassblowing onsite and <u>can get tickets for a workshop to design their own</u>. Other Thursday specials include holiday-themed face painting, typewriting poetry, and beer stein holding competitions. As if that was not enough, visitors can complete their visit to the suburban City of Lights with a showing of <u>"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" at the Paramount Theatre in downtown Aurora.</u>

Last but not least, the Christkindlmarket will host a one-time only <u>Wine Tasting Event on Saturday</u>, <u>December 2, 2023 at RiverEdge Park</u>. Anyone 21+ is welcome to get their tickets for one of the one-hour timeslots and taste up to eight German and Austrian mulled and cold wines, provided by Weinbauer. <u>More information and tickets are available on Eventbrite</u>.

About German American Events, LLC

German American Events LLC, a subsidiary of the <u>German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest</u>, is a Chicago-based nonprofit organization that plans and executes the Christkindlmarket Chicago, Wrigleyville, and Aurora. All locations are modeled after the classic German holiday market in Nuremberg, Germany, with traditional candy cane striped huts.

The free outdoor holiday markets host international and local vendors who display and sell handcrafted ornaments, toys, and special holiday gifts as well as traditional German foods, sweets, and beverages. The markets are rich in cultural tradition and include special events, entertainment and activities that are fun for the whole family.