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Dear Readers,

What is it that makes a city a great place to live? What makes people feel at home there? When it comes to Cologne, the answer is a refreshing amount of openness, good ideas, a vibrant economy, inspiring locations, thrilling events, plenty of humor, and a good dose of diversity. All these things and more can be found in this magazine. We wish you happy reading!

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HERE FOR GOOD

Each year, over 50,000 people move to Cologne. We asked eight prominent "Immis"* what they like best about the city.

INTERVIEWS: HANNA HENIGIN ILLUSTRATIONS: JINDRICH NOVOTNY

"My apartment is close to the Cathedral, so whenever I'm in Cologne I get to see it every day. And every time is just as impressive as the first. Cologne also has some very good orchestras; I enjoy going to concerts here."

OLGA SCHEPS Pianist, born in Moscow, moved to Cologne as a student in 2003.

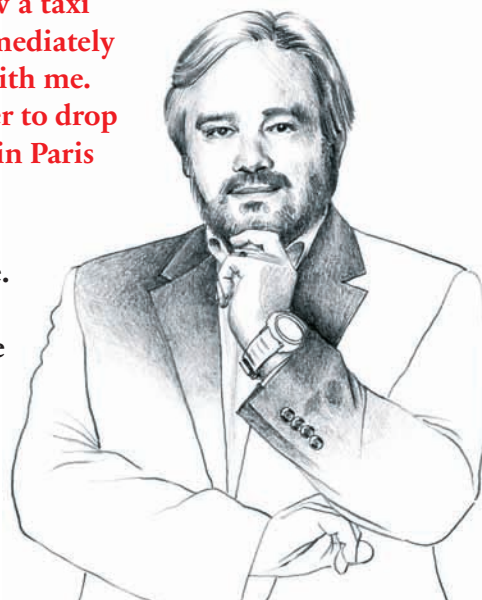


CHILLY GONZALES Musician, born in Montreal, Canada, moved to Cologne in 2012.

"Once, I was on my way to a concert and was about to miss my train. There weren't any taxis around that could get me to the station, so I went to Brüsseler Platz. There, I saw a taxi coming – and a woman already waiting for it. She immediately took in the situation and offered to share her ride with me. And although it wasn't on her way, she asked the driver to drop me off at the station first. That would never happen in Paris or Berlin. It was a real Cologne moment."

"Cologne is brilliantly situated right in the heart of Europe. From here, you can get around Germany and Europe very quickly by train or plane. That's a huge advantage for people who have to travel a lot for work."

ALAIN CAPARROS CEO of retail company REWE Group, originally came to Germany from Algeria. He has worked in Cologne since 2004.



*In Cologne's regional dialect, an "Immi" is a person who isn't originally from Cologne. Model for illustrations: Getty Images, company-owned



FABIAN HAMBÜCHEN A gymnast from the city of Wetzlar, he came to Cologne to study sport in 2012.

"You can have a typical Cologne experience every day here, but there's one I particularly remember. In the mornings on my way to the sport college, I often used to meet an elderly gentleman. He would always give me a friendly hello and congratulate me on any medals I'd recently won. That may not sound so spectacular but it was quite special for me. Here, people treat you just like anybody else."



"I grew up on the North Sea coast, so I love to watch the ships going down the Rhine. I particularly like the Belgian quarter and the Nippes district. The small stores, bars, and restaurants possess a charm you get nowhere else."

PETER B. MIKKELSEN General manager of the Steigenberger Hotel Köln on Rudolfplatz, has lived in Cologne since 2016. He hails from Denmark.



"Cologne is a great place to live, and it's very endearing, largely because of the people here. They're open-minded, tolerant, and quick to say something heartfelt and kind. They're gregarious and always find a reason to celebrate. I keep discovering new things about this city. Cologne is exciting, original, and inspiring – especially, but not only, at Carnival time and during home games at 1. FC Köln."



PETER STÖGER Head coach of soccer team 1. FC Köln, comes from Vienna. He has lived in Cologne since 2013.

"The established network of creative individuals and producers, as well as Cologne's spatial proximity to many production sites, makes it an appealing location for us. Our creative minds feel at home in Cologne; it's an excellent atmosphere to work in."



ANKE SCHÄFERKORDT Media manager, managing director of RTL Deutschland, has lived in Cologne since 1991.

"I love the way the people of Cologne are so open and welcoming. There's also a huge selection of great restaurants. Though on second thought, that might not be such a good thing – my jeans are getting tighter."

PATRICIA MEEDEN Female lead in *Bodyguard – The Musical*, moved to Cologne from Berlin in 2015.

"THE PEOPLE OF COLOGNE SHARE A SECRET"

An interview with actor Carolin Kebekus about her comedian cronies, Carnival costumes, and criticizing the Church.

INTERVIEW: TOBIAS HABERL

Stand-up comedian Carolin Kebekus has received many awards for her work. Should someone decide to erect a monument in her honor, this is her suggestion for how it should look.

Ms. Kebekus, we wanted to chat with you about Cologne, but during our research, found out you weren't actually born in Cologne, but in Bergisch Gladbach.

Carolin Kebekus: You found me out – but don't worry: I may have been born in Bergisch Gladbach, but my parents brought me back to Cologne when I was just a few hours old.

Is it tough having that on your birth certificate instead of Cologne?

It most certainly is. It's a disgrace for a Cologne native not to have "Cologne" listed as their place of birth in their passport and ID.

Surely your parents must have known that?

Yes, but they lived so far out in the eastern suburbs, in Brück, that having me in Bergisch Gladbach made much more sense. There's a great hospital there, where many of my friends were also born. But please don't rub it in: I'd much rather have been born in a shabby hospital in Cologne, believe me.

They say that more songs are written about Cologne than any other city in the world apart from Paris. Where does this almost spooky local patriotism come from?

In Cologne, you really sense this huge, all-encompassing love of life, a great feeling of

affection, and a kind of Rhenish homeliness that connects everyone who lives here. When I perform in Bremen or Hanover, I often drive back home at night so I can sleep in Cologne. Sometimes it seems to me that the people of Cologne share a secret.

What secret is that?

That everything will be alright in the end. Cologne is a really old city that has experienced many good things but also many tragic things over the centuries. These experiences have seeped into the inhabitants' attitude towards life. They're quite serene, because they know that somehow, things will



Carolin Kebekus might be smiling here, but when she hears “*En unserem Veedel!*,” a song in dialect about life in a Cologne suburb, it makes her cry.

turn out okay. I'm no historian, but I did once read that in the Middle Ages, most towns relied on agricultural produce from outside the town walls. In Cologne, however, people grew fruit and vegetables inside the walls. The people of Cologne were self-sufficient; they were protected and felt safe – and that's something we still have today.

It all sounds good, but isn't it possible that that feeling of safety could just be a projection, something we hear as kids and grow up believing in?

It's true that Cologne can sometimes be exasperating. When I walked along the Ring with my friends on November 11 last year, I felt so ashamed. There were thousands of sloshed people in cheap plastic costumes being loud and crude.

Isn't that what the world-famous Cologne Carnival is all about?

Well, for me, Carnival is a big family celebration – very traditional, very festive, and rather like Christmas. We have certain rituals, certain places we go. We take long walks with friends and watch the parade with the kids. I would never stand around in the rain, bellowing and clutching a bottle of Kölsch beer.

But you do get dressed up?

Of course. By the way, it's important to have one costume for outside and one for inside. It would be awful to suddenly have no costume when you go from the cold outside into a warm bar. I like to be a polar bear on the outside and a character from out West underneath.

Helge Malchow, CEO of publishing house Kiepenheuer & Witsch, once said that Carnival in Cologne was a matter of putting on something simple and then

telling everyone you're just an "Average Joe gone wild."

It's true. For example, you can wear a red hat and say you're a matchstick.

When was the last time you were in the Cathedral?

This summer. I arrived at the station and had a bit of time to kill, so I went and did a loop of the interior.

You're not exactly known for being a fan of the Catholic Church. Apparently, a spokesman for the German Bishops' Conference even tried to prevent one of your shows from being broadcast.

The Cathedral doesn't have anything to do with the Catholic Church.

The bishop probably sees that differently.

He's entitled to, but for me the Cathedral is the city's greatest landmark. It exudes power but is also peaceful and friendly. When I stand before the Cathedral, I can sense all the centuries of history that it has witnessed. For several hundred years, it just stood around as a half-finished nave. It was used to store hay and house animals. I feel very at home there. In the old days, my friends and I used to go into the Cathedral after partying the night away. We would light a candle and fall asleep on the pews.

Do you have a sense of spirituality?

Of course. It's not that I reject the Christian belief. On the contrary, I consider its message of love and peace a wonderful thing. I just think that the Catholic Church is in need of a little reform.

You once said, "There are lots of crass people in Cologne," and, "We're a city with a lot of potential for crass behavior."

Yes, but I meant it as a compliment. In Cologne, there's a very large working class – lots of laborers, lots of down-to-earth people who say what they think. I love that. Düsseldorf is much smaller, but seems much more urban. Cologne is more authentic – it's dirtier, louder, rougher. You can really experience something here.

You've been described as "crass in an intelligent way."

I'm a mouthy girl from the pub; I'm not a sophisticated lady like you'd meet in Düsseldorf. Cologne has more than a million inhabitants, but you don't notice it. It's a very genuine place. On every corner there's a mom and pop store where you can buy your bottle

of beer and your newspaper. On every second corner there's a dime store. I don't think there's a single Prada. And then there's the urban planning. When you walk through Cologne, you get the feeling that the inhabitants crawled out of their bunkers in 1945 and just started rebuilding the city without consulting each other once.

Which clichés about Cologne are true and which aren't?

It's true that the brewery pub waiters – who we call "*Köbes*" in Cologne dialect – are impolite. It isn't true that everyone in Cologne loves Carnival. Some of the most patriotic citizens flee from the city when Carnival time comes around.

Why does one get the impression that all Cologne-based TV, comedy, and media folk are pals with one another?

Who are you thinking of?

Harald Schmidt, Anke Engelke, Stefan Raab, Hella von Sinnen, Hugo Egon Balder – you, of course – and a hundred more.

It's because we really do all know each other. There's a limited amount of space here. We keep bumping into each other at TV studios and agencies. When I used to make appearances on Kaya Yanar's show *Was guckst du?!* (what are you looking at?!), I constantly found myself next to Harald Schmidt at the coffee machine. And if you work on shows at Brainpool, you're going to meet Anke Engelke and Bastian Pastewka one day. The world of comedy and TV isn't very big; eventually you know everyone – which doesn't mean you're automatically friends with everyone.

Would you consider any of the people you've just mentioned role models?

Anke Engelke for sure. When I used to watch her on *Wochenshow* (the weekly review) in the 1990s, it was like a revelation for me. I watched this woman perform, laughed my head off, and thought, "Oh, that's a real job. That's something I could do. You can be funny as a woman. You can even, apparently, earn a bit of money doing it. And you don't have to make a fool of yourself. You can be funny and cool at the same time." When I was introduced to Anke for the first time, I felt extremely nervous – but I also felt proud.

Many great comedians actually tend to be rather melancholy in their private lives. What's it like when you're sitting with

other people from the comedy circuit – silly or serious?

It depends on the situation. You can spend the whole night laughing hysterically, or you can have long, serious discussions. They're all just normal people.

"In Cologne, there's a very large working class – lots of laborers, lots of down-to-earth people who say what they think. I love that."

Is there someone who perfectly embodies the city for you?

Yes: Tommy Engel and Wolfgang Niedecken. I recently sat next to Niedecken at a dinner. I was nervous, so I just listened to him, and it was bliss. The next day, I called my dad. I said, "Dad, guess who I sat next to yesterday." He was like, "Oh, my God! You sat next to Wolfgang Niedecken?" He and Tommy Engel speak the same language. They're both genuine people, great musicians, and real local patriots. They love their city, but they will criticize it when necessary. When Tommy Engel's song "*En unserem Veedel*" (in our neighborhood) starts to play at the bar, it always makes me cry.

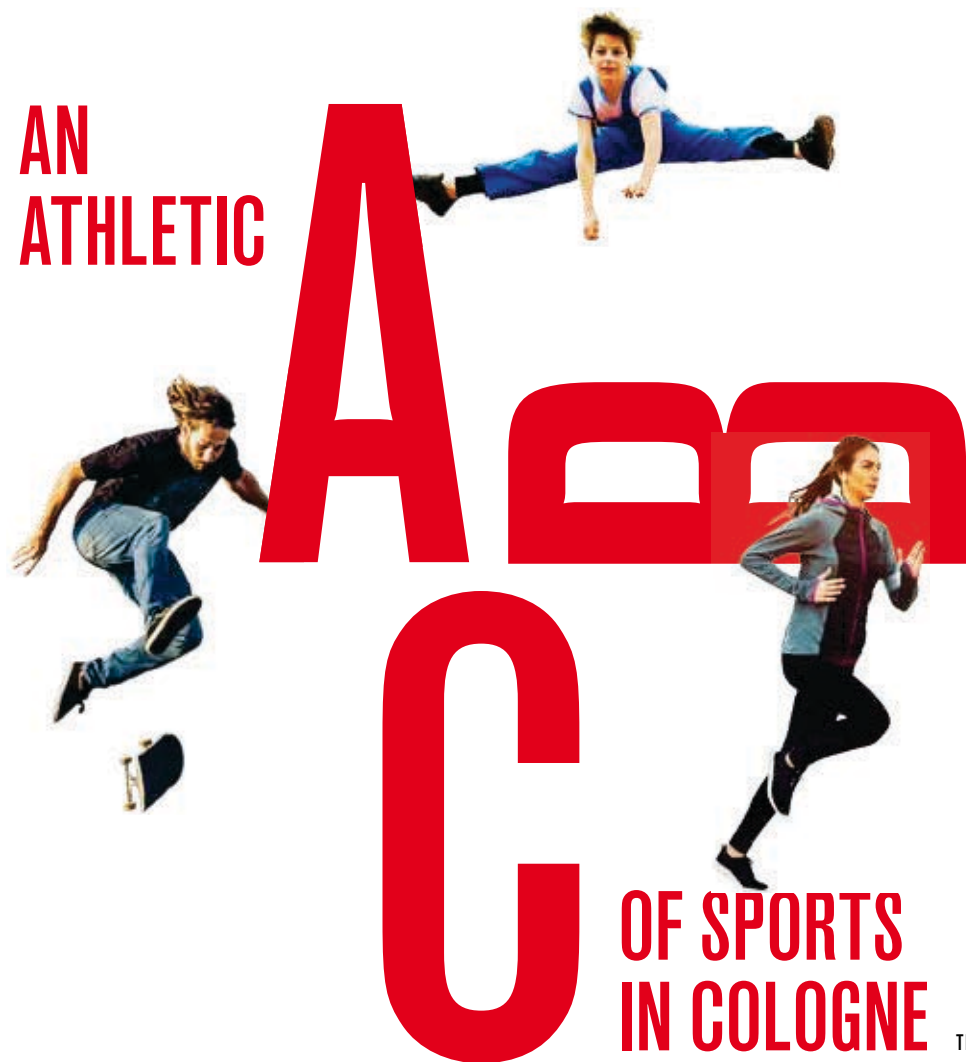
You once asked for soccer player Lukas Podolski's hand in marriage.

Yeah, but only so I could be a WAG and get into the stadium without paying. Seriously, though, he is great. And I have a season ticket anyway.

Is there anything that could ever make you leave Cologne?

If I ever do move away, I'd keep a room or an apartment here. I can't imagine not doing that. I don't have to stay in Cologne forever, but I do need to have a home here all my life.

Carolin Kebekus stars in the comedy Schatz, nimm du sie! (it's yours, honey!), her first leading movie role. This year, she's touring Germany with her stage show AlphaPussy. She also hosts the public television show PussyTerror TV.



Whether you like doing sports yourself or would rather watch others in action, there's something for everyone in Cologne. We've compiled a list of 26 options to unleash your inner athlete – all the way from A to Z.

A

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: The rules of this full-contact sport might be pretty complex, but once you've caught on, you'll be addicted for life. Cologne has several American football clubs, including the Cologne Crocodiles, which was founded in 1980. After scaling the heights in the 1990s, the club had a few slow years, finally folding back in 2004. It has

since been rescued from the jaws of defeat: As of April 2017, the snappy team will again be playing in the top flight.
www.cologne-crocodiles.de

B

BASEBALL: Baseball pitchers can do incredible things with a ball, like firing one from the mound at 150 km/h and lobbing unpredictable "curveballs" or "knuckleballs." Sports fans in

Cologne can enjoy the traditional US sport by attending a game of Baseball Bundesliga Division I club Cologne Cardinals.
www.colognecardinals.de

C

COME-TOGETHER-CUP: This large charity soccer tournament takes place every year with the goal of bringing all types of people together in a spirit of mutual acceptance. Around

1,000 amateur players and 20,000 spectators come to the RheinEnergieSTADION for the event, which aims to counter discrimination toward the LGBTQ+ community. This year, the Come-Together-Cup will take place on June 15.
www.come-together-cup.de

D

DEUTSCHES SPORT & OLYMPIA MUSEUM: This unique museum on the west bank of the Rhine presents the history of sport through the ages – from the Panhellenic Games of ancient Greece, through the founding of the modern Olympics and modern sports like BMX.
www.sportmuseum.de

E

EFF-GEE: This is the commonly used abbreviation for 1. FC Köln, the city's much-loved soccer team. When fans belt out the club's anthem before Bundesliga games, even fans on the opposing team get goosebumps. Equally beloved by FC's followers is mascot Hennes, a real-live billy goat who spends home games grazing contentedly on the sidelines.
www.fc-koeln.de



FÜHLINGER SEE: This series of connected lakes in the northern suburb of Fühlingen has something for everyone. You can swim in the bathing area, windsurf across the water's smooth surface, or take a rejuvenating stroll along the circumjacent nature trail. One of the biggest events taking place on the waterway in 2017 is the dragon boat festival from September 15 to 17.
www.drachenboot-koeln.de

G

GOLF: Keen golfers in Cologne and the surrounding region are spoiled for choice; they can practice their skills on more than a dozen courses. The Kölner Golfclub offers two 18-hole courses and one nine-hole course and has more doglegs than anywhere else in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.
www.koelner-golfclub.de

H

HOCKEY: Cologne's major field hockey clubs are named for their team colors. There's Rot-Weiß Köln in red and white, KKHT Schwarz-Weiß in black and white, and KHTC Blau-Weiß in blue and white. Cologne is regarded as the heartland of German field hockey, which is a fast-paced and technically demanding sport. Just last year, the men of Rot-Weiss Köln defended their title as German champions.
www.rot-weiss-koeln.de

I

INDOOR SOCCER: Increasing numbers of Cologne's residents are spending their free time in cages, the name given to the small soccer fields surrounded by nets where indoor soccer is played. The nets stop the ball from escaping when amateur players misfire. You'll need to reserve your cage well in advance, as the sport is proving extremely popular.
www.soccerworld.koeln

J

JOGGING: Contrary to what some might think, Cologne is one of Germany's greenest cities. Its green belt and urban forest offer perfect conditions for joggers, who come here in droves – either alone or as part of a group.



Competitors in the Cologne Triathlon Weekend. This year, the swimming, cycling, and running spectacular takes place from September 1 to 3.

The biggest event on the running calendar is, of course, the Cologne Marathon (this year on October 1), which attracts over 25,000 runners and around half a million spectators.
www.koeln-marathon.de



KARABINERS: Cologne's city center might not offer much in the way of mountains, but climbers don't need to let their karabiners rust in the basement. Instead, they can scramble along to one of the city's climbing and bouldering gyms, such as Kletterfabrik Köln (www.kletterfabrik-koeln.de). And if you visit the high rope course by Fühlinger See, you can even enjoy the great outdoors while you climb.
www.blackfoot-cologne.de/hochseilgarten

L

LACROSSE: At first glance, this sport with Native American origins looks like a clash between bellicose butterfly collectors. But lacrosse players, decked out in helmets and shoulder pads, use their nets to fling a hard rubber ball into their opponent's goal. If you'd like to witness the sport for yourself,

pop along to see the Cologne Indians, who have both a men's and women's team. Alternatively, you can sign up for a beginners' training course.
www.cologne-indians.de

M

MOTORWORLD: The new Motorworld Köln-Rheinland opens in late 2017 on the Butzweilerhof, a former airfield. The site will present exhibitions of vintage vehicles and host premium brands like Lamborghini. It will also house the private collection of Formula 1 legend Michael Schumacher, including go-karts from his early days and trophies garnered during his career.
www.motorworld.de

N

NEWCOMERS: At children's sports festival Kölner Kindersportfest on July 1, 2017, youngsters can try out new sports like gymnastics, capoeira, and volleyball. In such a fun and diverse environment, kids are sure to find a sport they'd like to get to know better.
www.koelner-kindersportfest.de



OUTDOORS: Sports are so much more fun when they're played out in the open. So it's great news that more outdoor activities are coming to Cologne. The Friedenspark in the south of the city, for example, offers slacklining, a fun sport that helps improve balance and core strength. Those who like the idea of balancing on water instead can take a stand-up paddleboard beginners' course on the Fühlinger See.
www.supstationkoeln.de

P

PAIN: Bootcamps are all about training hard in groups and pushing through the pain barrier. Equipped with apparatuses like mats, ropes, and medicine balls, participants gather in outdoor spaces, such as in the green belt, where they allow an unflinching trainer to really put them through their paces.
www.bootcampkoeln.de

Q

QUEEN'S FAVORITE: Horse-riding is said to be the favorite sport of the Queen of England. Numerous riding schools provide beginners' lessons, showjumping courses, and even equestrian vaulting. The Kreisverband der Pferdesportvereine brings together almost 30 horse clubs and will help you find a good match (www.pferdesport-koeln.de). The race course in Weidenpesch attracts hundreds of spectators each season.
www.koeln-galopp.de



REGATTA: Rowers of varying skill levels – from children to Olympic athletes – train on a 2.3 km stretch of the Fühlinger See called the Regattabahn. From August 23 to 27, 2017, the German canoe race championships will take place here.
www.koelner-regatta-verband.de

S

SKATE PARKS: Cologne is the best place in Germany for skaters – primarily because of its large number of professional skate parks. Throughout the city, skaters can hone their skills on ramps, rails, and curbs in various facilities such as the new skate park by the Lentpark, the Klingelpütz leisure amenity in the Old Town, and the Rheinpark alongside the river.

T

TRIATHLON: Impressive all-around athletes will be meeting for the Cologne Triathlon Weekend from September 1 to 3. In the grand final, the intrepid competitors must swim 3.8 km, cycle 180 km, and run 42.2 km (www.koelntriathlon.de). If three disciplines sound too ambitious, you can always opt for the Cologne Swim & Run on June 4 instead.
www.swim-and-run-cologne.de

U

UNIVERSITY: The German Sport University Cologne is Germany's only university dedicated to sport and the education of sports instructors, managers, and trainers. It has an extremely tough admissions exam,

and anyone who graduates has truly proven they have what it takes.
www.dsbs-koeln.de

V

VOLLEYBALL: In Cologne, you can practice your dumps, bumps, and spikes with a variety of volleyball clubs and groups – on hard floors or on sand, indoors or outdoors. In the summer, players can choose from among nine different beach volleyball courts.
www.playa.de

W

WATER POLO: It may look like just splashing around, but water polo is actually one of the world's toughest team sports. Keeping yourself above water takes lots of effort, and the players pound the ball with all their might. In Cologne, this spectacular sport is played by clubs such as SV Rhenania.
www.rhenania-koeln.de

X

X: In many sports, X often stands for "cross." Cologne's CrossFit gyms offer members a mix of strength training, interval training, and movement.
www.crossfitcologne.com

Y

YOGA: Cologne's various yoga studios offer a wide range of yoga styles such as Bikram, Yin, and Jivamukti. This spring, yoga teachers from across the world will meet at Yoga Conference Germany, held in downtown Cologne from May 25 to 28.
www.yogaconference.de



ZIPPING ABOUT BY BIKE: With its "bike and ride" stations, cycle lanes, and express lanes soon to come, Cologne is doing all it can to help cyclists keep moving smoothly. It also promotes cycling as a sport. The Rund um Köln is a classic cycling race that comes to the city this year from June 10 to 11 (www.rund-umkoeln.de). Halle59 in the district of Kalk also houses a mountain-biking course and a BMX park.
halle59.abenteuerhallenkalk.de

A FROSTY SPRING

Get ready for an event that's most definitely cooler than cool: This year, Cologne and Paris will host the Ice Hockey World Championships from May 5 to 21. Here's everything you need to know.

THE TOURNAMENT

Sixteen teams fight for the championship title. For the preliminary rounds, the teams are divided into two groups of eight, and the top four from each group proceed to a knockout playoff round. This year, Germany is in Group A with top-class teams like the US, Sweden, and Russia. Group B, whose games take place in Paris, includes hot favorites Canada, Finland, and the Czech Republic. The good news for German hockey fans is that all Group A games, the semi-finals, and the final will be staged in Cologne's LANXESS arena. www.iihf.com



Ready to slice some ice: the German national hockey team.

THE VENUE

The LANXESS arena in Cologne's Deutz district is one of the largest multi-purpose venues in Germany. It's renowned for the special atmosphere that prevails at the concerts, shows, and sporting events it hosts. From September to April, it's the home ground of Deutsche Eishockey Liga (DEL) team Kölner Haie. Their bouts against local rivals DEG from Düsseldorf are particularly notorious. The organizers are expecting all 18,500 seats to be filled for the Ice Hockey World Championship opening game between Germany and the US on May 5.

THE GERMAN TEAM

Seven years ago – the last time the championships were hosted in Germany – the German team just missed out on third place. Five years later, the team didn't even make it out of the preliminary round, only coming in tenth overall. Now, they're pinning their hopes on new coach Marco Sturm, who played in the North American National Hockey League until 2012. With his help, perhaps this strong team, which includes star players such as Kölner Haie defender Christian Ehrhoff, will finally taste victory on home soil.

THE FANS

"We are all ice hockey fans." Sometimes during DEL games, the fans of both teams start singing this song together. Despite their rivalry, both sides feel connected by their shared love for the sport. During the World Championships, they come together in one big camp to express unconditional support for the German team. On a good day, this positive energy can bring the team victory. Tickets for individual games or a set of games can be purchased at www.koelntourismus.de.

THE INNOVATION

Starting this season, the hockey rink in the LANXESS arena is surrounded by ready-to-flex boards that protect players from injury while giving spectators a better view. The fences, a North American design, are 15 centimeters lower than normal. This apparently makes it almost 30 percent less likely that players will suffer a concussion when slamming into the boards: The new height also lets fans see more of the action on the ice. The fence can be completely dismantled in just five hours – handy if the arena is going to be hosting a concert afterwards.



CONTEST

"The people of Cologne share a secret" says Carolin Kebekus in our interview on page 6. But to find out what that secret is, you have to come to Cologne. Tourism office KölnTourismus is giving away a two-night stay for two people in the heritage-protected Steigenberger Hotel Köln along with two KölnCard travel and discount cards (dates according to availability). After a good night's sleep and a big breakfast, you can set off to explore Cologne. To win, all you need is a little luck and the correct answer to the following question, submitted on www.cologne-tourism.com/win-a-trip by April 30, 2017: What is the name of the mascot of soccer team 1. FC Köln? Members of staff at participating companies may not enter. All decisions are final, and there is no cash alternative.



ROCKIN' FOOD, ROOKIE COOKS

Vincent Schmidt and Till Riekenbrauk have opened Germany's first fixed pop-up restaurant in Cologne. At their restaurant "Laden ein," the head chef and entire kitchen team changes every two weeks. It was high time we had a look at what's cooking.



Far left: The founders of Laden ein, Vincent Schmidt and Till Riekenbrauk, also initiated a street food festival. Top: The dining area features a living green wall. Left: One of the many cooking teams in action.

want to take the step of opening their own restaurant. "Because of high investments and complex requirements – often combined with huge payments to previous tenants – new restaurant projects are often doomed to failure. We aim to remove those hurdles for our teams by minimizing the financial risk."

The two Cologne-based entrepreneurs don't just provide their teams with restaurant space and a professional kitchen; Laden ein also contains all the necessary hardware, such as knives, appliances, and special utensils. Riekenbrauk and Schmidt also take care of the official requirements, rent, and insurance. Organizing the insurance was a particular challenge, given the novel nature of their new venture: "You try telling an insurance company there's going to be an entirely new team in charge every two weeks! But we were able to win them over in the end. Our landlord, too. He supports us and our project without reservation," says Schmidt.

The fee paid by the teams at the end of their stint is dependent on their turnover. This approach has worked very well both for the operators and the teams.

When selecting their temporary hosts, Riekenbrauk and Schmidt can pick from a pool of chefs who participate in their street food

Having a good idea is, in fact, only part of a successful business strategy. Systematically developing that idea into something new and exciting is a whole different challenge. That's precisely what Till Riekenbrauk and Vincent Schmidt have achieved. The two "gastro-pioneers" created the first fixed pop-up restaurant in Germany. Laden ein, which opened in the Agnes quarter in 2015, has a continually changing team of cooks.

"We've filled a niche in the market, offering passionate although not necessarily professionally trained chefs an opportunity to try out their skills and recipes on paying guests," explains Riekenbrauk. Each head chef and his or her crew get to feed guests over the course of 14 days. After that, they can decide if they

festival, founded in 2014. "We've known most of the cooks here on Blumenthalstrasse for years. But we do provide them with a professional chef who can jump in if necessary and take over," explains Schmidt.

What demands are placed on these guest chefs? What culinary criteria must they fulfill? "For us, what matters is real hands-on skills and transparency. For example, chefs should be making stock from scratch. After all, we have an open kitchen and, if they want to, diners can observe precisely what's going on," says Riekenbrauk.

"For us, what matters is real hands-on skills and transparency. We have an open kitchen, and diners can observe precisely what's going on."

The inspiration for Laden ein came from the makeshift kitchens of Asia, where the concept of "street food" has its origins. However, the chefs by no means limit themselves to Asian cuisine; instead they conjure up delights inspired by culinary traditions across the globe. So far the range has included Japanese and Sri Lankan cuisine, South American and African specialties, seafood from Alaska, and typical US fast food such as burgers and spare ribs.

Everything served up here is high quality and made from fresh, carefully selected ingredients. The operators do not permit the use of any intensively farmed meat or convenience products, and the beverages on offer include choice wines and craft beer. Meals and drinks are all ordered via self-service.

The ambience is pure and simple, relaxed and authentic. The pale wooden tables, harmonious lighting, and an aesthetically pleasing vertical garden create a hip cafeteria atmosphere where diners are encouraged to interact and where bankers sit sociably alongside students. "We now have lots of regulars. Thanks to our constantly changing menu, there's always something new to discover," says Schmidt. His partner Riekenbrauk adds: "If you consider that we set up shop in a purely residential area – no parking lots, very few passers-by – then what we've achieved here is remarkable." It's a statement suggesting that however good a concept is, a dash of good luck is also needed. Schmidt and Riekenbrauk now hope to try out their recipe for success in the state capital Düsseldorf by opening up a second branch of Laden ein there.

*Laden ein, Blumenthalstr. 66, Mon.-Sat. 12 noon-10 p.m.
www.laden-ein.com*

MEET THE NEIGHBORS

The "crane houses," Kolumba museum, KölnTurm, and Weltstadthaus are all prominent Cologne landmarks. But what's it like living and working next to such famous structures? We had a chat with the neighbors

INTERVIEW: YORCA SCHMIDT-JUNKER



ARCHITECT MICHAEL ZIMMERMANN'S OFFICE IS NEXT DOOR TO THE "CRANE HOUSES"

"For me, the 'crane houses' (Kranhäuser) are not just aesthetically pleasing examples of successful, proactive urban design, they also move me personally. Their architect Hadi Teherani is a close friend of mine from my university days, and years later, we both happened to play a decisive role in shaping the appearance of the Rheinauhafen harbor. I designed the KAP am Südkai in the south, while he designed the 'crane houses' in the north. When I sit at my desk in the old Hafenamts building on sunny days and the 'crane house' next door reflects the light into my office, it feels somehow sublime. As does my view over the old harbor basin looking toward the Cathedral, with the 'crane houses' forming an impressive ensemble between them – you might even say they're keeping a high profile. These buildings finally set a new benchmark for urban planning in Cologne; they represent a departure. In this way, they've laid the intellectual foundations for other exciting projects. We're now able – and allowed – to think big and build big in this city once more. And that's good news for everyone, not just architects."

Michael Zimmermann is an architect and project developer. As well as designing several buildings in Cologne, he worked on an exhibition building at the Bergen-Belsen Memorial and on the National Library of China in Beijing.

PROPERTY "Crane houses" (Kranhäuser), completed in 2010
FUNCTION Two office buildings (Kranhaus Süd and Kranhaus 1) and one residential building (Kranhaus Nord)
ARCHITECTS BRT (Bothe, Richter, Teherani), Hamburg; and Linster Architekten, Aachen

BARIS AKSU MANAGES
A CAFÉ NEXT TO THE
KOLUMBA ART MUSEUM

"While the Kolumba was being built, its architect, Peter Zumthor, became a regular at our coffee bar, which was still in the Disch building opposite at the time. We got to know each other, and from him I learned that commercial space was available to rent right next door to the Kolumba. We were quickly taken on as tenants, not least because he put in a good word for us. At first, it was hell: There was so much noise and dust, and it was difficult to get here because of scaffolding, barriers, and construction vehicles. Back then, the business owners in the neighborhood had a tremendous amount of antagonism toward the building, and even once it was completed, they all had this very negative attitude. I was skeptical at first, too; the building was so bulky and boxy. But the ever-increasing number of visitors, many of whom also came to our café, made me realize that the Kolumba really is something special. The first time I went inside, I was deeply impressed and gradually started to understand the building and what it was trying to communicate. Today I can say that the Kolumba was a stroke of luck for me. We are now something of an unofficial museum café, and we live in harmony with our neighbor."

Baris Aksu runs the Espresso Perfetto chain of coffee shops, based in Cologne. As well as the café next to the Kolumba, there are branches in Düsseldorf, The Hague, Istanbul, and Cairo.



PROPERTY Kolumba, completed in 2007
FUNCTION Art museum of the Archdiocese of Cologne
ARCHITECT Peter Zumthor, Switzerland

Photos: p. 16: Christopher Clem Franken/VISUM; p. 18: Burg + Schuh/Palladium/laif; p. 19: Heiko Specht/laif, © Raimond Spekking/CC BY-SA 4.0 (via Wikimedia Commons)

GABY MANTSCHIEFF AND
BRITTA BARTHELMESS OWN THE
STANTON CAFÉ NEXT TO THE
WELTSTADTHAUS

"When our café moved onto the Schildergasse in 2003, the Weltstadthaus was supposed to have been finished already. But because of a problem with the structural engineering, this prestigious project had been abandoned – which presented difficulties for our business. Potential customers didn't even know we were there: Passers-by couldn't see us because of the huge site fence, and there was no direct access. It wasn't until the building contractor built a temporary bridge over to the café and we decorated it that December with illuminated Christmas trees that people started noticing us. Clothing chain Peek & Cloppenburg moved into the building in 2005, and then we were able to build up a clientele. These days, we're happy to have a view of the Weltstadthaus. We appreciate its curved, organic shape, the glass frontage, the opulent lighting, and our friendly relations with P&C."

Gaby Mantscheff, Britta Barthelmeß, and Achim Mantscheff are partners in Grano de oro GmbH, which owns the eateries Stanton, Bauturm, Ludwig im Museum, and Café Central.



PROPERTY Weltstadthaus, completed in 2005
FUNCTION Department store operated by clothing chain Peek & Cloppenburg
ARCHITECT Renzo Piano, Genoa



PROPERTY KölnTurm, completed in 2001
FUNCTION Office building
ARCHITECTS Christian Kohl, Essen; and Jean Nouvel, Paris

DENTIST CYRUS ALAMOUTI
HAS HIS OFFICE IN THE
KÖLNTURM

"For me, the KölnTurm is much more than just a landmark, it's a symbol of this neighborhood. It's the confident center point of the MediaPark, which forms a microcosm of its own with its business headquarters, doctors' offices, restaurants, and coffee bars. The shimmering, reflective façade with the stylized screen printing of the Cathedral is, I believe, a very nicely conceived and realized piece of skyscraper design – particularly at night, when the dynamic light installation by artist Heinz Mack shows itself off to full advantage. Thanks also to the international companies that have offices in the building, the KölnTurm represents cosmopolitan flair – a boon to our dental office, since many of the people who work in the tower are our patients. I'm particularly fond of the restaurant Osman30 on the 30th floor – especially for the views it offers over Cologne and the surrounding area. When I look down over our office and the neighboring recording studio, where I regularly do some record producing on the side, I sometimes feel that the KölnTurm is watching over the MediaPark and my own life."

Cyrus Alamouti is a dentist and a partner in the dental office Alamouti & Melchior in the MediaPark. He is also a musician and music producer responsible for the Chill Out Cologne compilation albums, among other things.

STANDING THE TEST OF TIME

Superior quality, a curated selection, and decades or even centuries of experience – Cologne has a wide range of respected and popular traditional stores.



THE FINEST FELT

Filz Gnoss, since 1925

The handicraft boom in recent years has made felt a sought-after material once more. For almost a century now, Filz Gnoss in Cologne's old town has offered more than 200 different types of felt in a range of fantastic colors. Those who are less into making things themselves can still pay the store a visit to browse for items like slippers, cushions, phone cases – and even a model of the Cologne Cathedral – made from felt.

www.filz-gnoss.de

BEAUTY SLEEP

Betten-Sauer, since 1823

Since we spend so much of our lives in bed, we should make sure our time spent there is as pleasant as possible. In Cologne, Germany's oldest bed specialist provides high-quality mattresses, bed frames, bed sheets, and pillows to people from the city and beyond. There's also a ten-year guarantee on the company's bed frames. It seems sweet dreams are guaranteed!

www.betten-sauer.de

THE SCENT OF A CITY



Farina, since 1709

In the early days, Johann Maria Farina and his brother primarily sold luxury articles like silver buttons, wigs, and silk stockings – which they referred to collectively as "French stuff." But the Italian brothers also had a very special recipe in their luggage when they came to Cologne in around 1700. With it, they made a high-quality perfume they called *Eau de Cologne*. The Farinas welcomed such high-ranking customers as Empress Elisabeth and the great German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. To this day, the sophisticated blend of citrus, bergamot, jasmine, and violet remains a hugely popular scent.

www.farina1709.com

MUSIC OF THE HEART

Musikhaus Tonger, since 1822

Musicians in Cologne were able to buy their instruments from Augustin Josef Tonger's antiques shop as long ago as July 1822, and to this day, the store offers an impressive range of instruments both old and new. It also sells musical scores, with a choice of over 15,000 pieces available for download from its website. Tonger also believes in educating future generations of musicians. Its staff works on music projects with schoolchildren, and the specially founded society Tonmeister gives refugee children access to music education.

www.musik-tonger.de



LIFE IS SWEET

Honig Müngersdorff, since 1847

This specialist honey store's company logo features the Cologne Cathedral – and well it might: The Müngersdorff family settled in the city on the Rhine as long ago as 1600. In 1847, the family started selling honey. Today, the store stocks over 35 varieties as well as honey-based products like mead and candies. Beekeepers can also find everything they need to keep their bees happy and producing lots of lovely honey.

www.honig-muengersdorff.de



BURNING RUBBER

Gummi-Grün, since 1884

"Gib Gummi!" (which roughly translates to "let's burn rubber!") has been the slogan of rubber company Gummi-Grün for over 130 years. This is the place where professional tradespeople and hobby home improvers can get all things rubber, such as seals, foam rubber, and O-rings. For everyone else, there are rubber boots, garden hoses, and watering cans.

www.gummi-gruen.de



SAY CHEESE!

Käsehaus Wingenfeld, since 1896

Cologne's oldest cheese specialty store demonstrates how traditional produce and modern ideas can be cleverly combined. Wingenfeld recently developed an app that informs cheese fans about 300 different varieties, with information such as whether they're made from raw or pasteurized milk. The store and online shop sell specialties like handmade goat's cheese and the medium mature Noord-Hollandse Gouda, which is a crucial ingredient in the traditional Rhenish sandwich "Halve Hahn."

www.kaesehaus-wingenfeld.de



A PLACE TO VISIT

Below: These 19th century three-window-wide buildings on Körnerstrasse are typical for the Ehrenfeld quarter. Right: Ehrenfeld's famous landmark, the Helios lighthouse. Bottom right: Ice cream parlor Eisfeld on Hansemannstrasse. Opposite page: Street art on the rear wall of legendary night club Underground.



The former industrial quarter of Ehrenfeld is increasingly popular with young families and creatives.

*** IN COLOGNE'S REGIONAL DIALECT, A "VEEDEL" IS A CITY QUARTER OR NEIGHBORHOOD.**



Text: Christina Waechter. Photos: Thekla Ehling

One rarely falls in love with Ehrenfeld at first glance. And yet, there are sights worth seeing hidden around almost every corner. Jesse von Laufenberg has made these the focus of his guided tour. He shows visitors around Ehrenfeld as part of KölnTourismus's #urbanCGN campaign, concentrating in particular on street art, urban life, and creativity. The tour begins on the quarter's main street, Venloer Strasse, which is lined with discount stores, small bakery/café and supermarkets. It's also home to the Barthonia Forum with its distinctive turquoise tiles, a former 4711 perfume factory that's been converted into residences and offices, and the magnificent DITIB mosque, which will be Germany's biggest Islamic house of prayer when it opens in 2017.

Von Laufenberg quickly turns off the main thoroughfare onto one of the many side streets. It soon becomes clear why the young tour guide is so passionate about the neighborhood he calls home. Away from Venloer Strasse, visitors can stroll down small byways, suddenly finding themselves in sprawling community gardens or in front of an impressive piece of street art – a particular specialty of Ehrenfeld.

The fact that Ehrenfeld's charm is not immediately obvious may be what has saved it from gentrification – a typical fate for many other districts. Although Ehrenfeld is experiencing growing popularity among artists and young families, older and more established inhabitants have not been forced out. Ehrenfeld has a healthy urban mix. Here, immigrants from Turkey, Portugal, and many other countries live side by side with German natives and artistic types.

The district has almost 37,000 inhabitants, and they seem to share an attitude unusual in such a modern city. Non-commercial neighborhood initiatives that have a beneficial influence on quality of life thrive in Ehrenfeld. On many of the side streets, residents organize street parties in the summer, and Körnerstrasse has a notice board where inhabitants can seek and offer items, services, and advice. All of this creates the sort of community feeling that's normally found in smaller villages.

Despite a more rural sense of community, Ehrenfeld has been very much shaped by its

industrial past. In the mid-19th century, for example, it emerged as a center of the metal processing and chemicals industries, with factories springing up all over the district. The most prominent memorial to those days is the 30-meter-high Helios lighthouse, which continues to shine its lamp every night, making it visible far beyond the city limits. Starting around the turn of the century, the tower was used for test and research purposes by electrical engineering company Helios until its liquidation in 1930. In addition to industrial buildings, houses



three windows wide are typical for Ehrenfeld. These were particularly popular in the 19th century, because buildings less than 20 feet across could be built tax-free. The buildings usually housed a workshop on the ground floor while the craftsman, his family, and their employees lived in the stories above.

Today, many young designers and retailers live and work in those buildings; they're the ones shaping Ehrenfeld's new image. Their creative output includes industrial design, art, and fashion. Sabine Berndt is one such entrepreneur. Though she's now lived in Ehrenfeld for 20 years, she first came here out of love – for a house. She and her husband spontaneously decided to buy the house – which had yet to be renovated – in Rothehausstrasse. At that

time, most of their friends thought they were crazy to move to Ehrenfeld. The district was regarded as very rough and tumble. "Every time there was a punch-up outside our windows at night, my husband and I did wonder if we should have moved to the much more decorous Belgian quarter instead." But the couple stuck it out, and for eleven years Berndt has been successfully running her own fashion label, rock-it-baby, which originally specialized in skirts (the German word for "skirt" is "Rock"). She had the idea for the label because she liked to wear skirts, but often had trouble finding the right fit. Berndt has observed the changes taking place in her neighborhood over the past decade. It's still a vibrant, colorful place, but some of small-time casinos and scruffy bars are being replaced by boutiques, artisan workshops, and cafés. Ehrenfeld even has its own brewery now. The Braustelle in Christianstrasse is Cologne's smallest brewery – and probably the only one in the world that brews its beer using the wild yeast growing in Cologne's green belt.

Jesse von Laufenberg's tour ends on the corner of Venloer Strasse and the Ring at Kebapland, a kebab shop – of which there are many in Ehrenfeld. The snack bar opposite the police station is one of Cologne's most popular kebab shops, and thanks to its famous fan, comedian Jan Böhmermann, it's known throughout Germany. One particularly noticeable thing about Kebapland is its high chimney. Von Laufenberg tells us that the owners had it built at their own expense after the chief of police complained that his staff was suffering from hunger pangs by 11 a.m. because of the tantalizing smell. The chimney solution – so simple, so endearing – fits in perfectly with what Ehrenfeld is all about.

As part of the campaign #urbanCGN Ehrenfeld: Street Art & Street Life, KölnTourismus offers tours of Ehrenfeld lasting around 1.5 hours. For more information, visit www.koeln-tourismus.de. Fascinating information about Cologne's urban life can be found on the blog www.visit.koeln.

A FLOURISHING VEEDEL*

GAME ON

Turtle Entertainment firmly believes that video games are a sport – an "e-sport." The Cologne-based company hosts mass global gaming competitions, both online and on stage.

In small offices with stained blue flooring and tattered wallpaper, 170 staff members in hoodies sit shoulder to shoulder. At first sight, you'd never guess Turtle Entertainment is a major player in a growing business segment. The Cologne-based company organizes e-sport competitions, video game contests that garner €460 million in revenue around the world each year. Turtle Entertainment employs 560 people in twelve different countries, twice as many as just two years ago. In 2017, it aims to earn at least €100 million. The company's founder and manager, Ralf Reichert (42), explains this breathtaking success story in a single, simple sentence: "We don't grow with the market, we're the ones making it grow."

This has been true of Turtle Entertainment ever since it was founded back in 2000. Reichert was already a big gaming fan himself and one of the first to regard video games as a sport. He knew that gamers like comparing themselves to other gamers and that their clashes could attract large crowds of spectators if only they were properly organized. "And that's precisely what we do," says Reichert. "We aim to create an entire world around the sport of gaming, like the kind that already exists for professional soccer."

With his brand ESL (Electronic Sports League), Reichert has created a system of leagues for different games and different levels of play, from amateur to professional – with the latter competing for the title of world champion. The competitions take place online, but Reichert also broadcasts important bouts via video streaming on the ESL site and the company's own online channel. In the mid-2000s, the company even took over a small TV channel for its broadcasts.

Since 2010, marketing opportunities in the sector have grown. Online streaming sites like Twitch show nothing but video gaming competitions. Computer games have become a mass phenomenon. And Turtle Entertainment knew exactly how to take advantage of those developments.

The company went from being a purely online operator of league competitions to actually organizing and promoting real-world contests. Since 2010, it has founded offices abroad whose activities include organizing national championships. The really big competitions take place in large stadiums and other venues across four continents. The events attract huge crowds, and Turtle Entertainment sets up gigantic stages and screens where it displays



Huge stages, huge screens: Turtle Entertainment hosts massive video gaming events in stadiums and other large venues – for example, Cologne's LANXESS arena.

footage of the standard found at major soccer and basketball games. Turtle streams those images – to great success. In July 2016, for instance, its broadcast of the "Counter Strike: Global Offensive" world championship from Cologne's LANXESS arena was viewed by more than 21 million people worldwide, while the arena itself welcomed 14,000 visitors each day.

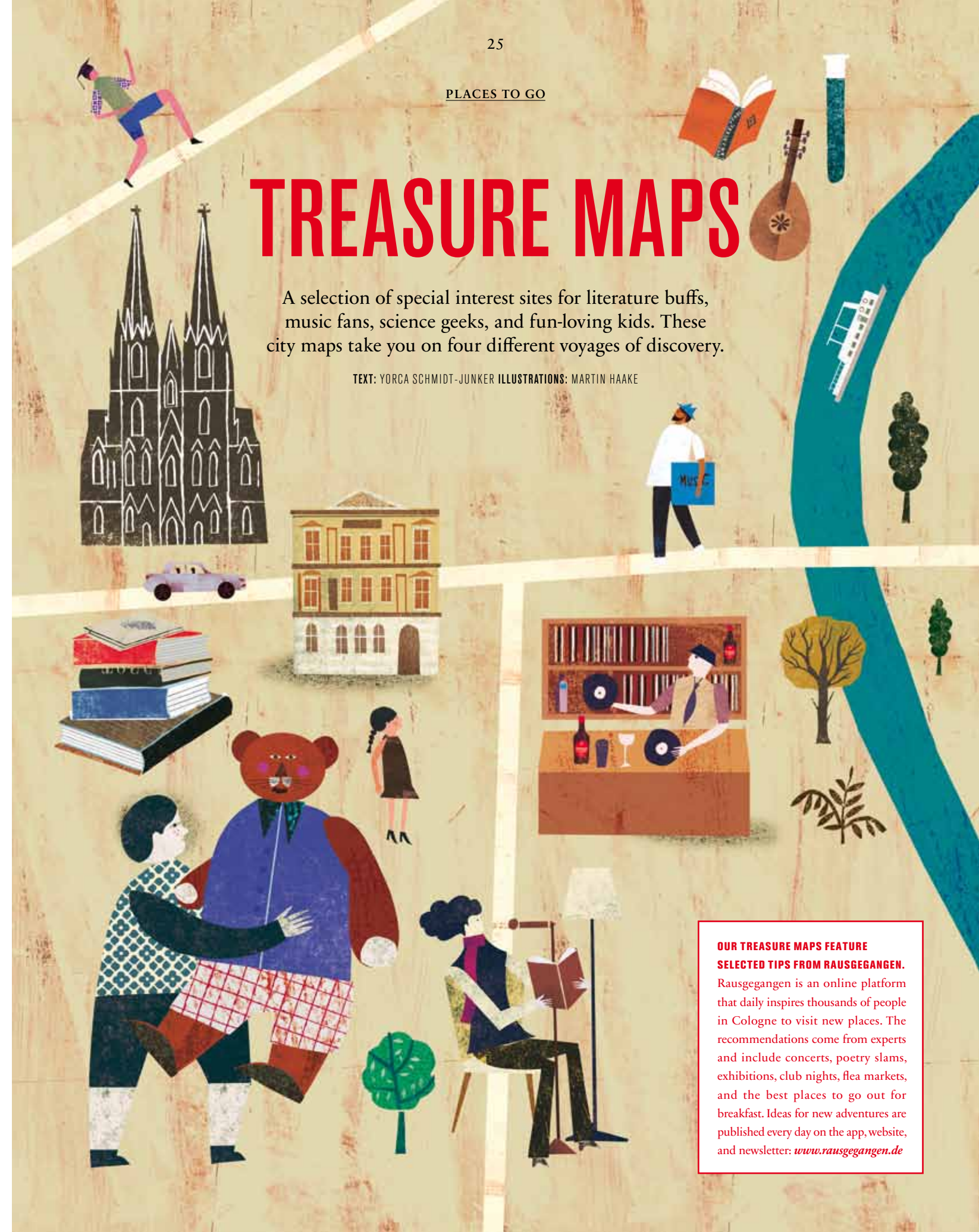
Turtle Entertainment keeps taking its business model of hosting live events and streaming them from one level to the next. The company earns money by selling event tickets and especially from transmission rights and sponsoring – which is attaining a whole new dimension as reach increases. For Ralf Reichert, it's a reward for the struggle of those early years. And he's looking to the future with optimism. He would like to see e-sport appear on mainstream television. Turtle Entertainment is working on creating the right format with its own round-the-clock channel in Scandinavia, and negotiations are underway with established broadcasters. Reichert knows it will take some time before the idea is up and running, but he has plenty of patience – after all, turtles are best known for their slow and steady approach to achieving their goals.

Text: Christian Sywottek. Photo: ESL/Helena Kristiansson

TREASURE MAPS

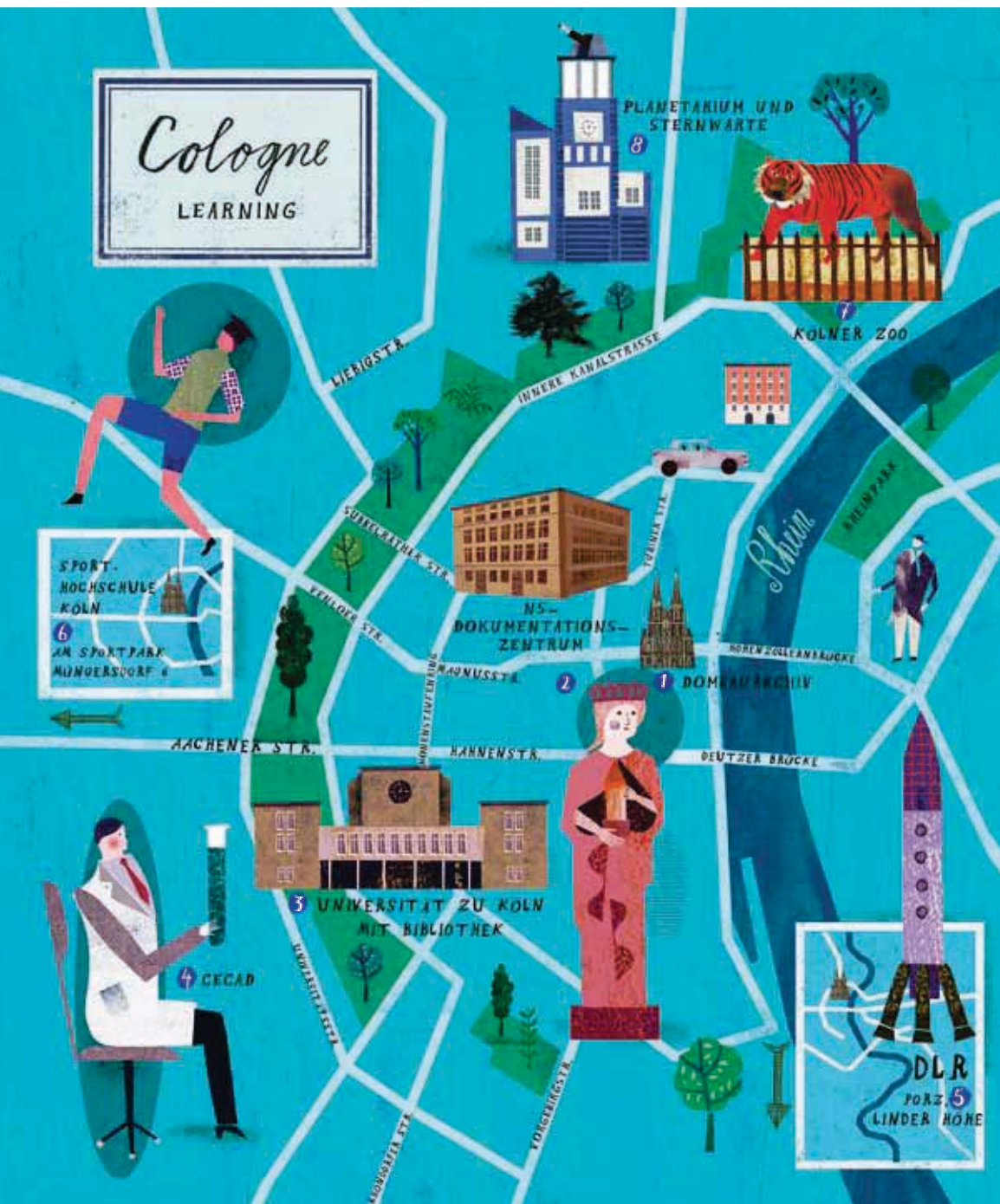
A selection of special interest sites for literature buffs, music fans, science geeks, and fun-loving kids. These city maps take you on four different voyages of discovery.

TEXT: YORCA SCHMIDT-JUNKER ILLUSTRATIONS: MARTIN HAAKE



OUR TREASURE MAPS FEATURE SELECTED TIPS FROM RAUSGEANGEN.

Rausgegangen is an online platform that daily inspires thousands of people in Cologne to visit new places. The recommendations come from experts and include concerts, poetry slams, exhibitions, club nights, flea markets, and the best places to go out for breakfast. Ideas for new adventures are published every day on the app, website, and newsletter: www.rausgegangen.de



For those with a thirst for knowledge and an appetite for science.

Ensuring the proper conservation of the Cologne Cathedral requires constant scrutiny of the huge structure. **THE DOMBAUARCHIV 1** contains 20,000 sketches and floor plans dating from the Middle Ages all the way to today.

Roncalliplatz 2, www.dombau-koeln.de, advance booking required

Once a Gestapo base, the **NS-DOKUMENTATION CENTER 2** now houses a memorial to the victims of National Socialism and conducts research into Cologne's Nazi past. The collection of documents is outstanding, and a visit to the building's former prison is both

informative and shocking. *Appellhofplatz 23-25, www.museenkoeln.de/ns-dokumentationszentrum*

Founded by citizens in 1388, the **UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE 3** is one of Europe's oldest universities. It has 50,000 registered students, is conducting 4,000 research projects, and has been part of the German government's Excellence

Initiative since 2012. Don't miss out on a visit to the impressive university library, which stocks more than four million different media. *Albertus-Magnus-Platz, www.uni-koeln.de*

The **CECAD CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE 4** is contributing to the treatment of illnesses such as cancer and diabetes by exploring ageing processes. At CECAD, over 400 international scientists are working on innovative concepts for the future of healthcare and attempting to mitigate the idea that ageing is something negative. *Joseph-Stelzmann-Str. 26, cecad.unikoeln.de, advance booking required*

The DLR's 55-hectare site houses large experimental devices, Europe's most advanced wind tunnel, a high-flux solar furnace, and the European Space Agency's European Astronaut Centre. It's the place to learn everything you ever wanted to know about aeronautics, space flight, transportation, energy, and security. The **DLR SCHOOL LAB 5** even allows young people to conduct their own experiments. *Linder Höhe, www.dlr.de, advance booking required*

The **GERMAN SPORT UNIVERSITY COLOGNE 6** is Germany's only university dedicated to sport. It has attained international renown as a research institute, primarily for its work on doping analysis, and for its Olympic Studies Centre. *Am Sportpark Müngersdorf 6, www.dsbs-koeln.de, advance booking required*

The **KÖLNER ZOO 7** is home to more than 10,000 animals including monitor lizards and Siberian tigers. The zoo also conducts research. As well as running breeding programs on site, the experts here participate in international conservation projects such as the fight against poaching in Zambia and the efforts to save Przewalski's horses from extinction. *Riehler Str. 173, www.koelnerzoo.de*

RAUSGEGANGEN TIP

The **PLANETARIUM AND OBSERVATORY 8** in the Leonardo da Vinci school were built in the 1960s and have been continually updated with state-of-the-art equipment. They offer fascinating insights into the stars and planets. Visitors can watch the skies and take photographs through a 16-inch reflecting telescope in the dome on the roof, while the planetarium in the basement provides additional information about celestial phenomena. *Blücherstr. 15-17, www.koelner-planetarium.de, advance booking required*



Places for literary illumination – our tips for bookworms.

Nobel Prize-winning author **HEINRICH BÖLL 1** was born 100 years ago in a Wilhelmine corner house by the Römerpark. The beloved author of many books is honored with a picture printed on the door to the building that features a dedication by Böll's close friend Lev Kopelev: "Der gute Mensch von Köln" (the good man of Cologne). *Teutoburger Str. 26*

The **LITERATURHAUS 2** was founded in 1996 as a citizens' initiative and has welcomed some of the greatest writers of our time, including Orhan Pamuk, Herta Müller, and Umberto Eco. As well as readings and panel discussions, the Literaturhaus offers workshops for children and youth. In 2017, Feridun

Zaimoglu and Meir Shalev are among the authors scheduled to pay a visit. *Großer Griechenmarkt 39, www.literaturhaus-koeln.de*

BUCHHANDLUNG KLAUS BITTNER 3 is a recipient of the Deutscher Buchhandlungspreis (German book store prize). Keen readers can put their faith in Mr. Bittner and his team of literature experts, who organize visionary programs of events including readings and concerts. *Albertusstr. 6, www.bittner-buch.de*

Since 1980, the world's most successful art book publishing company has been based in a magnificent townhouse on the Hohenzollernring. **TASCHEN VERLAG 4** has book stores throughout the world, including in Beverly Hills, New York, and Paris. The Cologne branch is diagonally opposite the company headquarters. *Taschen*

GmbH, Hohenzollernring 53, www.taschen.com, Taschen Store, Hohenzollernring 28

Fans of antique books will love **SIEGFRIED UNVERZAGT 5**. Here, they can unearth valuable first editions, dedicated copies, and almanacs from days gone by. The treasures tucked away here range from classical literature to natural sciences, from philosophy to bound volumes of letters. *Limburger Str. 10, unverzagt.com*

Named "library of the year" in 2015, Cologne's **ZENTRALBIBLIOTHEK 6** is one of the biggest libraries in Germany. It stocks more than 800,000 media and also offers language courses, promotes reading, and hosts events. Its special "Literatur in Köln" department focuses on major post-war authors from Cologne. *Josef-Haubrich-Hof 1, www.stadt-koeln.de/leben-in-koeln/stadtbibliothek*

Katrin Bauerfeind, Benjamin von Stuckrad-Barre, David Safier, and Serdar Somuncu have all performed at **1LIVE KLUBBING 7**, giving 60-minute readings in front of a live audience. The event takes place regularly on Sunday afternoons and is broadcast on 1Live radio in the evenings, interspersed with DJ sets. *Mörsergasse, www1.wdr.de/radio/1live/on-air/sendungen/1live-clubbing*

RAUSGEGANGEN TIP

The many readings and workshop discussions of the literature club in **THEATER DER WOHNGEMEINSCHAFT 8** are a treat for literature fans. Established authors and new talent from the region present their latest short stories, novels, and contemporary poetry. *Richard-Wagner-Str. 39, literaturklubkoeln.wordpress.com*

Fabulous places of fantasy and fun for children.

At **LINDENTHALER TIERPARK** ①, children can admire goats, highland cattle, Soay sheep, geese, and fallow deer – and even feed and pet some of them. But the stars of this spacious animal park in the middle of Cologne's urban forest are undoubtedly the donkeys, especially Malörchen the jenny (female donkey). Animal sponsorships are available on request. *Kitschburger Str.*, www.lindenthaler-tierpark.de

In an age of anonymous department stores and fast-paced video games, Dieter **VAN DILLEN**'s ② delightful shop is one of the last remaining oases of analog toys and games. The playthings on offer include high-quality wooden toys, original stuffed animals, rare Lego sets,

and mini steam-powered machines. Particularly impressive are the elaborate rocking horses and other animals, some of which are unique hand-made pieces.

Bachemer Str. 156

Can you imagine playing **MINIGOLF** ③ deep in the Amazonian jungle? Thanks to the indoor minigolf range in Ehrenfeld, you can. Ultraviolet lighting and 3D effects paired with ChromaDepth glasses create astonishingly realistic fantasy worlds. Visitors can choose to swing their clubs in an aquarium, an enchanted forest, or a spaceship. *Venloer Str. 383*, www.glowingrooms.com, book online

At 3,800 square meters, the **JUMP HOUSE** ④ is the biggest trampoline park in the whole state. It welcomes visitors with spectacular treats such as a 50-trampoline jumping area, a gladiator-style

"battle box," a 3D dodgeball field, and – the highlight – a Ninja Warrior course with various levels of difficulty. *Köhlstr. 10*, www.jumphouse.de

The best way to get to the **PLAYGROUND IN THE RHEINPARK** ⑤ has to be by **ZIP LINE**. This fabulous playground offers great views of the Rhine and the Cologne skyline, and after swinging in on the zip line and taking in the panorama, you can turn your attention to the slides and treetop adventure course. *Riebler Str. 180*, www.koelner-seilbahn.de, *Rheinpark Spielplatz*, *Auenweg*

The **KINDER- UND JUGENDTHEATER** ⑥ stages adaptations of classic stories like Erich Kästner's *Emil and the Detectives* as well as contemporary pieces for kids. From late March it will be showing the friendship drama *Stadt*,

Land, Baum (city, country, tree), and in April the mystery *Weiß ist keine Farbe* (white is not a color). *Vondelstr. 4-8*, www.comedia-koeln.de

This season, the **KINDEROPER** ⑦ is celebrating its 20th anniversary; it is the oldest children's opera house in Europe. In April it presents *The Tales of Hoffmann* by Jacques Offenbach in a version that's suitable for children. *Rheinparkweg 1*, www.oper.koeln.de/kinderoper

RAUSGEGANGEN TIP

Learning by doing – and playing! In the **ODYSSEUM** ⑧, children and adults alike can embark on expeditions into primeval forests, find out what it's like to be an astronaut, and take part in an archaeological dig. *Corintostr. 1*, www.odysseum.de

Musical excursions for anyone with an excellent ear and a love of good music.

Till Brönner, Annette Humpe, and Olga Scheps are all graduates of the **HOCHSCHULE FÜR MUSIK UND TANZ** ①. Founded in 1845, Europe's largest music university doesn't only teach singing, composing, dancing, and the playing of musical instruments, it also hosts concerts, readings, and award ceremonies. *Unter Krabnenbäumen 87*, www.hfmt-koeln.de

Violinist **ALFREDO CLEMENTE** ② knows all about the value of a top-quality bow. That's why he decided to train as a bow maker alongside his career as a musician. His workshop makes bows with precious Mongolian horse hair, restores antique violins, violas, and cellos, and also manufactures new instruments. *Machabäerstr. 56*, www.geigenbau-erkoeln.de

Cologne-based techno and electronic music label **KOMPAKT** ③ is known to fans all over the world. Its clients include megastars like the Pet Shop Boys and Anthony Kiedis. At the label's premises, electro fans can browse through the selection of vinyl, check out some tunes, and chat with likeminded individuals. *Werderstr. 15-19*, www.kompakt.fm

The **INSTRUMENTENSAMMLUNG DER MUSIKWISSENSCHAFTLICHES INSTITUT** ④ houses Baroque instruments barely known today alongside bizarre modern specimens. The collection includes a clavichord, a harp, a spinet, and several cembali. The fascinating instruments date from 1750 to the present day. *Musikwissenschaftliches Institut, University of Cologne, Albertus-Magnus-Platz*, www.musikwissenschaft.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de, advance booking required

The **KÖLNER PHILHARMONIE** ⑤ stages around 400 concerts each year, welcoming 650,000 visitors. It is one of the most renowned classical music venues in the world. Its amphitheater layout and a staggered wall design that prevents echoes makes for perfect acoustics. Highlights for 2017 include the Eight Bridges festival (April 28-May 7) and guest performances by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (August 8-13). *Bischofsgartenstr. 1*, www.koelner-philharmonie.de

Unpretentious music bar **METRONOM** ⑥ is known far and wide as a place where jazz is venerated and where fans can enjoy an impressive record collection



that brings together more than 80 years of jazz. It's the perfect place to tap your toes to Miles Davis or Charlie Parker while sipping on a draught Guinness. *Weyerstr. 59*, www.metronom.koeln

Legends like David Guetta, Steve Aoki, and Laurent Garnier have all spun the disks at the **BOOTSHAUS** ⑦ at Mülheimer Hafen. With DJs of that caliber, it's not surprising that the club is

often considered one of the best in the world. The club's own DJ team, headed up by Björn Grimm and Max Cherry, do justice to that reputation with exciting house and electro tunes to get your booty on the dance floor. *Auenweg 173*, www.bootshaus.tv

RAUSGEGANGEN TIP

Taken together, the Stadtgarten and

neighboring **STUDIO 672** ⑧ form a popular venue for contemporary jazz, alternative pop and rock, and electronic music. Performers who are scheduled to appear in spring 2017 include singer-songwriter Findlay (March 31), Cologne indie rock trio Emma6 (April 17), and American psychedelic musician Nick Hakim (April 22). *Venloer Str. 40*, www.stadtgarten.de



TV host Katty Salié relaxes in Café Sehnsucht – the perfect place to stop and rest after strolling through the city she loves.

Photo: Thekla Ehling

MY COLOGNE

Katty Salié likes to view Cologne from almost any perspective, whether it's looking out from a train window, sitting at a bar, or walking in a park alongside the highway. The 41-year-old TV host tells us how she fell in love with the city on the Rhine and shares some of her favorite spots.

"When people make comments to me about Cologne being ugly, it falls on deaf ears. I was perfectly happy growing up in Salzgitter – which isn't exactly famed for its splendid buildings. Besides, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. It's about more than just architecture. Maybe Cologne's own particular brand of beauty isn't that obvious, but you can sense it. I think you can find it in the city's diversity. On Venloer Strasse, for example, there's a wonderful mix of cultures. You can go from a German shop to a Turkish one, from an African one to a Russian one. And I think that the people who live and work in Cologne feel connected by this sense of being "Cologners." It might sound sentimental, but in my view, Cologne is the most open and accepting city in Germany. I certainly feel more at home here than anywhere else.

This feeling is actually something I first sensed fairly early on in life. When I was in ninth grade, we took a school trip to Nuremberg and made a brief stop at Cologne Central Station to change trains. I stood in front of the Cologne Cathedral and immediately felt a connection to the city. But it was actually by chance that I moved to Cologne in 2003. I was perfectly happy working for Radio Fritz in Berlin, but then I fell in love with a guy from Cologne, and destiny took its course. I followed him here, and shortly afterwards got a place at Cologne's RTL School of Journalism. The city has had a hold on me ever since.

What I particularly like about Cologne is how older people are very open toward younger people. For example, when I'm sitting at the bar in Haus Scholzen – a legendary restaurant in the district of

Ehrenfeld – it only takes seconds for me to strike up a conversation with one of the regulars. Not far from there is a store called Kitsch deluxe, which sells wonderful furnishings from the Fifties. And because I'm a sucker for nostalgia, I rarely manage to pass by without buying something. The last time I was there, I got a lovely, delicate bowl with gold edging. I always use it if I'm serving anything fancy.

Another place I love to go shopping is the Belgian quarter. You find one great clothing store after another. My favorite shop in the area is Siebter Himmel, a book and design store with a great book collection and stylish furnishings. In general, Cologne is a loud city where people love to party, but there are also places where you can unwind. One such place is Blücherpark. Okay, so being right next to the highway means it's not exactly quiet, but when you're surrounded by greenery, you don't really notice the noise. It's a wonderful place to go in the summertime, when you can join the many families relaxing on the grass.

This year, I'd like to spend some time by the Rhine again. On the Deutz side of the river, they've recently installed a new promenade with lots of steps to sit on. I see it every time I come home to Cologne after working in Berlin and we roll over the Hohenzollern bridge just before the Central Station. When I see the Cathedral on the other side of the river, I feel a bit like I did back then in ninth grade, and I know that this is where I belong."

Interview: David Mayer

Katty Salié hosts the culture program Aspekte on Germany's public TV channel ZDF.



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