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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GINGERBREAD AND GEMÜTLICHKEIT

Plan a Holiday Getaway and Shopping Spree at The Osthoff Resort's "Old World Christmas Market"

ELKHART LAKE, WISCONSIN – *Gemütlichkeit*. The German word that slips lyrically off the tongue accomplishes what no single English word can. Single-handedly, it describes the warmth and mystical spirit of good fellowship that reaches out to embrace a welcome visitor at holiday time.

It is also a commodity that you'll find in good supply at the annual **"Old World Christmas Market"**, **November 30-December 9**, at The Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, just one hour north of Milwaukee. It has *gemütlichkeit* aplenty to satisfy all of the senses.

Now in its tenth year, The Osthoff's **"Old World Christmas Market"** is patterned after Germany's centuries-old *Christkindlesmarkt*, a tradition dating back to 1545. Each year, on the first Sunday of Advent in the picturesque market square in Nuremberg, the holiday season officially gets underway with the opening of that ancient city's outdoor holiday market.

The Osthoff's version of the celebrated *Christkindlesmarkt* attracts close to 100 vendors who, in keeping with European tradition, occupy simple timber booths adorned with boughs of fresh balsam and thousands of sparkling tiny white lights.

“Our annual Old World Christmas Market is very close to the original Market in Nuremberg and has itself become a holiday tradition for many in our area.” says Lola Roeh, The Osthoff’s general manager, “particularly when combined with a holiday season getaway.” The Old World Christmas Market Package, created just for those coming to the event, includes accommodations in a one-bedroom woodland suite for one evening and two tickets to the Market. For reservations or information, call The Osthoff Resort at 800.876.3399.

“With the success of the market and the celebration of its tenth anniversary, it is attracting more original work by European and regional artisans,” says Roeh. “That gives visitors the opportunity of finding one-of-a-kind gift items as they get a head start on their holiday shopping.”

Packed snugly into the huge holiday heated tent (longer than a football field) is a tempting mix of imported European gifts and items crafted by local artisans. Brightly colored wooden toys and nut crackers are intricately hand-carved by the German craftsman who greets you. Cuckoo clocks share the spotlight with bright blue and white Polish pottery in time-honored patterns. Honey-colored Hungarian-style beeswax candles and molded Christmas tree ornaments, Scandinavian rosemaling, mouth-watering Dutch chocolates in the shape of wooden shoes and Czech blown-glass ornaments in a rainbow of jewel tones compete for attention alongside fluffy fur hats and glowing amber jewelry. Carved Russian Santas, as well as Russian nesting dolls catch the eye of serious collectors who return year after year to discover the latest designs. Local and regional items include fresh, fragrant pine wreaths, baskets created from grapevines incorporating bittersweet and fresh cedar and jewelry crafted from sparkling antique German and Swiss beads. Traditional German holiday music casts a magical spell over shoppers hunting for that perfect gift.

The Old World food court beckons visitors with the sweet aroma of gingerbread, roasting almonds and cashews and authentic Nuremberg bratwurst, personally grilled by a German vendor who contracts with a local sausage maker to produce this tasty holiday specialty. The spicy scent of hot Gluhwein wine mingles with the mouth-watering fragrance of sauerbraten, dumplings, wiener schnitzel, potato pancakes and red cabbage; an ideal opportunity for shoppers to sample traditional German fare.

Saint Nicholas, the venerable old gentleman in his berry red, fur-trimmed suit, roams the market merrily greeting children of all ages. (Be sure to bring your camera for a great holiday photo opportunity!)

The Old World Christmas Market is open from November 30-December 9, 11AM-6PM, admission is \$6 per adult; children 14 years old and under are free with adult admission. For pre-event group ticket sales, call The Osthoff Resort at 800.876.3399.

About The Osthoff Resort

The Osthoff Resort offers 245 spacious suites and guestrooms. One-, two- and three-bedroom suites range in size up to 2,300 square feet and feature a kitchen or kitchenette, dining and living room, TV, fireplace and private balcony. Guestrooms feature a king-size bed, private balcony, two-person whirlpool bath, wet bar and TV.

The Osthoff Resort is just an hour north of Milwaukee, less than two hours from Madison and about two and one half hours from Chicago. For more information or reservations, contact The Osthoff Resort, 101 Osthoff Avenue, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020-0151, 800.876.3399—or visit our web site at www.osthoff.com.

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September 2007