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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OLD-WORLD GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET IS AS CLOSE TO HOME
AS THE OSTHOFF RESORT IN ELKHART LAKE, WISCONSIN**

ELKHART LAKE, Wis. (November 10, 2008) -- Air fares and the currency exchange rate are bound to keep many Midwest travelers closer to home this holiday season. While for some that will mean foregoing a Christmas holiday in the old country, there are authentic alternatives to be had within a short drive of home. The Osthoff Resort's 11th annual Old World Christmas Market, reminiscent of the centuries-old German Christkindlesmarkt, is a perfect example. It will be held from December 5-14, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at this picturesque resort located in Elkhart Lake, Wis. Admission is \$6 for adults, with children under 14 admitted free with an adult ticketholder. There's even a special Christmas Market overnight package for visitors craving a true European-style getaway. The package includes one night's accommodations in an elegant suite and admission for two to the Christmas Market, with rates starting at \$149. For more information, log on to www.osthoff.com or call 800-876-3399.

This popular market takes place right on the grounds of the resort inside a heated tent the size of a football field. International and regional artisans display their wares in timber booths festooned with fragrant greens and thousands of twinkling white lights. Shoppers will be wrapped in the warmth of the season the moment they enter the tent, greeted by as believable a St. Nicholas as they've ever seen and surrounded by dozens of freshly cut balsam trees.

Strolling is the order of the day, with shoppers having a chance to linger at booths filled with delicate blown-glass ornaments, hand-woven knits, traditional German nutcrackers, European pottery, one-of-a-kind jewelry, carved crystal, and hand-made wooden toys. For some of the European vendors, this is their one and only trip to the United States for the year. Come with a shopping list, as there will be gifts in a great range of prices and styles. And the food, now that's worth the trip if to simply get in the spirit of the holiday, with roasted sweet almonds, gingerbread cookies, secret-recipe bratwurst and hot mulled wine some of the favorites.

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The Osthoff Resort is a AAA Four Diamond resort featuring all-suite accommodations, a stunning lakefront setting, two restaurants, a destination spa, year-round recreation, premier amenities and grand conference rooms and meeting spaces. A full schedule of Christmas and New Year's Eve events, holiday cooking classes and seasonal packages may be found on its Web site, www.osthoff.com.

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Sidebar: NOT-TO-BE-MISSED BOOTHS AT THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

With dozens of booths to peruse, it's difficult to assemble a short list of those that are not-to-be-missed. So with that caveat in mind, here are a handful of merchants with whom market-goers will most certainly enjoy visiting:

Gerhardt Lippman: Gerhardt is a woodcarver of traditional nutcrackers and (incense-burning) smokers. He and his wife, who is the painter in the pair, travel from Germany for the Osthoff's Christmas Market.

Wolfgang Schuh: Wolfgang sells authentic Nuernberg bratwurst, three to a hard roll and smothered with German mustard. He works with a local meat market to make his brats once he arrives in Wisconsin from Germany, and only he is allowed to add the spices to ensure the secret family recipe remains secret.

George Wolf: For those who fancy German lace, George will be bringing beautiful offerings with him from Plauen, Germany.

June Anderson: Hailing from Wisconsin, June's offerings of Russian nesting dolls are always popular at the market.

Jane and Dale Tremaine: The Tremaines have a store in Oconomowoc - The WeatherVane Gift Shop - and add the Old World Christmas Market as a second holiday location. They'll be selling German hand-painted pottery and hand-carved angels imported from the Black Forest or "Schwarzwald" region of Germany.

Mart Tuisk: Handmade Scandinavian Christmas ornaments and wool sweaters will grace Mark's booth. He's a newcomer to the market.

Nadia and Vashek Cinadr: This couple, who now reside in Brown Deer, Wis, design their own ornaments each year and have them blown and painted in the Czech Republic.

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