

FOR: **THE OSTHOFF RESORT**
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OSTHOFF'S "OLD WORLD CHRISTMAS MARKET" RECALLS EUROPEAN TRADITION — SPECIAL PACKAGES FROM ONLY \$139

ELKHART LAKE, WISCONSIN – On the first Sunday of Advent in Nuremberg, Germany's picturesque market square, the holiday season gets officially underway with the opening of that ancient city's outdoor holiday market, the famous *Christkindlesmarkt*. It is a tradition dating back to 1545.

While sixteenth-century traditions are a little harder to find in the New World, adaptations of them are popular and fun. Such is the case of the annual Old World Christmas Market at The Osthoff Resort in the village of Elkhart Lake in east central Wisconsin. It is patterned on the original and has itself become a holiday tradition for many families—particularly when combined with a holiday-season getaway at the AAA Four-Diamond resort.

Holiday shoppers can take advantage of the Osthoff's affordably-priced **"Old World Christmas Market Package."** It offers a one-evening stay and two admission tickets to the holiday market. Available December 1-10, it is priced from \$139, plus tax. (A special holiday rate, available December 12-29, offers a one-evening stay beginning at \$129, plus tax.)

In keeping with European tradition, vendors at Osthoff's Old World Christmas Market occupy simple timber booths adorned with boughs of fresh greenery. There is one welcome modification, however. The entire market is under canvas, protected from the elements and warmed by propane heaters.

Packed snugly into the massive marquee are close to 100 booths with a tempting mix of imported European gifts and items crafted by regional and international artisans. Find hand-carved wooded toys, festive decorations and a variety of jewelry, clothing and CDs with German holiday music. Look especially for knitted alpaca clothing

(including wraps and shawls), pashmina wool products from Turkey and yellow and red amber jewelry.

You'll also find a variety of carved Russian-style Santas that are traditionally painted, as well as high-quality stacking dolls. There are Polish pottery, Hungarian-style beeswax candles, Scandinavian rosemalling, Dutch chocolates in the shape of wooden shoes and Czech blown-glass ornaments.

"With the success of this annual holiday market, we have been able to attract original work by European and regional artisans," says Lola Roeh, Osthoff's general manager. Good examples, she notes, are fresh wreaths created in nearby Plymouth, jewelry made with antique German and Swiss beads and baskets created from grape vines and incorporating bittersweet and fresh cedar.

Food booths ply market-goers with hot mulled wine, hot apple cider, blackberry wine, wiener schnitzel with potato pancakes and red cabbage and authentic Nuremberg bratwurst made by a vendor who brings traditional spices and seasonings from Germany and contracts with a local sausage-maker to produce these tasty wurst. The air inside the giant tent is filled with the sweet aroma of gingerbread and roasting almonds and cashews.

From its earliest days, Nuremberg's Christmas market has featured gingerbread. Its popularity dates from the 11th century when Middle East traders imported ginger and, as people valued its medicinal, preservative and flavoring properties, the German city became central to the medieval ginger trade. Nuremberg became famous for the gingerbread cakes and cookies baked by a special Lebkuchler (gingerbread) guild. Osthoff's market offers gingerbread houses and figures that can be personalized.

The luxurious Osthoff Resort offers 245 spacious suites and guest rooms. 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. Guest rooms feature a king-size bed, private balcony, two-person whirlpool bath, wet bar and TV.

Last fall marked the long-awaited opening of Osthoff's state-of-the-art destination spa, Aspira. Already widely acclaimed, it provides an extensive menu of personalized treatment services. These include special SpaSuites that provide comfortable living

areas that include amenities such as fireplace, whirlpool tub, patio, and love seats. Spa services—and meals—are provided en suite.

Also debuting last year was Osthoff's second restaurant, Lola's on the Lake, with creative cuisine that has won rave reviews. In addition to American food with an eclectic twist, Lola's offers a companionable bar-lounge and splendid views of Elkhart Lake.

The Osthoff Resort is just an hour north of Milwaukee, less than two hours from Madison and about three hours from Chicago. For more information contact The Osthoff Resort, 101 Osthoff Avenue, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020-0151, 800-876-3399—or check the Web site at www.osthoff.com.

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