Jork -- Befitting To The Colorful Altes Land Region

Jork lies in the contrasting <u>Altes Land</u>, a region of fruit plantations in <u>North Germany</u> just southwest of <u>Hamburg</u>. And I'm not just talking about one kind of fruit; it's lots of different kinds depending on the season. Think bright red cherries in the spring, dark plums in the summer, with apples and pears in the autumn.

So, it's just expected that the town would hold quite a few market days throughout the year, as well as *Obstbautage* (Fruit Days) in February. Jork's *Blütenfest* or Bloom Festival (1st weekend in May) is another celebration of color, flowers, and food. Right before that is the *Osterfeuer*, or Easter Sunday bonfire that's another celebration of life and springtime.

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As much as you could eat your way through this town, there's a bit more depth to the place. It does have a castle, but the only way you can see this late Renaissance Schloss (once a water castle) is from the outside; it's privately owned. Just an FYI, the castle really isn't a castle; it's more of a manor house but somehow the moniker stuck.

In addition to the abundance of fruit, there's an abundance of art. You'll find lots of little art galleries by local artists throughout the place. It'll be a nice tour about town looking for them all but a stop at Jork's tourist information center might cut down the search some. They'll probably direct you right to the Museum Altes Land, as well.

Though, to meander along little walkways that run along the canals looking for things might just be fun in itself. When you want a few good snapshots for your album at home, then get one of the *Borsteler Mühle* (a gorgeous windmill).

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Jork is a fabulous destination when you've got a hankering for the most delicious produce or scout out local artists. With all the bright colors of the countryside and plantations, it's not hard to see where the artists get their inspiration.

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