

Nierstein -- Rhenish Hesse's Showstar For Fossils And Wine

Do you ever wonder how two totally unrelated things find themselves in the same sentence? This time it's fossils and wine. So, how do you make the connection between them?

That's simple. The town of Nierstein.

You'll find Nierstein in an area known as [Rhenish Hesse](#), and with fossil tracks from 290 million years ago. I guess this is why there's the *Paläontologisches Museum Nierstein*. In case you didn't sound it out, that would be a paleontology museum.

— Top Areas Of Interest

- [History](#)
- [Webcams](#)

- [Gunzenhausen](#)
- [Sigmaringen](#)

That sure makes Roman Settlement not seem that old, right? I still think the Sironabad Springs (dedicated to the Goddess Sirona) is a great place to see; and the Romans used these springs for just about three centuries.

The Romans liked their baths, and they certainly liked their wine. Good thing this drink of the gods is made right here.

I told you, fossils & wine — there's the connection. ;-)

Many of Nierstein's annual festivals have a lot to do with the viticulture that surrounds the area. Right after the Maypole Festival is a Wine Festival and *Kerb* in the middle of May, with another *Kerb* and Wine Festival in early September, and many wineries hold an open house in the middle of September.

Two of the biggest festivals are the Winegrower's Festivals, held every year on the first weekend

of August and the International Cultural Festival in early July.

Yeah, international culture might be the “highlight,” but don’t forget this is Germany — so make sure you try some local dishes famous to the area. Try the *Weinknorzen* (a bread made with caraway seeds) or the *Fleischworscht*, a bologna looking meat.

It’s been said that the *Spundekäs* (a cream/cottage cheese mixture, usually served with pretzels or crackers) goes great with one of the locally bottled white wines.

Yeah, sounds good — can someone bring me a corkscrew, a crystal wineglass, and some *Spundekäs*, please?