



The Oberkirch Magazine

Edition 2023



Editorial

Dear guests and friends of the Oberkirch,

the «Oberkirch» will continue just as you know and love it.

When Doris Hunn decided in autumn 2022 to end her stewardship of the Oberkirch for personal reasons, there was understandably a lot of uncertainty - among you, but of course among us employees as well.

But it quickly became apparent that the Oberkirch would survive this storm and be in good hands. The vast majority of employees will remain at the Oberkirch - and it will be preserved exactly as it was before.

There will always be changes and the Oberkirch cannot escape them, but the core of the Oberkirch will remain.

We are looking forward to welcoming you and taking care of you!

Your hosts Toni Schlegel, Simon Berg and the entire OberkirchTeam

(Editing & pictures, unless otherwise indicated: Jana Faro & Matthias Pohlmann. Translation: Ole Sczesny)

Our content for you:

- The Oberkirch in 2023 (page 3)
 - We are the «Oberkirch» (I)
- We have got more on offer for you (page 4)
 - We are the «Oberkirch» (II) - our new manager
- «Experience Freiburg with Historix-Tours» - by H.Stiller (page 5-7)
 - We are the «Oberkirch» (III-V)
- A look into the future of gastronomy: HGK Future Day (page 8)
 - What is HGK?
- This is «the Oberkirch» (page 9)
 - Our values (I)
- We celebrate our 285th birthday (page 10)
 - Our values (II)
- Freiburg Live 2023 - Münsterplatz concerts (page 11)
 - Our boss: Toni Schlegel
- Sir Bryan in the Oberkirch (page 12-15)
 - OrgelMagie & GaumenSchmaus
 - Sir Bryan
 - Sir Bryan's favourite room
 - Sir Bryan Special 2023
- Unesco World Heritage Site in Alsace (pages 16-18)
 - The «RegioElsass-Ticket»
 - New: The «Münsterplatz-Double-Feature»
 - Guided Tours at Geldermann
- Freiburg Museum Mine (pages 19-21)
 - visit.freiburg.de - the tourism website of Freiburg
 - Open on New Year's Eve 2023
 - The Schauinslandbahn cable car
- Green City Freiburg (pages 22)
 - Better access for you to our house
- The Oberkirch - proud to be top-formator (page 23)
 - Magazine Collector Special 2023



Weekends in 2023

Even during the post Covid era, it is evident that the demand for overnight stays spanning the entire weekend during the main season (May to October) remains high - with 26 rooms only, we have to restrict the online availability of bookings for just a single night of the weekend. It will therefore also be the case in 2023 that during this time, only the entire weekend (Friday to Sunday) will be bookable online.

Of course, as in previous years, you can call us to inquire about accommodation options for just one night and we will do our best to make you an offer. For the Ascension weekend (May 18-21), as in the past, we can only accept reservations for the entire extended weekend (Thursday to Sunday).

Rest days in our restaurant in 2023:

As in the previous year, we will have rest days in our restaurant on Sundays and Mondays during the first quarter of 2023. Since we still don't want to make any promises that we can't keep afterwards, we ask for your understanding, given the well-known shortage of skilled workers, we can't know in advance on which days the restaurant will be open in 2023 - especially not for the more distant months.

We will of course communicate this in good time - follow us on Facebook or subscribe to our newsletter.

Fixed reservation times («seatings») for our restaurant:

In order to cope with the demand, we introduced fixed reservation times in the restaurant some time ago - especially for the evening service. We will keep this in 2023, so you are welcome to reserve seats in our restaurant either for 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. or from 8:15 p.m. For special occasions, we will of course continue to consider your request for a reservation without limiting the length of your stay - just contact us, we will certainly find a solution!

We are the «Oberkirch» (I)



Michael Schwarz,
restaurant manager.
With us since 1987.



Matthias Pohlmann,
hotel manager.
With us since 1999.



Dina von Raesfeld,
reception.
With us since 2001.



Beatrix Rombach, service.
With us since 1997.



Olga Ernst,
housekeeping.
With us since 2001.



Abdoulie Sanneh,
chef.
With us since 2018.



We are the «Oberkirch» (II):



Simon Berg, the new manager of the Oberkirch and thus the direct supervisor of the hotel and restaurant management has more than just one connection to our house.

After his training as a chef, he was not only trained as a hotel manager in the Oberkirch under the leadership of Doris Hunn and thus got to know the house inside and out, his family is also closely interwoven with the Oberkirch.

As a member of the management of our new leaseholder Schlegel Gastronomie GmbH, he is now the operational manager of the Oberkirch.

«Nothing should change for our guests, we will continue to run the Oberkirch exactly as our guests have come to know and love it. Of course, that doesn't mean that we will be standing still - Doris Hunn has also carefully modernized in the past and also tried to create more time for the actual guest care through digitization. We will continue on this path cautiously and consistently.»

We have got more on offer for you:

The main goal of the management of Schlegel Gastronomie GmbH is that nothing will change in your «Oberkirch experience» with the change of tenants.

This refers to the fact that the spirit of the house, the way we want to look after and pamper our guests, will remain exactly the same as before - but of course you as guests will benefit from the fact that the «Oberkirch» is now part of a company that successfully runs a number of hotels and restaurants with a long-standing tradition in Freiburg.

You will soon be able to enjoy planning your stay at the Münsterplatz in Freiburg in one booking step and on both sides of the cathedral - in the Hotel Rappen at the opposite side and in the Hotel Oberkirch.

With the gastronomic establishments «Deutsches Haus», «Rappen», «Weber's Weinstube», «Ganter Brauereiausschank», «Greiffenegg Schössle» and the beautiful «Kastaniengarten» all being part of Schlegel Gastronomie GmbH, we will also offer you opportunities to combine your hotel stay with diverse culinary experiences - everything put together by us according to your wishes. Overnight stay in Oberkirch and wedding or birthday party in «Greiffenegg» with a view of the city?

A stay of several days with a small «culinary journey» through Freiburg? We can organise all of this for you, you don't have to worry about a thing.

Of course it will take a while before we have completely completed the transfer of the Oberkirch to our new tenants «behind the scenes» and only then will we be able to take care of ready-made combination offers that can then also be booked online in detail - but if you have a request you can contact us now and we will find the best possible solution for you individually.

We are looking forward to being able to look after you even better and more diversely in the future and to letting you benefit from the fact that we have more options.

All that remains for you is to **enjoy** all the new possibilities yourself.



Experience Freiburg with Historix-Tours - by Hartmut Stiller:

Freiburg's pedestrian zone has recently expanded to the west and a promenade between the redesigned square of the Old Synagogue and Fahnenbergplatz invites you to stroll. The name of the square already explains its former function, because the Jewish house of worship built in 1869/70 stood here until the Reichspogromnacht («Kristallnacht», Night of Broken Glass 9th/10th of November 1938). Until a few years ago, only the round commemorative plaque on a meadow that had been turned into a dog park reminded of this dark spot in the city's history, but now the outline of the former building is clearly visible in the ground thanks to a water table.

Opposite the square is the magnificent municipal theatre. For decades, the extension on the left served as a cinema («Kurbel/Kamera»). One of the largest movie theatres in the city was located where theatre is being played today in the «Small House». A sensational world premiere took place here in 1975.



The film was called «Gina Wildkatze» and the who's who of the regional and national celebrity scene celebrated a Freiburg institution: The film was not only called "Gina Wildkatze", it was also the stage name of the leading actress, director, screenwriter and producer. She owned the legendary Playboy Bar behind the theatre at nearby Moltkestrasse 3. It was always important to Gina that the club - at least in her day - wasn't a brothel, but an animation bar with a swimming pool set up in the basement.

We are the «Oberkirch» (III)



Ole Sczesny,
reception.
With us since 1998.



Rumyana Racheva,
housekeeping
With us since 2012.



Sandra Bastos,
service.
With us since 2000.



Ouro Bang'Na
Tchagodomou
kitchen.
With us since 2011.



Daniela Albert,
housekeeping.
With us since 2021.



Stephan Fritz,
chef.
With us since 2018.



We are the «Oberkirch» (II):



Léonie Tchomguo,
kitchen.
With us since 2015.



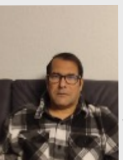
Anatolia Dimova,
reception.
With us since September
2022.



Jana Faro,
assistant hotel manager.
With us since 2010



Natalia Zulian,
breakfast
With us since August 2022.



Habibi Gholamyahya,
kitchen.
With us since 2017.



Milica Mrsic,
kitchen.
With us since 2017.

Experience Freiburg with Historix-Tours - by Hartmut Stiller:

In the establishment, which used to be characterized by red curtains, various niches and a champagne bar, Mayor Dr. Eugen Keidel as a birthday wisher or A-listers like Rudi Carrell, Roberto Blanco and Dieter Thomas Heck used to look in. Even actor Lorne Greene, of Bonanza patriarch «Ben Cartwright» fame, once graced the establishment.

Once a year, however, the top-class guests stayed away, because Gina also had a big heart. Then she invited orphans to her bar who were supposed to be king for an afternoon.

Most people were very excited about her first feature film. A band in traditional costumes played in front of the cinema and top stars like Maria Schell arrived.

Unfortunately, the first performance remained the only one, because the critics were rather disappointed with "Gina Wildkatze": Most had probably expected an erotic masterpiece, but in fact it was more of a «Heimatfilm» - a flop that hurt a lot.

Gina's reputation as head of the Playboy Bar did not suffer: she ran the club until 1994 and then died much too early at the age of 54 after a long and serious illness. The club stayed open until 2017.



Continuing in the direction of Fahnenbergplatz, we cross Bertoldstraße. One of the five main gates of the city, the «Lehener Tor», stood here to the left of the crossing until 1713. In that year it served, among other things, as an ammunition store. Rather accidentally, the medieval building exploded during the siege by the French, unfortunately killing many residents, including children.



Experience Freiburg with Historix-Tours - by Hartmut Stiller:

A little further we pass the Black Monastery. The monastery got its name from the habit of the Ursulines, who built the building complex between 1708 and 1710. Its longtime matron Euphemia Dorer, who still rests in the old crypt, is legendary to this day. Many miracles were attributed to her during her lifetime.

She was said to be stigmatized, i.e. she bore the stigmata of Christ. After she died at the age of 85, she was buried in the crypt, but had to move when the monastery closed its doors. After the Second World War, however, they were returned to their original place. A vine in one of the two courtyards of the monastery, which is said to be more than 200 years old, has meanwhile driven its roots through the hard masonry and is said to abut her grave today.

To the north is the former house of Carl von Rotteck, which survived the 2nd World War. In the basement of the building there is still a preserved Nazi air raid shelter. At the entrance to Turmstraße, Olympic rings on the skylight grille still bear witness to this major event in 1936.



Meaningfully, in the years to come, a Nazi documentation and information centre will be built here.

Diagonally opposite, on a small hill, is the Colombi-Schlössle, built between 1858 and 1861 by a Countess of Colombi. She died very young and the park - according to many legends - was cursed. At least the daughter of the Countess supposedly still wanders on the roof of the building on bright full moon nights

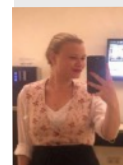
as a white lady and in the park many want to have seen a black poodle with bright red eyes wandering around, which would bring bad luck to anyone who saw it.

Nevertheless, the park and the Schlössle are jewels of the new promenade.

We are the «Oberkirch» (V)



Hasan Mohammad Mahmudul, chef in formation since July 2022.



Michelle Gerteiser, breakfast. With us since May 2022.



Dominic Bühler, service. Back with us since June 2022.



Sabrina Gutmann, service. Back with us since May 2022.



Hiltrud Würstle, breakfast. With us since July 2022.

We are also very happy about our new staff members Anna-Maria Wagenhäuser, Stefan Britsch, Thilo Haas, David Winterhalder, Hagji Hardt Pudler and Irina Plaksiuk.



HGK - was ist das?

The idea of HGK as a purchasing cooperative for the hospitality industry is easy to explain : «What an individual cannot do, the many can.» (Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen)

The members of the HGK join forces voluntarily - without giving up their independence - because they can achieve more together than alone.

On this basis, HGK has developed over the course of its 40-year success story into the largest German purchasing and service cooperation for hospitality with over 3,000 member companies and 500 suppliers in the market.

The focus of their activities is the economic well-being of their members as customers. This cooperative promise of performance is based on competence in advising, efficiency in processes, transparency in mediation and reliability in the business relationship.

This also includes offers and services that promote sustainable action and management by members and customers. In particular, HGK sees itself as an innovator for the digitisation of administrative and operational processes in the hospitality industry.

A look into the future of gastronomy: HGK Future Day

The focus of this year's HGK Future Day in the "Smart City" Ahaus on the future of the hospitality industry was digitisation, sustainability and human resources. The industry from all over Germany met for an exchange and exciting presentations, which were opened by the host Tobit.Labs with the note that gastronomy as an economic engine should not answer the current challenges in the area of personnel recruitment with more days off but with more responsibility for the guests. The essence of many lectures was that it is not necessarily about complete digitisation instead of human workers, but above all about a symbiosis that relieves the remaining workers in order to give them more time for what is actually important - guest contact.

Of course, digitisation should also help to attract employees, since administrative work is minimised and jobs can become more attractive. Tenor of all lectures, particularly pronounced in the lectures by Anja Eigen and Sarah Wankelmann from the German Hotel Academy and the hotelier of the year, Dr. Caroline von Kretschmann from the «Europäischer Hof» in Heidelberg, was that it was important to think more about the employees and less about the product or guest. Because only motivated and happy employees are able to make guests happy. In concrete terms, this means that it is no longer up-to-date to look for employees for a specific position, but on the other hand one has to adapt the work to the employees and therefore look for the position for the employee. This also entails accepting to lose business if necessary in order not to overwhelm employees - this is where digitisation comes full circle, as this in turn can ensure that there is less risk of overwhelming employees. It was also said several times that emphatic and value-oriented leadership was also very important.

Today it is about raising collective intelligence, creating meaning, building error cultures and developing together as a company. «Other leadership types are in demand: the moderator, the coach, the trial and error type.» At the joint evening event and an adventure tour through the digital city of Ahaus, the participants were then able to experience live what the digital future - taken to the extreme - can look like in hospitality.



This is «the Oberkirch»

In the course of the change of tenants, you could read several times, also in this magazine, that «nothing» should change at the Oberkirch. Of course, that doesn't mean that the Oberkirch will stand still in time from now on. The world around us is constantly changing, and the Oberkirch has to adapt to it. There have also been changes in the past, so the difficulties we felt in finding employees had led to the reception opening times being shortened a few years ago.

Also some time ago already, we did a test run over months to see whether the vast majority of our guests still wanted the "turndown service" (evening walkthrough of the room, turning on the light, turning down the bed, etc.) or not. We had asked to put a bow on the door to indicate whether you wanted it (green) or not (red).

After evaluating the results, it became clear that less than 10% of our guests value this service, which is why it was discontinued.

With all the changes, however, it is important that the "Oberkirch spirit" remains what it is:

- We are a home away from home.
- We take care of our guests to the best of our ability, we are there for them - regardless of what their concerns are and we try to fulfill every request as best as possible.
- We stand for the highest possible standards and attention to detail.
- We attach great importance to personal and individual care for our guests – staying with us, you are not a «number», but everyone is a special guest for us.
- We are more than a place to dine in a restaurant and more than a simple place to stay in a hotel - we strive to offer you a special experience.
- When you leave our house after your stay in the hotel or restaurant, we want you to be happier than when you arrived. We want to put a smile on your face as often as possible.

Our values (I):

Respect

For us, the foundation of everything we do is respect. We respect and value our guests regardless of their background, opinion or whether you have booked a small single room for a night or a suite for a month. We communicate honestly and at eye level, all of which of course applies equally within our team.

Passion

We are fired up for our guests and for our job. We pull together because we see it as our calling to make our guests happy. We know that this requires a high level of commitment from the whole team and we bring this with pride - of course we are also proud of our successes.

Fairness

We attach great importance to treating our colleagues as well as our guests fairly. We therefore always keep an eye on the «big picture» and make sure that we do not become unfair to everyone else by treating one person differently. Therefore, our rules and terms and conditions apply to everyone equally.



Our values (II)

Responsability

We see ourselves as part of a larger whole and act accordingly. In this way, we not only want to make an important contribution to keeping Freiburg attractive for travelers and locals alike, but we also value the fact that our employees, our partners, our suppliers and our market competitors are doing well.

We believe in economic viability over time rather than just for a limited time, which is why we operate sustainably and use resources responsibly («Enkelfähigkeit»).

Quality

The willingness to give the best is reflected in the satisfaction of the guest and the employees. With everything we use, we pay attention first and foremost to quality and regionality, because we want to offer our guests the best possible experience at all times.

Due to these high demands on our suppliers as well as on ourselves, we are critical of price negotiations, since apart from violating fairness towards others, we would ultimately be forced to compromise on quality if we went along with it.

We celebrate our 285th birthday!

In 1738 Mathias Wilhelm opened the «Buschwirtschaft» (local expression for seasonal pubs selling produce from the owners production) - ever since guests have been serviced in our premises at the Münsterplatz. 2023 marks our 285th anniversary. What started as a «Buschwirtschaft» has gradually developed into a restaurant and under the aegis of Christian Hummels it was famously known as «Der Hummele am Münsterplatz» within the city.



Nearly 200 years later the Oberkirch family took over the restaurant and opened up the hotel business alongside it, adding the building at the Schusterstrasse around the corner. They still own both buildings to this day. In the almost 80 years that followed, under their management, the reputation of both the hotel and the restaurant reached far beyond the city limits for its personal service of the highest quality.

Now, in 2023, it is time to celebrate the great and unique history of our house.

Look forward to many great activities under the aegis of Schlegel Gastronomie GmbH, which will celebrate our tradition with you.





Freiburg Live 2023 - Konzerte auf dem Münsterplatz:

From the 14th of June 2023 to the 18th of June 2023, the Münsterplatz in Freiburg will be transformed into a large concert stage on the side facing the Oberkirch.

As part of a concept designed to keep Freiburg's city centre lively and interesting, the city of Freiburg has decided to hold a concert series in the middle of the city - on the south side of Freiburg's Münsterplatz - at least for the years 2023 to 2025.

The focus is on a colourful and varied program - therefore very different styles of music will be heard.

This year, the concert series will be framed by two concerts with classical music - on Wednesday, the 14th of June 2023, the well known concert series «Albert Concerts» will open the series and alongside renowned soloists, the Philharmonic Orchestra Freiburg and the Freiburg Bach Choir will present the **9th symphony by Ludwig van Beethoven** - «Freude schöner Götterfunken» on the Münsterplatz!

The grammy awarded **Freiburg Baroque Orchestra** will conclude this year's concert series on the 18th of June 2023 with - among others - music by Vivaldi, Monteverdi and the **Fireworks Music** by Georg Friedrich Handel.

Thursday, the 15th of June 2023 and Friday, the 16th of June 2023 will be dedicated to pop and rock music. While the program for Thursday is not yet known at the time the magazine goes to press, **Peter Maffay** will be doing the honours on Friday.

On Saturday, the 17th of June 2023, the fans of electronic music will have their day - «**Sea You On Tour**» (a local yearly **electronic music** festival) will play on the Münsterplatz..

Book a room:



Page of the organisers:



Our boss: Toni Schlegel

When Doris Hunn made the decision in October to give up the Oberkirch and prematurely end her time as a tenant, the Oberkirch briefly faced an uncertain future. But with a lot of energy and a convincing concept, Toni Schlegel quickly managed to convince the owners and the Rothaus brewery that he was the right man to continue the Oberkirch - he was the only one of the applicants who was already during the initial tour approaching every employee and expressing that he needed us as a team.

Toni Schlegel is not a classic restaurateur, but an economist and came to gastronomy through a neighbor who was trained as a cook and wanted to become self-employed and needed advice.

Together with him, he developed a sustainable concept that is still used successfully today. Gradually, various restaurants were added, in 2019 the Hotel and Restaurant Rappen on the other side of the Münsterplatz and now also the Oberkirch. He is committed to the city, its residents and tourists and, together with his team, of which we are now a part, would like to help make it happen Freiburg as well as all guests feel comfortable.



OrganMagic & CulinaryDelight

From June to September, organ concerts are held in the Münster every Tuesday at 8.15 p.m.

National and international artists will take you to wonderful and magical worlds of sound.

Take this opportunity to spoil your taste buds and enjoy what our kitchen has to offer.

A Baden 3-course menu
- vegetarian option on request -
before or partly after the concert,
on request and subject to
availability also bookable on the
next day
with an aperitif, of course

A **ticket** for an organ concert in the
Freiburg Minster

Book your offer in addition to your
overnight stay or as a Freiburg
resident «just like that»
at the price of
€ 74 per person

The offer is available every Tuesday
on which there is an organ concert
in the Freiburg Minster and has a
limited contingent per evening.

Visit of our regular guest

Sir Bryan has been a regular guest at the Oberkirch since 1945. He visited Freiburg for the first time shortly after the end of the war and immediately fell in love with the city and the Oberkirch.

He published some of the nicest anecdotes from his numerous visits over the past few years in the form of his memoirs and kindly made them available to us.

The fact that he visited us again at the proud age of 98 - and 77 years after his first visit to our house - makes us proud - and the Badische Zeitung took the opportunity to ask him about his love for Freiburg and Oberkirch.

He told the editor James Roederer how he came to Freiburg for the first time as a young researcher, how he got to know Oberkirch and the innkeeper at the time, Karl Oberkirch, and that despite the fact that the end of the Second World War was only a few months ago, had felt no animosity towards him as a British national from the people of Freiburg.

After a free registration you can read the whole article on the **website of our local newspaper**.

The fact that the organisers of the International Organ Concerts made it possible for him to take an exclusive tour of the organ, including a private concert, shows that his visit was something special not only for the Oberkirch.

Even if Sir Bryan, in view of his old age, said that it was probably his last visit to Freiburg and the Oberkirch, the entire Oberkirch team hopes that he will visit his regular hotel and restaurant in his favourite city again on the occasion of his 100th birthday later this year for example.

In any case, his favorite room (our suite No. 57) is waiting for him.



Article in the
local newspaper
(in German)



«Freiburg Memoirs» by Sir Bryan

«Freiburg-im-Breisgau is my favourite city» is my unexpected response when, in general conversation, the talk gets round to the relative merits of cities across the globe. Surely New York or London or Singapore?

To answer that question, I need to go right back to 1945 and the end of the war in Europe. That war was the first in history in which science and technology played a major, if not decisive, role. The Allied intelligence services had therefore been constantly trying to up-date their knowledge of German scientific research. But as soon as the fighting stopped in May, another fight started between the Western Powers and Russia - it was vital that the Allies penetrated the German Research Establishments before the Russians got to them.

I was a mere 21-year-old but had already made my mark in aerodynamic research at the National Physical Laboratory in London. And so I was sent to Freiburg, to spend a few days in the University talking to their relevant professors. As it happened, little had been done in my field, so I had time to absorb the general atmosphere of the city and its surroundings. Both enchanted me!

Thankfully, Freiburg had not been badly bombed. Das Münster, das Altes Rathaus und das Historisches Kaufhaus were largely untouched, as was the Oberkirchs Weinstuben where I would sit outside drinking coffee and meeting Herr Oberkirch, the owner, who was somewhat surprised to see such a very young English visitor so soon after the end of the War. And I loved the wonderful view of the city from the height of Schlossberg. Throughout that short stay, I was not conscious of hostility or resentment, and so I returned to England determined to revisit such a lovely place and its charming people.

Thus it was that I have returned many times since, almost always staying in the Oberkirchs. With my wife I usually stayed in Room 20 which looks out on Schusterstrasse in two directions. After she died in 1991 I maintained that tradition for some years but latterly have taken the lovely top suite overlooking the Münsterplatz.

Sir Bryan

Sir Bryan Thwaites, FIMA, FRSA (born 6 December 1923) is an English applied mathematician, educationalist and administrator.

Thwaites' first appointment, on graduation, was as a Science Officer at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), Teddington (1944–1947).

He then moved to the Department of Aeronautics at the Imperial College of Science (1947–1951), where he made an early impression: his Thwaites Flap being used to assist aeronautical tests.

After a period as a mathematics teacher, Dr. Thwaites was appointed Professor of Theoretical Mechanics at the new University of Southampton in 1961 (1961–1965). Here, together with colleagues, he developed a new curriculum for «modern mathematics».

Thwaites developed an interest in medical administration and over the years has accepted a number of appointments: he has been Chairman of the Northwick Park Hospital Management Committee and a member of the Council of the Middlesex Hospital Board.

He was knighted in the 1986 New Year's Honors List for services to education and medicine.

Source: Wikipedia



Sir Bryan's favourite room:

For many years, our suite number 57 has been Sir Bryan's favorite room.

Like suite no. 59, suite no. 57 has the living room with a view of the market and the cathedral, while the bedroom faces away from the cathedral square.

What is special - and unique - about Suite 57 is that the bedroom does not face an alley in the pedestrian zone, but faces an inner courtyard.

In addition, of course, like each of our rooms, it is individually furnished and we obviously met his taste best with the furnishing of this suite.

And of course it should be mentioned that his favorite suite is the only one of our rooms with an anteroom (in addition to the living room and bedroom), which of course creates a unique ambience.

Would you like to experience this suite too? Book it (subject to availability) here:

hotel-oberkirch.de/en/booking/



«Freiburg Memoirs» by Sir Bryan

Memories flood in, of things and events in these seventy-seven years. Hiking round an ice-bound Tittisee and lunching at the Alemannen Hof half-way round.

The spectacular Schauinslandbahn and the long walk in the Schwarzwald down to Kirchzarten.

The magnificent Cathedral organ built by Rieger in 1965.

The bustling Weihnachtsmarkt.

The immaculate stalls in the Münsterplatz which disappear by noon, leaving not a trace behind - and indeed the all-pervading cleanliness!

The workman spending many years recreating the pavements with small oval stones and making designs with them.

The scaffolding which, over many years, moved bit-by-bit round the Cathedral while the stone-work was renovated and eventually completed after decades.

The punctuality of the busses and trains. The list goes on and on.

Two particular incidents stand out as examples of the kindness which I have often received. Once, I was in the restaurant in the Schauinsland Bergstation and got talking to the manager. I mentioned that it was my 85th birthday, whereupon he insisted on giving me a free lunch!

On the first morning of another visit, I went to an ATM on Schusterstrasse to get some necessary Euros and to my horror found that my bank card was missing in my wallet. Frantic calls to my bank, Barclays, gave me no help. So I confessed to Herr Oberkirch's family successor, Doris Hunn, that I had no means to pay her bill and no money to pay for anything else, including my journey back to Frankfurt airport.

With little hesitation she gave me enough cash and relied on my word that I would repay her in full the moment I got home. No other hotel anywhere in the world would have done that. Thank you, again, Doris!



«Freiburg Memoirs» by Sir Bryan

There is, however, so much more to Freiburg than those sorts of experiences. As its name implies, it is a city of free people, and their freedom allows them to set their own rules of conduct which are encapsulated in their saying that «Ordnung muss sein».

Attributed to Luther, it represents a firmly-rooted historic Culture which, in 1975, led to a mass protest against the building of a nuclear power plant which itself then led to civic policies making the city internationally known as the most environmentally-friendly. In short, no visitor can fail to be struck by the way its citizens go about their daily lives with an innate sense of «Ordnung». It also happens that the inner city is quite extraordinarily beautiful!

I will bring this little account to a close by another vignette. Music is everywhere - in the streets, but in the Cathedral especially, where the glorious Lutheran hymns with their long lines are sung to the sweeping chorale tunes of a later century.

My hero, Johann Sebastian Bach, never visited Freiburg as far as I know, but his spirit pervades. After High Mass on a Sunday, the organist will improvise at length as Bach did, and many of the congregation will gather near the console to listen and applaud. Sadly, congregations in English Cathedrals are not so musically literate!

It is already two years since Freiburg celebrated its 900th anniversary. It can be enormously proud of its achievements which are recognized so widely, and I thank God for all that it has given me. So at the age of ninety-eight, and on my visit which has to be my last, I think too of the Hotel Oberkirch, its patron Doris and all its staff, and offer them my sincerest hopes for their happiness and success in the future

.

Sir Bryan Thwaites, June 2022

77/100 - Sir Bryan-Special 2023

2023 - A special year for the Oberkirch, because also (and especially) under new management, we want to show what makes the Oberkirch special, as it has been since its foundation: OUR GUESTS and our TEAM, for whom the passion for hospitality is the top priority. We take this as an opportunity to celebrate our oldest and longest-standing regular guest:

Sir Bryan, who turns 100 this year, has been visiting Oberkirch and Freiburg for more than 77 years - that's something very special for us. Therefore, in his honor in 2023, we will be holding a special surprise for any guest who makes a reservation through our own website and enters **booking code Sir Bryan 77 out of 100** in the message field.

A «very British» present awaits you, which is nevertheless kept regionally in the spirit of the Oberkirch: regionally produced cider from «Wildfang» and English breakfast tea from Freiburg's traditional tea producer «Tee Peter», so that you can spend a few comfortable hours in the style of the British.

This booking code can only be used once and cannot be combined with other booking codes.



The RegioElsassTicket

In addition to Neuf-Brisach, Colmar also has a charming old town, the Unterlinden Museum and excellent gastronomy. Nestled in the Vosges, it is an ideal starting point for hikes.

The RegioElsassTicket not only takes you to Neuf-Brisach and Colmar, but is also valid for 24 hours after validation in the entire network area.

- Valid for 24 hours for any number of journeys on line 026 (Breisach-Colmar)
- Valid during these 24 hours in the entire network area of the Regio-Verkehrsverbund Freiburg
- Also valid on all regional buses in the Haut-Rhin, but not on city buses and not on TER
- Price for 1 person: €19 (as of February 2023)
- Price for up to 5 people: €37 (as of February 2023)

Available in SBG buses and customer centres and from machines at the train station.

Neuf-Brisach Unesco World Heritage site & insider tip in Alsace

A few kilometers behind the German-French border and about half an hour's drive west of Freiburg is the small, one might think inconspicuous community of Neuf-Brisach.

But Neuf-Brisach is not inconspicuous, but a real insider tip for a day trip to Alsace.

The city was planned in the 18th century by Sébastien Vauban and Jaques Tarade as a fortified city in an octagon shape with a checkerboard-map street layout. In the centre of the town is a parade ground, which is now the market square. The history of its origin goes back to the Palatinate War of Succession brought about by the French Sun King Louis XIV in 1688.



This war was lost for France and he had to cede today's Breisach, which served the French as a fortress town on the other side of the Rhine. So he commissioned the master builder of fortresses, Sébastien Vauban, to plan his own fortified city, which was designed and built exclusively to secure the border region of Alsace and Lorraine.

The city is protected by two ramparts. The front battle wall provided with artillery and the rear security wall of towers and intermediate ramparts, where the defence could be well organised. It was almost impossible to overcome both protective walls at the same time.



Neuf-Brisach Unesco World Heritage site & insider tip in Alsace

On a walk through the fortifications and the impressive ramparts, there is not only military architecture to be discovered, but also works of art of a completely different kind.

Many animal surprises await you during the leisurely walk alongside and between the ramparts, which make them appear a little less threatening. You feel accompanied and look forward to discovering something new around every corner.



But that's not all that Neuf-Brisach has to offer in terms of art. In July 2018, the MAUSA Vauban - Musée d'art urbain et de street art opened within the fortress walls on 1200 square meters.

Here you can discover inspiring street art on the desolate fortress walls, internationally renowned street artists have brought this part of the complex to life and made it shine with their imagination.

It is not the same every day, it is constantly changing, because a different artist is always adding a new work of art. With a bit of luck, you can even be there live when a new work of art is created. Of course, the portrait of the city builder Vauban should not be missing here. You can catch a glimpse of this impressive image as soon as you enter the museum.

Münsterplatz-Double-Feature:

«Rappen & Oberkirch»

Enjoy two different kitchen styles on either side of the Münsterplatz.

Both times we spoil you with a three-course menu, put together by the head chef of the house.

An exquisite 3-course menu awaits you in the Rappen restaurant on Münsterplatz. The surprise menu consisting of a starter, main course and dessert combines their culinary art of fish, meat and vegetarian highlights. The menu can be chosen as an entirely vegetarian option, of course.

In the Oberkirch, our creative kitchen team conjures up a changing evening menu made from seasonal and - mainly - regional ingredients, which reflects the highly praised culinary art of the Oberkirch team showing off different facets.

Choose your appetizer and your main course and enjoy!

Price per person: 99 euros
(excluding drinks in both restaurants).



Guided tours at Geldermann:

Breisach and Neuf-Brisach are located directly opposite each other on the Rhine - and a stopover on the German side, in Breisach, is also worthwhile for you - the private sparkling wine cellar Geldermann offers open tours.

Public tours take place daily at 2 p.m., from November to February not on Sundays and public holidays. Duration approx. 75 minutes
€12 incl. VAT/person
(as of February 2023)

There are also several guided tours with tastings - pre-registration is required:

- **Les Premiers** - Participate in a guided tour in the vaulted cellar and then taste the three varieties of the Les Premiers line.
- **Les Grands** - taste after a guided tour three varieties of the Les Grands line - Grand Brut, Grand Rosé, Carte Blanche.
- **Crémant** - taste after a guided tour both varieties of the Crémant line.
- **Les Spécialités** - taste after a guided tour both varieties of the Les Spécialités line.

Appointments under: +49 7667 83 40.

Neuf-Brisach Unesco World Heritage site & insider tip in Alsace

Other impressive works of art to discover are the frescoes by the painter Seth, the large white bodies by Jérôme Mesnager, the Child of Colmar and many other exciting installations. A little tip: Here and there you definitely have to look back or take a closer look and you will be amazed at what there is to discover in some corners and niches.



The museum is open Tuesday and Thursday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and always closed on Mondays.

The address for the journey is 13 rue d' Angoulême, F-68600 Neuf-Brisach

Source: visitalsacehinbrisach.com

route planner:



Restaurant recommendation:





Freiburg Museum Mine:

Silver, zinc and lead made Freiburg rich for around 800 years, because these valuable metals were formed in the depths of Freiburg's local mountain, the Schauinsland, over many thousands of years.

Their removal in the mine also made a significant contribution to the creation and financing of the Freiburg Minster. One of the stained glass windows in the Minster, which shows mining work, was also donated by the former miners. Initially, the coveted and expensive silver was mined in the upper layers of rock, which favoured the prosperity of the 5000 inhabitants of Freiburg at that time. The mined silver was used to make the Freiburg «Rappenpfennig».



In the 13th to 15th centuries mining on the Schauinsland had its heyday. Soon after, however, the strenuous physical effort of the mine workers with hammer and chisel made it possible to penetrate deeper layers of rock. This resulted in a tunnel system approximately 10 kilometres long. The open silver pit mine became a tunnel and shaft construction.

With a good 100 kilometers in length and 22 levels, it was the largest mining area in the Black Forest and the Vosges in the 20th century. The mined ores were processed and smelted on site until the end of the 18th century. In the later course of the 16th to 18th centuries, lead was also mined, which was then used in the military to manufacture cannonballs and in construction as well.

Freiburg's tourism portal:

As part of the effort to improve the offers for the guests of our city, the city itself has not exempted itself from review and has put a new tourism portal online, where you can find everything, our city has to offer compiled in one place.

You can easily find inspiration on the site - even regular guests of our city should discover something new.

Divided into the following sections

- Sights
- Culinary
- Nature & active
- Shopping
- Art and culture
- Sustainability

the city offers you a wealth of information that can make your stay in Freiburg even more beautiful and interesting.



<https://visit.freiburg.de/en>



New: Open on New Year's Eve:

In the past, we have received many requests for overnight stays as well as for restaurant reservations on New Year's Eve.

Under the previous management, however, the restaurant had always been closed on New Year's Eve - the hotel had also been closed since the closure of our former Michelin star restaurant «Die Traube» at the turn of the year.

However, since we want to live up to our claim of being there for our guests all year round, we will keep the hotel **open for you** for the first time in a long time and our restaurant for the first time ever this year on New Year's Eve.

You can already make room bookings for New Year's Eve, we will accept reservations for the restaurant as soon as we have planned exactly how we want to spend New Year's Eve in the Oberkirchs Weinstuben restaurant.

We are looking forward to you!



Freiburg Museum Mine:

In the 17th century, the Franciscan monk Berthold Schwarz from Freiburg discovered black powder for central Europe, which brought great progress to the mine operators, because underground mines could now be blasted. The amount and rate of ore mining increased.

Around the end of the 19th century, zinc, which is now used in industrialisation, began to be mined, which is still required today for the production of brass and is an important material in electrical engineering.



Today the mine, which was closed in 1954 for economic reasons, is a museum and research mine. It was created thanks to private funds and a lot of volunteer work.

It was opened in 1990. This opening was preceded by hard work and a lengthy search for the tunnels by Berthold Steiber. Who, together with friends, rediscovered the old tunnels and finally turned them into a museum mine for the public with his research group Steiber in more than 40 years. In 2014 he received the Federal Cross of Merit for his life's work. The museum mine is a kind of adventure museum for its visitors. Various guided tours are offered throughout the year, leading deep into the Schauinsland. Through the still ongoing research, visitors get a real impression of the work of the miners.

In addition, new visitor concepts are constantly being developed in order to keep the visit to the mine museum exciting.



Freiburg Museum Mine:

The range of tours extends from various open tours on different levels, as well as group offers, to children's birthday events. The right adventure for every age group...



You can reach the museum mine either directly by car in about 30 minutes or by public transport including a ride on the Schauinslandbahn, the longest cable car in Europe. A visit to the mine also includes a breathtaking view over Freiburg and the Upper Rhine Valley to the Vosges. However, it is currently not possible to climb the Schauinsland Tower as it has been closed for an indefinite period for safety reasons.

Opening hours museum mine:

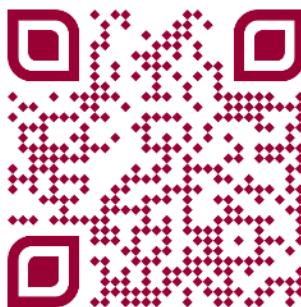
From the 8th of April 2023 (Easter Saturday)

Tours always start every hour from 11.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Special tours for groups are offered all year round. You can find further up-to-date information at www.schauinsland.de (in German)

Route planner:



Schauinslandbahn cable car:



The Schauinslandbahn cable car:

Tram line 2 and bus line 21 take you comfortably to the valley station, from where the longest cable car in Germany takes you up Freiburg's «local mountain» Schauinsland in about 20 minutes.

At almost 1,300 meters above sea level, weather permitting, you can enjoy a view as far as Mont Blanc and the Vosges. Of course you can also view the city of Freiburg from a distance of around 10 km, weather permitting.

Incidentally, a trip on the Schauinslandbahn is already covered by the «WelcomeKarte» from the Freiburg public transport company.

For precise weather data and forecasts, the Schauinslandbahn operates a weather station on the roof of the mountain station. If you would like to get your own picture of the weather on the Schauinsland, you can also take a look at the webcam, which you can call up on the Schauinslandbahn website (QR code on the left) - this way you know «live» what the weather conditions are like on the mountain at this very moment.



Improvements for you:

We have improved the access system:

Since 2019 there have been no more night clerks at the Oberkirch - a solution was already being sought at the time that would allow guests to come into the house late whilst keeping the entrance safe at night in the middle of the city centre.

In 2021, Mrs. Hunn decided to install the ILOQ system at the Schusterstrasse entrance.

Since then, you are familiar with using a code at the entrance in the evening, in order to enter the building.

Unfortunately, however, time has shown that the number pad is quite sensitive and guests have had difficulty operating the pad accurately.

In particular - but not only - after celebrations, this presented a major challenge.

Therefore, the new tenants looked for a better solution that could be implemented quickly - and we have found it: upon arrival our guests now receive a second key with an integrated sensor, which opens the front door without entering a code.

All in line with Schlegel Gastronomie GmbH's mantra that we want to get a little bit better for you every day.

Green City Freiburg:

It cannot be «At some point one ought to...», but the time to act is right now. Freiburg recognized this back in the 1970s and since then has made many efforts to become an environmentally friendly city. Sustainability was and still is the subject of many developed and implemented concepts.

From the very beginning, it has been important to the city that the focus is on «we» and that the measures are developed together with the population, businesses, science, educational institutions, churches, cultural institutions and many more.

This resulted in a unique Freiburg mix, which is now known worldwide under the slogan «Green City Freiburg».

The city of Freiburg has its own website, where you can find out exactly what has been and is being implemented in Freiburg.

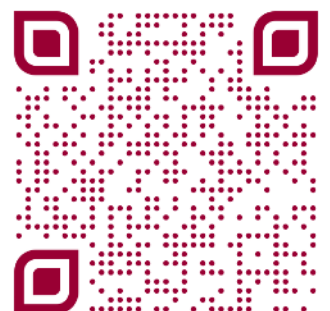
You can also call up a route along selected model projects there, find out about events for trade visitors or find contact with the Green City office in Freiburg.

You will also be informed about milestones along Freiburg's path towards becoming a «Green City» :

Did you know, for example, that the first solar apartment building in Freiburg was built in 1977?

Did you know that the world's first plus-energy house, the «Heliotrope», was built in Freiburg in 1994?

You can find this and much more exciting information at <https://greencity.freiburg.de/en/>





The Oberkirch - proud excellent training company

The Oberkirch not only has a proud tradition of looking after its guests personally and individually to the best of its ability, but is also known as an excellent training company.

We are proud that former trainees of our company now manage hotels in Germany and worldwide. We are also proud to see that people who have trained with us now successfully run their own restaurants.

The fact that these are not isolated cases, but that the success stories of former trainees at the Oberkirch could fill a magazine of their own, shows us that we are on the right track with our training. This is also shown by the certificate as a top training company, which was awarded to us by DEHOGA. As part of this certificate, we commit ourselves to 12 guiding principles to ensure the high quality of our training:

We enable **an optimal start** to the training through an appropriate **orientation phase** and **training period**. Every trainee has a person assigned as a **mentor** within the company who is **available** for questions and problems. The **qualification and presence of our trainers** guarantees training at a high professional and personal level. Our **work atmosphere** is characterized by respect, cosmopolitanism, fairness and tolerance. We **value** the personality and performance of our trainees and are open to constructive feedback.

We encourage participation in job-related projects, competitions and **training**. The vocational school is our partner in dual training, with whom we maintain exchange and cooperation. Our trainees are intensively prepared for the **final exam**. We **support** our trainees in planning their **career and further education**. We pay attention to a **balance between work and private life**. It goes without saying that we comply with the legal provisions and the **general training plan**. In addition, we are guided by the collective agreement regulations in terms of working hours and training allowance. We act **responsibly** for the image of the entire industry.

Do you know someone who might be interested in making guests happy? Anyone is welcome to apply at personal_bewerbungen@hotel-oberkirch.de.

Magazine Collectors' Special 2023

We are happy that our beloved Oberkirch Magazine can be published again this year. We collaborate for many weeks with great joy and passion to compile interesting topics for our guests. Every reader is very special to us, because ordering our magazine shows your very special bond with our company.

We would like to say thank you for the fact that our guests like to browse through our magazine in order to find inspiration for their stay.

Book your overnight stay on our own website and use the booking code **«Magazin 2023»** to secure either a 0.25l bottle of the finest Baden wine in your room or 1 glass of 0.2l wine per person at dinner in our restaurant.

This booking code can only be used once and cannot be combined with other booking codes.

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