

Charles IV - a man with an imperial appetite



Emperor Charles IV is said to have loved both good food and wine. To celebrate the 700-year anniversary since the birth of the Czech King and Roman Emperor Charles IV Prague, Kroměříž, Znojmo and several cities around Czech Republic invite you to royal food festivals filled with gastronomic treats and wine tastings.

Charles IV and his guests mainly ate deer, fallow deer and wild boar from the surrounding forests. The fish came from local rivers and baked chicken, quail or partridge was consumed in large quantities, which was then washed down with a good wine. Charles IV loved hunting and hosting the following royal party. The menu was served on golden plates for the emperor and his guests received a silver plate. The food was always very varied and consisted of several different meals.

The dessert table consisted of an endless supply of cakes, pies and for those who did not like sweets, a local specialty that is caviar from the pike. During the Prague Food Festival from May 27-29, visitors will get a unique chance to taste food and beverages from the 14th century and the time of Charles IV ruling era. The Czech culinary team will prepare a historical menu. This exceptional tasting will expand all your senses with each sip, bite and finishing dessert. Come and enjoy a day full of good food, exciting shows and new experiences on the castle grounds at Prague Castle.

Charles IV loved wine and was the one who brought the cultivation of grapes and the wine industry to the Czech Republic. Charles IV issued a decree that vineyards should be based on all appropriate hillsides and slopes including the city of Kroměříž. Kroměříž is a small town synonymous with good food and drinks. Today, there are three small breweries that brew many types of beer and offers guided tours of the production facilities. Six meters below the castle is an extensive wine cellar to which Charles IV granted the privilege to produce the communion wine in 1345. This tradition has been preserved and today they offer wine cellar tours and tastings. The local chefs are proud of their food art and they can compete against chefs in Prague. Each year the city hosts a prestigious food festival that you definitely should visit if you are a true connoisseur. Experience for yourself the historical grandeur of this important city and discover the charm of the historic architecture and the magic of the

beautiful gardens. It's not a coincidence that many historical film productions have chosen Kroměříž as the backdrop such as Oscar winner Amadeus, A Royal Affair, Angélique and The Three Musketeers. Traveling an hour westwards puts you in the vibrant city of Brno. After a quarrel between Charles IV and his father John of Luxembourg in 1337-1339 regarding the power position of the Czech Kingdom, Charles IV and his first wife Blanche was exiled from Prague to Brno. The royal couple stayed at the castle Špilberk and the region grew along with the royal influence and the trade. In June a food festival will be held at the castle Špilberk and all lovers of good food and good drinks will experience an extraordinary gastronomic savouring. The program is full of unusual dishes, food classics and novelties, as well as wine tastings and art exhibitions. You are given the opportunity to meet chefs from famous restaurants in Brno and discuss food and wine combinations from the region. Foodies who want to taste something different should really consider a visit to the castle Špilberk!

Travelling about an hour from Brno, we end up in the picturesque wine town of Znojmo. Each year the town hosts the festival Historical Vintage Festival in September. The historic centre of Znojmo celebrates its medieval history and the appointment as a royal town. During the festival, you can re-experience the atmosphere from May 1327 when the Bohemian King John of Luxembourg with his wife, Charles IV and the court came to Znojmo. The elegant festival offers music, dance shows and entertainment. You will experience a parade with hundreds of people in historical costumes, medieval games, performances, competitions for children and a finishing colourful firework display. Of course, wine tastings, and wines is the main attraction.

Do as Charles IV and discover the wine and food Mecca Czech Republic! You are invited to food festivals with pure ingredients and locally grown produce in a delightful blend of Czech traditions and influences from world cuisines.

More information:

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