

Keep Calm and Drink Beer – it's The Oktoberfest at Mahlzeit German Restaurant

By **Ben Hopkins** - September 24, 2016



Beer lovers of Yangon will be swinging them back at Mahlzeit's very own week long Oktoberfest – running daily from 25 September till 2 October. Long wooden benches hauled into the bar/restaurant's spacious interior will add to the ambience and support the tub-thumping drinkers. Meanwhile, continuous coverage from the Munich Oktoberfest beamed live onto a large screen will assure there'll not be a dry German eye amongst the hordes of drinkers.

Restaurant manager, Magnus Scherr, claims to know a thing or two about the Munich beer festival. "I'm from Munich and I used to work at the Oktoberfest," he says, beaming. "The mood will be upbeat, we'll be serving the beers in litre jugs and covering the benches in the official blue and white colours of Munich".

A multi-national crowd is expected. "Everyone is welcome," says Magnus. "Entrance is free and the prices are reasonable, as we like to target the Burmese". A glance at the menu backs up his claim, with a mass beer (1 litre) going for 6,000 kyats and half a chicken at 4,000 kyats. For those with the appetite of a Bavarian behemoth there's a whole roast suckling pig feast (nose, ears and hoofs included) for 100,000 kyats.

"The Oktoberfest goes back a long way, and means lot to us," says Magnus, explaining its roots trace back to the public celebration of a royal wedding in 1810 Munich. Back then the festivities were held outside the city gates and the only sheltered seating was in the King's tent. Somehow the Oktoberfest survived the centuries and continues to go from strength to strength, spawning copycat festivals around the world.

Over six million revellers are expected to down over seven million litres of beer (enough to fill three Olympic size swimming pools) at this year's celebrations in Munich. In Yangon, the hardy drinkers of Mahlzeit will be echoing the spirit of their German counterparts across the water; visions blurred, holding onto their tables, determined not to waist a drop of the good stuff. Join them if you dare!

