

# BAVARIAN INN LODGE HISTORY



## Introduction

After a year of construction, the Bavarian Inn Lodge opened its doors on February 10, 1986. At that time, the Lodge offered 100 guestrooms, Oma's Restaurant, the Lorelei Lounge, Martha's Gift Shop, a small game room, one pool and whirlpool, and the River Rooms portion of the conference center. Today, there are 360 guestrooms, an additional restaurant and gift shop, a massive arcade with over 160 games, 4 pools, 3 whirlpools, 2 water slides, and a two-story conference center. Situated along the Cass River on 7 acres that formerly comprised the Weiss Family Farm, the Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center sprawls approximately 1/8 of a mile and provides a multitude of opportunities for making memories that will last a lifetime.

## **Phase I (1986)**

### Lobby

Designed to give a hearty welcome to our guests, the lobby's Bavarian tapestries, alphorns, cowbells, and wood carvings usher visitors right into Old World Germany. The mural depicts the Zehnder Holz Brucke (wooden bridge) being pulled across the Cass River by a pair of oxen named Buck and Bright. Rich with both German and local history, the lobby not only creates an atmosphere but also preserves our history.

### Courtyard

Our expansive courtyard allows guests to enjoy a bit of the outdoors, even during inclement weather. Through our floor-to-ceiling windows, guests can enjoy watching snowflakes float from the sky on a winter's night while soaking in our adults-only Jacuzzi. Notice the imported Jaeger fence around the pool area as this fencing is used exclusively in Germany. This area, originally host to our only pool and whirlpool, now provides a quiet place for adults to enjoy the water away from the hustle and bustle of the Family Fun Center. It also functions as a common area in which guests can play cards, pool, or ping-pong, or simply enjoy each other's

company. Additionally, the courtyard functions as our indoor wedding venue. With vaulted ceilings and a 30-foot skylight, this space perfectly blends outdoor beauty with indoor comfort.

### Second Floor Hallway

Partially overlooking the courtyard runs a hallway, unique to the second floor, with six guest rooms. These rooms share their names with the nearby locales of Frankenmuth, Frankentrost, Frankenlust, Frankenhilf (now Richville) and our sister cities in Germany, Guzenhausen and Rosstal.

### Martha's Gift Shop

Located in our front lobby, Martha's Gift Shop is a must when you stay at the Bavarian Inn Lodge. If you're looking for a souvenir or even a stylish new outfit or handbag for yourself, Martha's offers a wide selection of fashion choices in both clothing and accessories. Forgetting something at home is no longer a problem as the shop also features a number of toiletry and beauty products. Finally, one of the most popular offerings in Martha's is the coffee bar. Start your morning the right way with a latte or macchiato, and maybe even a freshly baked scone!

### Perks Club

Originally, the area across from our front lobby gift shop was a small arcade area. That space has now become the office for our Perks Club. With this loyalty club, you can earn points that can be redeemed as cash, enjoy a complimentary chicken dinner at the Bavarian Inn Restaurant during the month of your birthday, and receive discounts on retail and lodging and various time throughout the year. Having the Perks Club office on site in the front lobby makes it easy for guests to have their questions answered or to update their accounts.

### Guestrooms

Our first room (room 103) bears the name Kueffner after Doug Kueffner, the architect of Phase I. However, this room is not the only one with a name. Nearly all of our 360 *gastzimmers* (or guestrooms) are named after families from Frankenmuth, with each room showcasing family pictures and memorabilia as well as a written family history. These historical details provide a unique experience for every guest as no two guestrooms are exactly the same.

### Oma's Restaurant

Oma's (in English, Grandma's) is located just down the hall from the front desk lobby. Here we offer both German and American cuisine for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The Bavarian décor from the lobby continues in Oma's with carvings by Erich Knauffer from Germany.

### Lorelei Lounge

The Lorelei Lounge shares its name with the famed Lorelei Rock, located in a particularly rugged section of the Rhine River. According to German legend, a beautiful but heartbroken

young maiden threw herself headlong into the Rhine River because of a faithless lover. Upon her death she was transformed into a siren. She sat singing on the rock where she would lure sailors to their death when they became distracted by her bewitching voice. A mural of this story graces one of the walls in the Lorelei Lounge. Fortunately for our guests, no sirens sing in the lounge; however, the lounge does feature live music nightly as well as a dance floor. Toward the end of the evening, both the musicians and guests join in singing "*Ein Prosit der Gemütlichkeit*" – a toast to friendship and cordiality.

### River Rooms

When the Lodge opened, it was not for overnight leisure travel only: the hotel also featured the River Rooms for conventions and other group functions. These three rooms are available separately, but they can also be opened up to provide larger rooms options. Named for the rivers in Germany, each of these rooms abounds with décor all revolving around the specific river after which it is named.

#### Rhine River

One of the principal rivers in Europe, the 820 mile Rhine River flows through Austria, Liechtenstein, France, Germany, and the Netherlands. Its expansive reach makes it useful for transporting a high volume of freight as well as numerous passengers. Along with functioning as a major commercial inland waterway, this river has also greatly influenced the history, culture and economy of Europe for centuries.

#### Mosel River

The Mosel River originates in the Vosges Mountains in Northeastern France and flows 320 miles north through before forming a portion of the border between Luxembourg and Germany.

#### Danube River

The Danube River flows from the Black Forest for 1,770 miles before it empties into the Black Sea. The second longest river in Europe, the Danube has become one of the principal transportation arteries on the continent.

## **Phase II (1989)**

### Guestrooms

Opening in June 1989, our second phase added 98 additional guestrooms, including our fourth floor whirlpool suites. The hallway windows of the first, second, and third floors provide a view of our new pool and whirlpool, while the fourth floor hallway offers a sweeping view of the Cass River and the Covered Bridge.

## Family Fun Center

The Family Fun Center is located underneath Phase II of the hotel. This area is home to numerous arcade games as well as our Children's Village play area. Just beyond the games we added another pool and a whirlpool with a gazebo top.

### **Phase III (1995)**

Phase III opened in May 1995 with 156 new guestrooms and an expansion of the Family Fun Center which included Willy's 18-Hole Mini Golf Course, Michael's Gift Shop, the Ratskeller, and an additional pool and whirlpool.

#### Arcade

When the arcade opened in the Family Fun Center it offered solely video games and pinball machines. However, in 2000, it expanded to include redemption games with tokens and tickets. Now, nearly 80% of the games allow the player to receive credits for redemption prizes. Another upgrade came in 2016 when we converted our games and redemption system from tokens and tickets to gaming cards. This change has allowed us to save paper by not using trillions of tickets each year and has also been more convenient for our guests as they have only one card to keep track of. The card can even be registered so that points and gaming credits can be recovered in the event that the card is lost.

#### Michael's Gift Shop

Michael's Gift Shop offers many items including swimsuits, cover ups, goggles, sweatshirts, and souvenirs. This expansive store's convenient location in the Family Fun Center gives families more time to play instead of making the trek back to Martha's Gift Shop in the front lobby. Michael's also hosts the redemption center and is also the location at which to sign up for miniature golf.

#### Willy's Miniature Golf Course

Across from Michael's Gift Shop is an 18-hole miniature golf course. No need to worry about weather conditions for this golf game as the entire course is indoors. Colorful greens, trees twinkling with lights, and alpine murals all create a truly memorable mini golfing experience.

#### Waterfall Pool and Whirlpool

Behind the mini golf course, we added another pool. Here, a shower of water descends into the pool below. Enjoy the waterfall by swimming right through it, or simply take advantage of the view from the neighboring hot tub.

## Ratskeller

Located across from Michael's Gift Shop is the Ratskeller. This restaurant takes its name from the German word *rats* which mean to counsel or to advise, and the word *keller* which means basement. In Germany, a *ratskeller* is a lounge or tavern located in the basement of a building, particularly in or nearby a city hall. At the Lodge, our Ratskeller offers a variety of food and drinks with cafeteria style seating. Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, the Ratskeller provides an ideal option for families. The Ratskeller also includes a lounge with a variety of beers on tap, along with additional bottled options and mixed drinks. On the weekends, this family-friendly restaurant and lounge hosts karaoke in which adults and children can both participate.

## **Phase IV (1998)**

### Banquet & Conference Center Expansion

As demand for banquet and conference space increased, we added a second floor above the River Rooms. Included with this second floor addition was another full kitchen to service the second floor banquet area. We also expanded the lobby of the first floor of the conference center and added the Altmuehl, another small first floor meeting room that could function additionally as a coat room.

While the Altmuehl is named after a German river just like the other first floor rooms, the second floor of the conference center carries out a theme of its own. The Composer Rooms are all named after famous German or Austrian composers. The three larger rooms—Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms—can function as 3 separate rooms or be opened up into one large room which can seat up to 500 guests. The fourth of the Composer Rooms—the Mozart—is the second floor counterpart to the Altmuehl and functions as a small meeting room or as a coat room for large events.

### Altmuehl River

A tributary of the Danube, the Altmuehl runs through Frankenmuth's sister city, Guznehnhausen. Nestled along the Altmuehl are a number of magnificent palaces, churches, and monasteries.

### Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

A prolific composer of the Romantic Era, Brahms wrote music for a variety of musicians such as choruses, orchestras, chamber ensembles, and solo pianists. His works include the choral piece "A German Requiem," and the popular "Hungarian Dances" for piano duet.

### Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Beethoven's career spanned from the end of the Classical Era to the beginning of the Romantic, creating a transitional bridge between the two styles. Often considered one of, if not the, greatest composer in history, Beethoven wrote a myriad of pieces still widely popular today. Among these pieces are "Moonlight Sonata," "Für Elise," and his *Symphony No. 9* with its final chorus of "Ode to Joy." In spite of going nearly completely deaf in his later years, Beethoven's genius allowed him to create some of the most powerful music ever written.

### Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Much of Bach's career during his lifetime centered on his abilities as an organist. However his remarkable genius and creativity earned him status as the leading composer of the Baroque Era. His compositions have become foundational to the study of music theory and composition, and his works, such as the *Brandenburg Concertos* and "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," are still often performed in both professional and popular settings.

### Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Mozart, an Austrian composer, played a major role in shaping the Classical Era of music in Europe. In his short life he composed an impressive number of works, both instrumental and vocal. Many of his pieces are still well known today including his operas *Don Giovanni* and *The Marriage of Figaro*.

## **Phase V (1999)**

### Kiddie Pool and Lazy River Pool

In 1999 we expanded the area behind the existing phase II pool to create even more options for fun in the water. We included a kiddie pool for our younger guests as well as a lazy river pool for those who want to simply relax as the current carries them along.

## **Phase VI (2012)**

### Bavarian Blast & Tower Twister

Located just across from the kiddie pool are two of our most popular attractions: the Bavarian Blast and Tower Twister waterslides. In place of the lazy river pool, we constructed two four-story slides that provide hours of fun for both young and old alike.