

Luxury good silence in the Kavaliershaus

The cranes are already here. The arrival of the pair of storks, which move into their nest at the head of the Kavaliershaus year after year, is expected every day. It's quiet in Fincken. And that's exactly what got around. Silence and nature. That is why each of the individually furnished suites in the Kavaliershaus Schloss Blücher, the suite hotel on Lake Fincken, is already occupied this weekend at the beginning of March. This region's weakness is also its greatest strength. In the Kavaliershaus Schloss Blücher, the silence, the supposed solitude, is celebrated and turned into a luxurious commodity.

In the suite hotel on Lake Fincken, only the birds roar

No car noise, no light pollution at night. At worst, birds roar in the morning and buzzing insects while bathing in the lake. In addition, a creative slow-food kitchen and only a stone's throw from the more than 1000 lakes of the Müritznationalpark. The Kavaliershaus Schloss Blücher is an ideal place to take a deep breath on a long journey from the south on the way to neighboring Scandinavian countries. The hotel can be reached quickly from Berlin, Hamburg or Lübeck, for example for a relaxing break for two or a creative meeting with colleagues. The extensive grounds with an old park, barn, bathing jetty and playhouse also make it a holiday destination for families. Groups even have the option of renting the entire property. The Finckener See is the house lake of the Kavaliershaus Schloss Blücher.

Furnishings in the Kavaliershaus - with attention to detail

In 2007, the well-known architect Johanne Nalbach acquired the neoclassical outbuilding of Schloss Blücher, where Count Adolf von Blücher once lived, and had it restored from the ground up together with her daughter Lena. It is a house with an eventful history. In the 1930s it was sold by the count's family. It was a school for over 60 years and during the GDR era. The Nalbachs have consciously preserved the history of the house. In many rooms, the old wooden beams are exposed and set in contrast to modern furniture

The patina of the centuries is just as visible in some places in the restaurant as the fact that you are in the former classroom of the Fincken secondary school. In front of the doors of the suites there is a small desk chair here and there. The luggage racks in front of or in the suites are a real eye-catcher. During school hours, the students took their prescribed nap on them.

We are sitting in the classroom, drinking coffee and, as every day, there is freshly baked cake from Gunnar Müller's kitchen when the owner Johanne Nalbach comes in. She is holding a small box in her hand and is heading towards the window where we are sitting. Her attention to detail is evident in this box. A small garden gnome on a swing. He is still missing from the ensemble of the group of dwarves standing on the windowsill. She hangs the newcomer on the window handle and sits down with us. In the conversation, she emphasizes that architecture must be networked with the place. Architecture should speak and act with the place where it takes place.

The rooms are a homage to Uecker & Co.

In the rooms and suites there are motifs by four well-known artists from Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. There are motifs by Günther Uecker, Uwe Johnson, Otto Lilienthal and Caspar David Friedrich, which can be seen as digital prints behind the bed ledge or on the room divider of the walk-in shower in the bathroom. Originals, such as Günther Uecker's acid test, also hang on the wall. In an interview, Johanne Nalbach draws attention to another relic of architectural history. In GDR times, a prefabricated building was built in front of the classical ensemble of palace and cavalier house. No coincidence, as Johanne Nalbach emphasizes, in addition to garages and sheds, workers' housing in the form of prefabricated buildings was often built in the parks of the old estates.

restaurant classroom

The restaurant is housed in the former classroom. Chef Gunnar Müller already knew at the age of seven that he wanted to be a chef. At the age of 13 he began to supplement his pocket money and helped out in his father's restaurant. Here he learned what is now considered the new kitchen trend. "Nose to Tail" and "Leaf to Root". In the scarce times of the planned economy, everything had to be used. "The pigs would starve if I had any," was a saying of his father, who was not only a cook but also a deep-sea fisherman.

Gunnar Müller comes from Wismar. He still calls the city his home to this day. Even if – or maybe because –

he and his whole family left Wismar shortly before the fall of the Wall in 1988 and moved to Hamburg. Here he finds the apprenticeship that does not exist in Wismar. He cooks at the Hafen-Klub Hamburg at the Landungsbrücken, later goes to Heilbronn as chef de cuisine. He has been cooking at the Kavaliershaus Schloss Blücher since 2015.

Käthe's fried herring and Kaiserschmarrn

The classroom is flooded with light, the design of the furniture is Scandinavian, simple and chic. The decorations on the walls and on the windowsills are entertaining and full of contemporary history. The menu of the hotel restaurant is also covered in a school exercise book. And Gunnar Müller's kitchen is also open to non-resident guests. Word has gotten around about his creative style of combining local products and regional recipes with the cuisines of other countries. Gunnar Müller knows his suppliers and only purchases ingredients that convince him. Fish comes from the surrounding waters whenever possible. Wild from the immediate vicinity and with the hunter he is on first name terms. He also uses recipes from his childhood. This is how his grandmother Käthe from Wismar made it onto the menu with the marinated fried herring. The Mecklenburg potato soup "Tüften und Plüm" is particularly popular in the restaurant Klassenzimmer during the cold season. In the case of this hearty potato soup, the Plüm, Low German for plums, are different types of dried fruit.



Engel's World - of giant trees and down-to-earth people

We actually meet Dierk Engel because he supplies the Kavaliershaus with game meat from his own hunt. He is introduced to us as the hunter. But in the course of our trip it turns out that a single job title is not enough to describe his work around Fincken. Dierk Engel picks us up in his all-terrain Lada and right after the first bend in the road we leave the asphalt and drive across his fields.

If you drive through the landscape west of the Müritz, you will immediately notice the giant trees that stand in the middle of a field or even form an entire avenue. Dierk Engel stops in front of just such a giant and introduces us to what is probably the oldest oak tree in the area with an estimated age of around 700 years and a trunk diameter of 2.15 meters. He deliberately leaves dead trees on his fields. They may no longer look majestic, but they are a paradise for insects and birds. Last summer's drought and mild winter allowed four generations of bark beetles to thrive. That hurts the trees. In other years, only two generations of the pests grow, Engel explains.

Veterinarian, landscaper, hunter and gatherer

Dierk Engel manages a farmer's forest. He deliberately swaps squares and areas. His goal is that as many areas as possible that run to the Finckener See are only operated in ecological agriculture. He wants to get away from decades of intensive fertilization. "As long as we still throw away eleven million tons of food in Germany, we don't need to use fertilizer," says the trained veterinarian.

Dierk Engel creates small biotopes for birds and insects. With the help of the villagers, he uncovered an old village pond near Kaeselin. The residents no longer knew that it existed, the water hole was so overgrown by bushes and trees. Today there is a bench by the pond. Marsh harriers and green-footed moorhens have returned.

There is an eleven kilometer long circular route with giant trees and slave graves. The path leads in parts along an old railway line, through forest and over fields. On the way you can see fallow deer and horses and maybe also the green-footed moorhen at a pond created by Dierk Engel. But you rarely meet people here. And that is definitely one of the attractions of Fincken am See and a break in the Kavaliershaus Schloss Blücher in Mecklenburg-West Pomerania.



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