



THE ELWETRITSCH

Many centuries ago, whilst a heavy storm was raging, a handful of chicken, geese and ducks got lost in the Palatinate Forest and never returned. Instead, like goblins, elves and other mythical creatures, they created their own, new family.

.... the Elwetrutsche: comical, colourful but above all mysterious, mythical creatures. In the dense undergrowth of inaccessible woodland or on rocks, they make their nests in the Palatinate Forest Nature Park and in the Rhine valley right up to the Odenwald Forest. They feed preferentially on nuts, herbs, grains and, in the autumn, on the juicy grapes of the vineyards.

The Neustadt artist Prof. Gernot Rumpf dedicated his town fountain to these Palatinate animals, the Elwetrutschebrunnen (1978), one of the most beautiful attractions in Neustadt an der Weinstrasse.

Ten water-spouting columns symbolize the city (largest column) and its nine wine villages. The town council is easily identified: gracefully perched on the highest pillar is the Mayor; the members of the opposition are symbolised by the Elwetritsches, wearing a bow tie, on the edge of the fountain. They remain outside the main fountain, but punish their tie-wearing colleagues by spitting at them with water.

The essential elements of the popular Elwetritsche Hunt can also be seen - a bag made of jute and a stable lantern.

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Herz der Weinstraße