



PRESS RELEASE

The Tour of Germany visits the Saarland: Merzig becomes a host city



Bad Soden – 11th December 2017. Third stage, third state – with Merzig in the Saarland the route of the new Tour of Germany continues to take shape. After Stuttgart and Trier already have been announced as host cities, Merzig is another destination of the four-day stage race between August 23 and 26, 2018.

Merzig plays a special role among the stages of the Deutschland Tour, because in addition to the pros, cycling's youngsters will also be riding in the Saarland. The so-called *Newcomer Tour*, the junior races of the Deutschland Tour will be held on this day in Merzig. In addition, the cycling festival will be accompanied by an expo, a kids' race and family-friendly rides on car-free roads.

"The Tour of Germany comes to the Saarland, which is already the third state we'll visit in August. Great landscapes that invite you to ride and hearty people who are keen sports enthusiasts – I am sure that we will celebrate a great cycling festival in Merzig", says Claude Rach, managing director of the Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Radsports, the organizer of the Deutschland Tour.

The way to Merzig in the north of the Saarland is characterized by the foothills of the Saargau between the Moselle and Saar. Thanks to its location in the border region with France and its proximity to Luxembourg, many cycling fans from the neighboring countries are also expected to visit the Saarland during the Tour of Germany.

The mayor of Merzig, Marcus Hoffeld, says: "With the Tour of Germany we welcome a top-class event in our region next year. Merzig is the city with more possibilities and the Deutschland Tour offers an ideal platform to present Merzig as a European city in the midst of a charming landscape. The people of Merzig, but also our many visitors and tourists, can look forward to a great day with top-class sports and many participatory activities."

Klaus Bouillon, Saarland's Minister of the Interior, Construction and Sport, adds: "I am very pleased that we inspired the Deutschland Tour to visit the Saarland. As the capital of the Green County Merzig-Wadern in the north of our state, Merzig fits perfectly into an event that focuses on the joy of cycling."

According to the motto "Your Tour", fans will have the opportunity to participate in the design of the Tour of Germany until February. This unique opportunity in professional cycling can now also be used for route tips around the destination of Merzig. Fans can submit suggestions on the website DeutschlandDeineTour.de or by email to Strecke@DeutschlandDeineTour.de.