

# 'Let's Party Europe' skips history, focuses on entertainment

*Book includes passport, which provides discounts, freebies to some of Europe's hottest spots*

Most guides to Europe lead one to explore ancient castles, museums, famous landmarks and cathedrals. But *Let's Party Europe* is an entirely different kind of guide, providing all sorts of information on bars, pubs, nightclubs and discotheques. In short it gives you the rundown on the "happening" scenes in major European cities and their hot spots.

The book starts off with a very humorous spiel on travel information, how to use the book and survival tactics. Although not extremely useful, the introduction is cleverly written and funny. For example, the bit on sleep gives some truly brilliant insight - "Starting three weeks before your trip, reduce the amount of sleep you have each evening until, eventually, you don't sleep at all. Like bad habits (smoking, biting nails, drinking cola), sleep will eventually be something you can do without. When you complete this program, you'll be able to optimize your time in Europe."

Following the introduction is an interesting account of yearly festivals, and a brief description of them. This is fairly useful, because the festivals are a big part of life in Europe and can be very fun. From there, the book gets down to business, giving a description of 37 major European cities such as London, Madrid, Rome, Munich, Athens, etc., arranged alphabetically.

For each city there is an intro, giving a basic rundown of the history, the party scene, major festi-

vals and of course the authors' opinion, which the book doesn't run short of. In the introduction to Athens, the book simply goes off on how bad the city is, and why it's not worth visiting.

"Athens may be the 'cradle of western civilization,' where philosophy, democracy, and the Olympic games were born, but if Aristotle awoke from the dead, when he took his first deep breath he'd either gag and fall back into his grave, or pack it up and purchase a one-way ticket to Santorini."

For other cities, however, like Berlin or London, the book actually gives really interesting and useful information on the history of the city and interesting places to visit. But the main point of the book is the detailed guide to bars and nightclubs in each city. The book gives the address, telephone number, hours, cover charge and really good descriptions of the atmosphere, the type of people who frequent the club and prices of drinks and food. Also there is a label given to each spot, such as "Techno Rave Club" or "Blues Bar," to give the traveler a better idea of what type of place it is without reading the whole description.

In Amsterdam, the book also lists a guide of the "coffee shops," and gives the prices and quality of the marijuana and hash sold there.

Although for some cities there is a listing of a couple of hotels or other accommodations, they are not very descriptive and certainly



Gordy Seeley, a travel consultant at All Ways Travel, which is located on the main floor of the EMU, talks with Jody Hart, a senior who is majoring in advertising, about possible travel destinations for the summer.

not comprehensive by any means. So if you are looking for a guide to lodging or hostels, this is definitely not the book. *Let's Party Europe* does, however, give detailed information on some interesting attractions, such as the largest water park in Europe and the bungee-jumping in Interlaken.

One of the criticisms of the book is that rather than arranging the cities according to countries or areas of Europe, they are arranged alphabetically. If you are looking for a place to go in the area, you will have to check out a map or another guide.

Also, the choice of some cities is fairly random. It seems that the authors spent a lot of time in one area that they liked but didn't bother to go to others. For example in France, the book talks about three cities on the southeastern coast of France, but

there is nothing on Central France. In Spain, the book covers seven cities, but in Switzerland it only talks about Interlaken, skipping over the capital, Bern, Geneva, and Basel, all of which are major cities.


The coverage on each city is also varied, not necessarily depending on the size or the popularity of the city. This makes the book seem a bit less professional, as if a couple of people just went on a trip to Europe and described the places they went.

But what rescues the book is the entertaining style of writing, even though it's not very objective. The book is also focused towards students and younger people and provides useful information that most guides don't offer, such as where the hangout places are for students, where the cheap food and drinks are and much more.

And of course the other most useful aspect of the book is the Official Party Passport, which has a multitude of coupons for beer, drinks, food, and free admission to discotheques. This should provide especially useful in Europe and makes the book a worthwhile investment.

For those looking to see all the museums, castles, fountains, and statues in Europe, this is definitely not the right guide. But for those who also have some partying and dancing in mind, and plan on taking advantage of the younger drinking age (you only need to be 18), this may prove to be a good bargain. The book is only 13 bucks and with all the coupons in the "passport," it will pay for itself if you go over to Europe.

—Les Zaczek

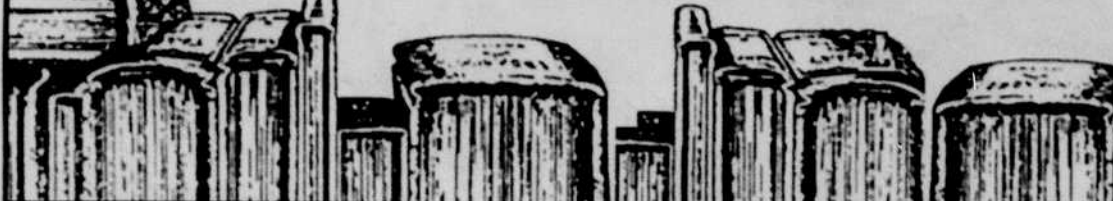


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