Contents

Preface	page 7
History and background - how I became involved in the beer tent business	10
The world of beer tents - before the festival and around the beer tent	13
In the beginning was the plank - how to set up a beer tent	15
The flag-waving ladies in their dirndl dresses - and other attractions From "Dolce Vita" to the mysterious "Vogelsuppentag" ("Bird Soup Day") -	18
theme days and special events	20
Today's children - our guests of tomorrow	23
Emergency personnel - the importance of safety and	
responsibility during the festival	24
Big business - who else profits from festivals and fairs	26
Hunger, thirst and a cheerful mood - the perfect triad	29
Traditional dishes and drinks - waiting tables on a grand scale	29
The good ol' 'Mass' beer and our 'beloved' Euro	36
The birthplace of the amber brew and the importance of the beer queen	37
A 'Volksfest' without music - unthinkable!	38
Church service in the beer tent? - Hey, why not?!	41
Mirror, mirror on the wall - who is the trendiest of all?	42
My life as a traveling waiter - at home in the world	45
The waiter - vagabond, counselor and entertainer all rolled into one	45
Showmen - the steadfast of the business	48
The whole world in one place	49
A closer look at people and their surroundings - soft skills and beyond	50
Among waiters - colleagues and competitors	52

	page
	page
Twelve beer mugs in two hands - how to work the stage	56
First steps - from the Federal Armed Forces to the fun fair	56
A successful waiter - when work experience is key	58
Mindfulness is what really matters	58
Taking an order	60
The basic tip formula	67
Helpful hints galore - twelve beer mugs and more	70
The secret language of the stein - nonverbal communication	73
'Volksfest' ecstasy - drowning in the festival madness	74
Behind the scenes - how to start a successful career	76
Preparation is half the battle - breaks and accommodations	76
Notepad, pen and traditional garb - and everything else a waiter needs	78
Worse than some blisters on your feet - health issues	82
Wages and reimbursement - how it works	84
Insurances for waiters - an overview	86
Crunching numbers - making sense of social security,	
taxes and unemployment benefits	88
Germany celebrates! - my personal fun fair guide	93
'Kirchweih', Cow Pie Bingo and other modern versions of traditions	93
A map of Germany - welcome here and there (and everywhere)	97
The Oktoberfest in Munich - the ultimate 'Volksfest' experience for waiters	103
Fun fairs and trade fairs - my favorites	113
Dialogs and pithy sayings from the beer tent	125

	page
What you need to know to become an expert waiter	134
To each his own - serving international guests	134
With the 'sled' inside the 'ship', a home game -	
the ABC of beer tent lingo	136
Waiting tables in beer tents - why you can easily skip the gym	141
'Wadl' - its own curiosity	142
Three factors that make this job worthwhile	143
Popular toasts and sayings about the merry enjoyment of beer	144
Anecdotes an bizarre ecperiences	146
Acknowledgments	147
Bibliography	150