

Press release, September 2017

Best hot dog in Denmark

Welcome to The Danish Hot Dog Championship on the 3rd of September in Aarhus! The event is one of the most fun and popular happenings of The Food Festival, which is the biggest in Scandinavia. At the Danish Championship in Hot Dogs 2016, we saw a lot of unexpected hot dog servings: Living lemon-ants crawling on your hotdog, hot dogs served in bread as black as coal and hot dogs served by masked, dancing waitresses. We expect to see even more craziness and tastiness in the year of 2017.

Most participants are hot dog vendors, butchers, and chefs, who often challenge the identity and shape of the sausage. The top chefs' extravagant experiments have very little to do with what is served from the average hot dog wagon, but there are several examples of vendors who have become inspired and launched new quality hot dog concepts afterwards.

The Danish Hot Dog Championship is a part of European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017, which has an impressive program of more than 130 food events.

'From the humble hotdog to the haute cuisine, there is something for everyone when we turn our talents to setting the table for food, fun and fabulous conversations about all things gastronomical. We help celebrate the mid Denmark region's wonderful natural larder by bringing our focus to local produce, movable feasts, and food with social enterprise. Pull up a chair, we have heaps to share!' says Juliana Engberg, Programme Director Aarhus 2017.

Funds raised from the Hot Dog DM go to a good cause. Last year, the Food Festival supported The Danish Children's Fund project in Burkina Faso, focusing on young mothers' knowledge of health and nutrition for their children. A total of DKK 236,650 was collected for the project.

The rise, fall and comeback of the Danish hot dog

The hot dog is Denmark's first 'street food' and has become a beloved part of the nation's cultural history. It came from the south, from Germany. As with so many other newcomers, the Danes did everything they could to keep it out of the country at first - but it soon became the Danish food culture's working class hero.

However, a couple of years ago, it was on its way out. Nobody seemed to care about the Danish sausage, and the number of hot dog vendors in Denmark went from 700 to only 100. Luckily, attempts were made to save the famous sausage and today, it's as hip as ever.

Photo: *Danish Championship of Hotdogs is one of the activities of European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017. Photo by Per Bille.*

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