

# Missouri's **Prettiest** *small* Towns

Explore ten tiny towns that are among the state's most beautiful.

By Jonas Weir

**MISSOURI IS DEFINED** by its small towns as much as anything else. Between our state's two great metropolises lies our state's heart—where tiny towns populate great plains and small communities dot the rugged landscape of the Ozark hollows. Some sit high above the Missouri on great river bluffs; some are tucked away in the woods.

From border to border, we looked for the most quaint, charming, and frankly, prettiest small towns. Although there is no official definition of a small town, we decided to look only at villages and towns with populations under one thousand. Yes, places like Jefferson City have been nationally recognized among the beautiful small towns in the country, but places that large are not nearly as tiny as the towns on this list. Jefferson City's population is more than forty thousand, and a few of the towns here have populations of less than a hundred.

Here, the beauty comes from many things. Some places have quaint downtowns with thriving business districts; others are defined by historic buildings and sublime natural landscapes. Regardless, each of these ten towns is worth the trip and represents one of the best ways to get a slice of small town America.

Residential homes are interspersed among restaurants and bed-and-breakfasts in Rocheport's small business district—less than twenty miles from Columbia.

NOTLEY HAWKINS

The Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre is one of many benefits in this town with a population under fifty. With a season that runs from March until December each year, the Arrow Rock Lyceum draws in visitors from all over the country.



COURTESY OF MISSOURI DIVISION OF TOURISM

Aside from drawing in tourists to try the town's two vacation bakeries, Kimmswick brings the biker crowd to town with the C&S Cycle Harley-Davidson dealer.



### ARROW ROCK

No place in the state is quite like Arrow Rock.

Sitting on bluffs above the Missouri River, Arrow Rock has been a place of significance since well before the first Europeans visited. Archaeological evidence shows people have been here for more than ten thousand years. In the early nineteenth century, Arrow Rock became a frontier village along the Sante Fe Trail. After that, prominent Missourians, such as artist George Caleb Bingham and Dr. John Sappington, called Arrow Rock home. Before the Civil War, it reached its peak population of about a thousand.

Arrow Rock's rich history, however, is only part of the equation that has made it one of the prettiest towns in Missouri. The town's distinct look does come from the 1829 city plan, but it also would not be the same without the dedicated merchants, Friends of Arrow Rock nonprofit, and Missouri State Parks, who have lovingly preserved the

historic buildings, including George Caleb Bingham's 1837 home.

Today, the town has fewer than fifty full-time residents but has the amenities of a much larger city. Visitors from all over come to Arrow Rock to patronize the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre, two museums, a state historic site, seven antique and specialty gift shops, three restaurants, and five bed-and-breakfasts.

In the tiny village of Arrow Rock, history not only lives, but it also thrives. Arrow Rock sees the future in its past.

### KIMMSWICK

Kimmswick is an unlikely hotbed for tourism. In 2010, the US Census recorded the population at a mere 157. However, there is plenty to do in this quaint village twenty-five miles south of St. Louis. You could spend a day—or two—here.

The annual Strawberry Festival in June and the Apple Butter Festival in October are the town's two biggest attractions, drawing thousands of visi-

tors that come to indulge in the fruits of the season. The Strawberry Festival overlaps with the town's bluegrass festival, so visitors can enjoy music and fresh berries at the same time. Although those two weekends are the highlights, the town hosts events throughout the year, including Halloween festivities in the fall and Christmas celebrations during the winter.

Kimmswick is worth the trip any time of the year, though. Founded more than 150 years ago, the historic downtown is now home to many homegrown boutiques, art galleries, gift shops, and antique stores.

The town is also a destination for those with a sweet tooth. The town's two bakeries—the Dough Depot and the Blue Owl—are both required visits. Our recommendation is getting lunch at the Dough Depot and dessert at the Blue Owl, or vice-versa. Or better yet, get a full meal and dessert at one bakery on Saturday, and try the next on Sunday.



Specialty shops line First Street in downtown Clarksville, including Great River Road Pottery, Simpatico art gallery, Miss Tiffie's Candy, and Tubby's Grub & Pub at the River.



Les Bourgeois Vineyard is the largest tourist attraction in Rocheport. The vineyard offers outstanding views of the Missouri River and easy access to the KATY Trail.

### CLARKSVILLE

Seventy-five miles northwest of St. Louis, Clarksville has become a day-trip destination for residents of the Gateway City. The town is no more than eight blocks long, but its business district is thriving with antique shops, artisan shops, speciality stores, and restaurants.

Founded on the banks of the Mississippi River in 1819, Clarksville was named after Corps of Discovery explorer and governor of the Missouri territory William Clark. In 1880, the population hit its peak at 1,600. With a current population of about a third of that, it's not the population center it once was, but that adds to the small town charm.

Clarksville's quaint storefronts, restaurants, and bed-and-breakfasts aren't the only things that attract visitors. In the winter, Clarksville is one of the best places in the state to see bald eagles. Riv-

er Front Park is only one of the places to spot the majestic birds. Just outside of town, Overlook Farm restaurant and resort is the place to take in the beautiful northern Missouri countryside.

### ROCHEPORT

Not quite twenty miles from Columbia, Rocheport, population 239, is the town that proves that Mid-Missouri is just as beautiful as any other part of the state.

Taking its name from the French words for rocky and port, Rocheport sits on the jagged bluffs of the Missouri. The town was established as a trading post in the early nineteenth century and became a full-fledged town in 1825. Today, the town still offers the same vistas that Lewis and Clark saw when they traveled through the area more than two hundred years ago, though I-70 pierces through the landscape to the southeast.

The best place to catch a glimpse of Mother Earth's majesty might be Les Bourgeois Vineyards. Not far from the KATY Trail, the winery has indoor and outdoor spaces that look out onto the Big Muddy.

On the other hand, Les Bourgeois is not the only attraction in town. The small downtown area has shops, galleries, and even a museum. No trip to this river town would be complete without stopping by the Rocheport General Store. The store has a variety of dry goods and offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Additionally, it often becomes the town's music venue, playing host to an eclectic variety of music acts, from bluegrass to classic rock, on weekends.

### PERRY

This year, Perry, in rural Ralls County, is celebrating its sesquicentennial—or 150th birthday.

In July 1866, a year after the Civil War had ended, the town of Perry was platted and named after Perry Crosthwaite, who owned a nearby mill. In the early days of Perry, the Crosthwaite family owned the hotel, dry goods store, market, drug stores, hardware store, lumberyard, mills, livery stables, wagon and blacksmith shop, and opera house. Since then, the town has grown, but not too much. The population currently hovers around 700—compared to the 147 recorded in the 1880 Census.

Today, Perry touts itself as the southern gateway to Mark Twain Lake, and its residents preach that it's small town living at its best.

The charming, historic downtown evokes Main Street USA, and the nearby waters at Mark Twain Lake are perfect for Andy Griffith's favorite pastime—fishing.



Downtown Perry is home to a thriving business district. A number of antique and gift shops line Main Street, along with a medical clinic, a bank, and more.

COURTESY OF MISSOURI DIVISION OF TOURISM

COURTESY OF MISSOURI DIVISION OF TOURISM AND THE CITY OF PERRY

When seasonally, Jolly Cone in Van Buren is a great summer hangout spot. Find the burger joint at 203 Janes Street, where it has stood since 1953.



Westphalia's city hall now occupies this historic bank building on Main Street. The bank failed as the stock market crashed in 1929. It is across the street from the St. Joseph Catholic Church.



### WESTPHALIA

Less than twenty miles south of Jefferson City, the topography starts to develop into the rolling hills and jagged plateaus distinct to the Ozarks. Tucked away into the side of these hills is the tiny community of Westphalia.

With a population of less than four hundred, Westphalia is marked by a short drag of quaint, historic buildings along main street. Despite such a small population, the town has a museum dedicated to preserving and celebrating the area's rich German heritage, a restaurant in an old inn, and Westphalia Vineyards.

Built in 1848, the St. Joseph Catholic Church is one of the oldest buildings in the area. Today, it still shines like a white, stone beacon and attracts passersby to this tiny community.

### VAN BUREN

Van Buren sits on the banks of one of the most gorgeous bodies of water in the country—the Current River.

The tiny town spills right into the crystal blue waters of the Current and is, for many, the gateway to Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Founded in 1833 and named after statesman Martin Van Buren, this small community has been the county seat for Carter County for not-quite two hundred years. The town did not receive electricity until 1927, and it still serves as a destination for those who want to unplug.

Today, the town is home to a little more than eight hundred residents and sports an adorable, historic business district, along with many places to camp, hike, float, hunt, and do about anything else outdoorsy. Home to many swimming holes, summer is the best time of the year to visit Van Buren.

### WEINGARTEN

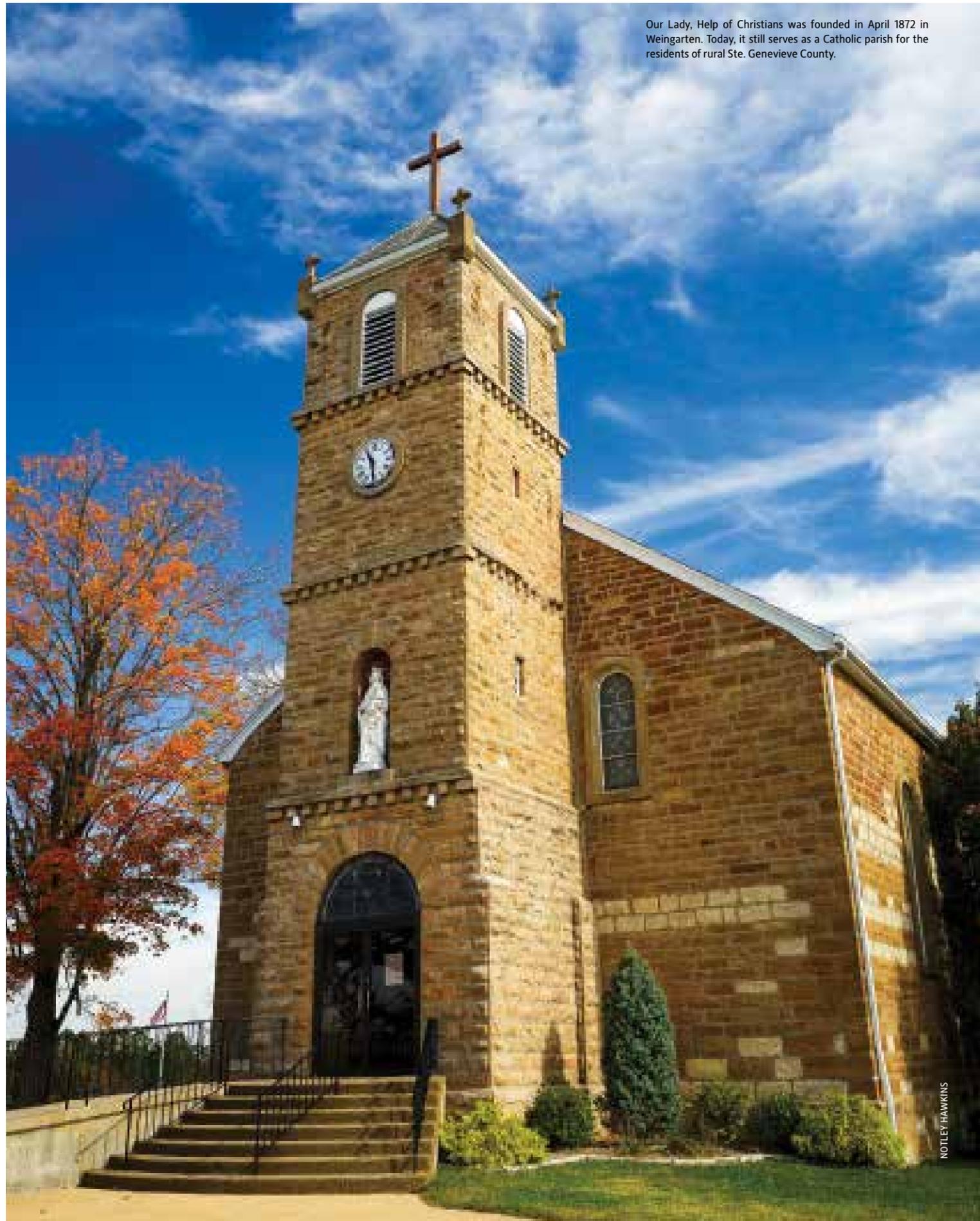
Weingarten's name sums up what the town is all about. The German settlement in Ste. Genevieve County takes its name from the German word for vineyard, and the rich landscape surrounding the tiny village is Missouri wine country at its best.

Thirteen miles from Ste. Genevieve, Weingarten was founded in 1837 by Jacob Wolf. Today, the oldest building in town is Our Lady, Help of Christians. Built in 1872, it still serves a large parish.

Although Weingarten is technically unincorporated and was absorbed into the total Ste. Genevieve County for the 2010 Census, the population hangs around one hundred. The biggest attraction in town is Weingarten Vineyard, which might sound silly when translated to German but is seriously worth visiting. Dinner at the Garten Haus restaurant is the perfect way to end a day visiting southeast Missouri.

COURTESY OF MISSOURI DIVISION OF TOURISM

Our Lady, Help of Christians was founded in April 1872 in Weingarten. Today, it still serves as a Catholic parish for the residents of rural Ste. Genevieve County.



NOTLEY HAWKINS



Although on private property, you can see this beautiful historic mill from Route 21 in Centerville, about half mile west of Pine Street. Reeds Spring Mill dates back to

**CENTERVILLE**

As a part of the Arcadia Valley region, Centerville sits on the west fork of the Black River and is a historic mining town.

The Black River and surrounding St. Francis Mountains mark this region with natural beauty, and Centerville adds to the charm by sporting several historic buildings that deliver the nostalgic feel of yesteryear. Reeds Spring Mill and the old Reynolds County courthouse are just a few.

With a population of about two hundred, Centerville is among the smallest towns in the state, but it also stands out as one of the prettiest.

**REEDS SPRING**

A cozy village on Table Rock Lake, Reeds Spring is more than a vacation destination.

Although Table Rock Lake sports a number of resorts and summer homes, Reeds Spring is year-round hometown for about nine hundred proud residents. For more than a hundred years, this small town has stood the test of time, surviving fires, Bonnie and Clyde, and more.

MARK SCHUYER AND DONALD HABERMAN



MeMe's Antiques and Country Cafe sit along Spring Street in downtown Reeds Spring. It's one of four restaurants and five retail shops in the town of less than one thousand.

The charming business district and 1936 stone Works Progress Administration building add to the town's charm, but what really makes it beautiful is the abundance of natural beauty in the bordering lake and surrounding Ozarks. Currently, the city is looking forward by remodeling the WPA building, making it ADA accessible, adding a library, and turning it into a new community center.

**PRETTIEST SMALL TOWNS 2017**

What did you think of our list? Next year, we're expanding the list to include towns under 2,500, and we want your input. Tell us what towns should be on the list, and you'll get to vote for the winner. Visit [missourilife.com/prettiest-small-towns](http://missourilife.com/prettiest-small-towns) to learn more.

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*Fröhliche Weihnachten!*

# *A Holiday at* **HERMANN FARM**

PHOTOS BY NOTLEY HAWKINS



Farm Manager Darryl Coates drives Missouri mules, Pat and Jane, in harness bells past the historic Husmann Home.



A collection of springerle cookie molds will be on display at the Spirit House. The old springerle molds were used to emboss designs in anise-flavored cookie dough.

## TURN BACK TIME

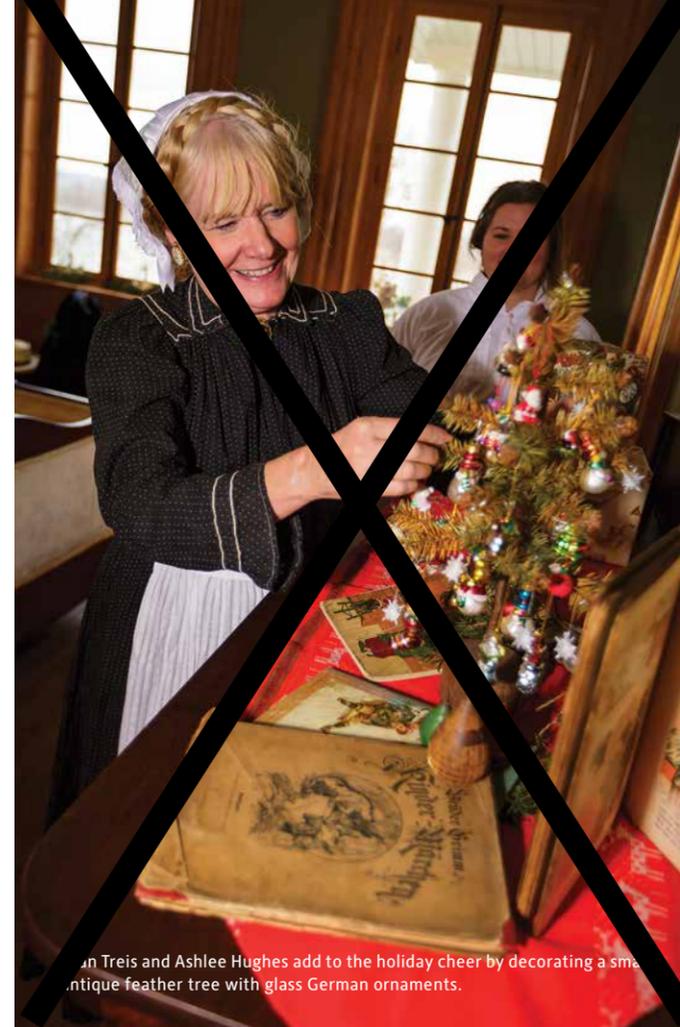
### TURN BACK TIME

For some, traveling for the holidays is not so much a matter of where to go as when. There's something about Christmas that shares a symbiotic relationship with the past. Memory creates a personal nostalgia. Time slows down. And technology takes a backseat to traditions.

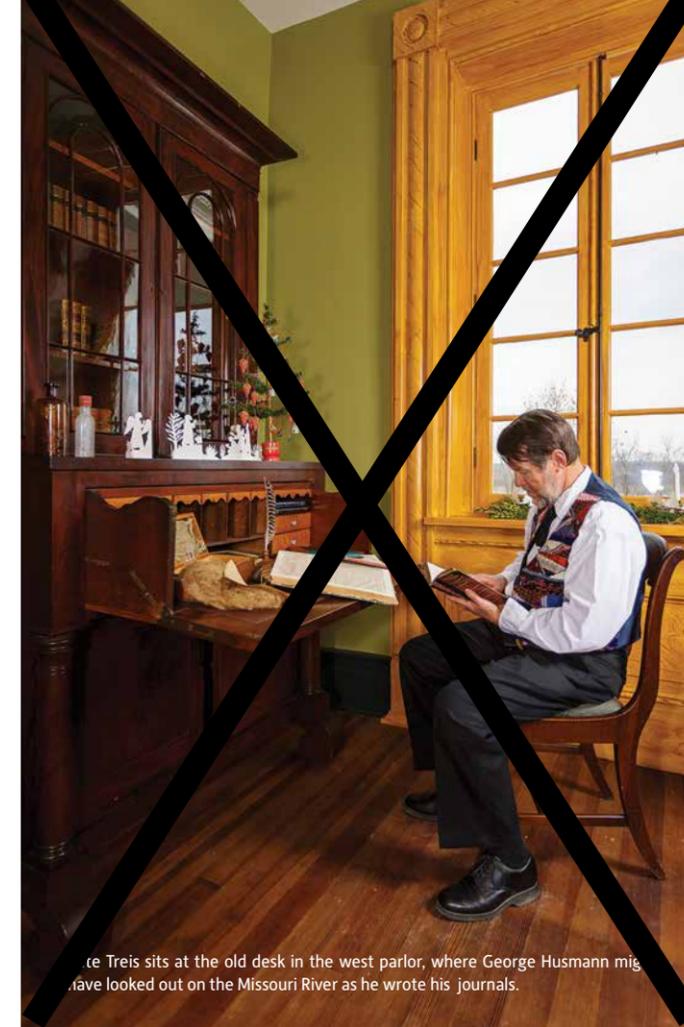
This year, for the first time, Hermann Farm is inviting visitors to get lost in Christmas as it was celebrated in the nineteenth-century German town on the south bank of the Missouri River.

The 160-acre working farm is an open-air museum that captures the spirit of 1850s Hermann when German immigrants had only just begun to settle the area of the Missouri River valley that reminded them so much of their home along the Rhine.

The farm was originally the home of George Husmann, who came to the area in 1838 to live on land his father had purchased while still in Germany.



Jan Treis and Ashlee Hughes add to the holiday cheer by decorating a small, antique feather tree with glass German ornaments.



Jan Treis sits at the old desk in the west parlor, where George Husmann might have looked out on the Missouri River as he wrote his journals.



An open hearth stands ready to prepare a holiday meal, complete with trammel to hold cast iron pots to simmer soups and stews over the fire. The wall and trim colors are authentic and original to the home.



Old buggies, farm implements, barn loom and quilting machines, seed cleaning equipment, and a harness maker's tools are among the items on display in the old barn at Hermann Farm.



Above: This restored old timber barn has hosted everything from Civil War commemorative events to receptions and musical performances. There are amazing views out the windows where you can see raptors in flight along the Missouri River waterway. Right: An old loom sits in the corner of the barn. The antique equipment visible in the foreground is a "Keystone" Common Sense Feed Cutter with a copyright date of July 1872.



The first stop on your journey to the past is the old mercantile, stocked as an old-time store should be, with handmade gifts, books, fudge, and holiday décor.

**DECK THE HALLS**

Visitors to Hermann Farm can visit the two-story Husmann House, a Greek Revival style home, restored with period furniture and decorated for the holidays with candles, garland, and wreaths.

The holiday spirit extends beyond the farmhouse to spill across the entire acreage. Hermann Farm's resident shire horses are wearing brightly polished harness bells. A roaring bonfire warms guests behind the restored 1838 mercantile and visitors center.

Schuetzenhalle is decorated with *scherenschnitte* and *springerle*, and every building takes on a Christmas theme, from the trading post with antlers and turkey feather décor to Master Distiller's log homestead with corn husk dolls and many natural decorations. Father Christmas will be at the farm, too.

For more information and updates, go to Facebook: Hermann Farm or call 573-486-3276.



This 1790s trading post is just one of many historic stops at Hermann Farm where visitors can experience an authentic German Christmas celebration.

**PLAN YOUR TRIP**

Hermann Farm is open Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4, and December 10 and 11, from 10 AM to 4 PM. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$9 for children ages 3 to 15, free for children younger than 3.



# HOLIDAYS

IN THE

# LITTLE HILLS

NAMED *LES PETITES CÔTES* (THE LITTLE HILLS) BY FRENCH-CANADIAN SETTLERS, SAINT CHARLES OFFERS A SEASON OF FESTIVE EVENTS FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

STORY BY NICOLE PLEGGÉ • PHOTOS BY NOTLEY HAWKINS

**THE HOLIDAYS CAN BE CRAZY.** Sometimes you just need to step back from the madness and the malls. You long to feel cobblestone beneath your feet instead of an escalator. You want to shop to the melodic voices of live carolers instead of canned elevator music. And you want to taste a chestnut roasted over an open fire instead of just singing about it.

In Saint Charles, Christmas isn't just a holiday; it's an experience that tempts all of the senses. In this historic town on the banks of the Missouri River, residents take their holiday very seriously, spreading joy to everyone who sets foot on their brick-paved streets. By packing the season with spectacular events, they invite guests to eat, drink and be merry—very, very merry.

The Lewis & Clark Fife and Drum Corps leads a parade of Santas from around the world during the Christmas Traditions opening events on November 25.



Top: Santa and Mrs. Claus receive a spirited welcome when they arrive on the opening day of Christmas Legends. Above: Take a ride in a one-horse open carriage on brick-lined streets, along the ten-block district on the National Register of Historic Places. Right: Find Missouri wines, Amish jams and jellies, sauces, spices, handmade soaps, and more at Missouri Mercantile at 904 South Main Street in Historic Saint Charles.

### Traditions Create Lifelong Memories

Founded in 1769, Saint Charles has long been a destination for shoppers, serving as a stop where settlers could stock up before heading west. Over the centuries, the supplies may have evolved, but the town's dedication to serving its guests has only grown.

Today, more than one million people visit Saint Charles annually to scour the antique shops, gift stores, and chic boutiques that fill its eighteenth-century French Colonial buildings and to sip a libation on the patios of its breweries and wineries.

While anytime is a wonderful time to visit, sampling this hometown hospitality during the holidays is an experience to remember. Each November, the city unlocks the door to the past while opening visitors' eyes to a magical wonderland during its annual Christmas Traditions, a free, family-friendly event produced by the Greater Saint Charles Convention and Visitors Bureau that has made Historic Main Street a must-do destination for four decades.

From the moment guests grab a cup of wassail to watch the mayor of Saint Charles light up the Christmas tree in the opening ceremony on November 25 until night falls on Christmas Eve, they step back into a combination of Mayberry and Tiny Tim's London with just a little fantasy thrown in for good measure.

The best way to start your Christmas

Traditions experience is from the back of a horse-drawn carriage where, from your perch, you can plan your expedition for the day.

Wrap your mittens around a hot chocolate and nestle under a blanket as you soak in the sights—the chestnut roasters on the corner, the sea of lights casting a glow over the snow, the garlands and handmade red bows streaming from the doorways, all set to the soundtrack of carolers serenading you from the street below.

But of course, no good holiday festival is complete without the traditions kids—and kids at heart—have come to love. Visit the historic Katy Depot in Frontier Park to view Santa's Train Land, an interactive train display that wows even the littlest of revelers before they climb up on Santa's lap for a little chat. Join in the Land of Sweets Dance Party led by the Saint Charles CVB staff and volunteers, or savor the sights and smells of the Gingerbread Village at Main Street Church.

### Entertained from the Start

Visitors to Historic Main Street don't just attend a holiday event, they become part of a theatrical performance a year in the making. Main Street is truly an outdoor stage where you can direct your own Christmas story with a cast of classic characters.

Every Wednesday night, and Friday through Sunday, more than fifty "Legends of Christmas" wander the streets to bring the holiday spirit

Left: Children love seeing their favorite holiday legends come to life. Above: Christmas shopping seems less stressful at the 125 shops and businesses that call Saint Charles home.

directly to guests. In this enchanted land, the Sugar Plum Fairy mingles with Kris Kringle, and Ebenezer Scrooge serves up a little "bah, humbug" to counteract the yuletide. Characters even hand out trading cards with their likenesses to kids so they can have their own souvenirs of the fun.

For Ryan Cooper, who has played Jack Frost for the past ten years, the connection with the guests is what makes Christmas Traditions stand out from other festivities.

"The reaction to Jack is so much fun," Ryan says. "Of course at Christmastime, you can't have the nice without the naughty, and Jack is one of our more mischievous characters. The festival is so full of cheer and goodness that adults and kids alike enjoy interacting with characters like Ebenezer Scrooge and the Master of Revels and Jack Frost, who all dish out a bit of good-humored snarkiness!"

Ryan notes that the spirit and camaraderie are what lure him back to the festival year after year. "At Christmas Traditions, you can forget everything in life that is troubling you, and for a few hours smile and laugh and get caught up in the spirit of the holidays," he says. "And that goes equally for those involved. The festival can get very busy, but on some nights, I may find myself with a moment of quiet where I get to take a breath. I look around and



Carolers add to the traditional sights and sounds of the holiday season on the streets of Saint Charles.

see the bright lights along the street and hear the harmonies of the carolers passing by, and I think to myself, 'This is what it's all about.' Pure magic."

The Legends first make their festival appearance at the Santa Parade on opening day. With the Lewis & Clark Fife and Drum Corps leading the way and choruses crooning along the route, the parade also features Santas from around the world, hoisting their country's flag and greeting guests in their native languages, before Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in a horse-drawn carriage. If you can't get to opening day, the parade replays every Saturday and Sunday afternoon at 1:30 PM through December 18.

One lucky child will be chosen to ride in Santa's carriage during each parade. To get more information, or to enter your child, go to [HistoricStCharles.com/things-to-do/christmas-traditions/ride-with-santa](http://HistoricStCharles.com/things-to-do/christmas-traditions/ride-with-santa).

At Christmas Traditions, the entertainment continues nonstop. Enjoy traditional carols from the Cobblestone Wassailers or bop to holiday standards from the Sleigh Bell Singers and the USO Evergreens. On Friday nights, join the Master of Revels for holiday tales and

a marshmallow roast, and on Wednesdays sit alongside Clement Clarke Moore as he reads *A Visit From Saint Nicholas* by candlelight at Missouri's First State Capitol. Little ones can even get the inside scoop on sleigh driving from a reindeer flight instructor.

In addition, Christmas Traditions hosts a Yuletide Dinner in the Old Stone Chapel where you can mingle one-on-one with your favorite Legends while enjoying a delicious buffet.

### Start and Finish Your Holiday Shopping

According to Nicole Vandesteeg of Wildwood, who has attended Christmas Traditions for the past five years, the magic that the Legends serve up for her three children is contagious. "We love the character interaction and learning about all of the different characters associated with Christmas," she says. "The kids love collecting the trading cards from the Santas and characters. We have family members who plan their visit around when the festival takes place because they love it as well!"

While it's the Christmas Traditions event that draws in guests, it's the shopping that makes Main Street a true destination around

the holidays. Walk along the bustling sidewalks and slip into any of historic Saint Charles's 125 shops for that perfect one-of-a-kind find. Shop for holiday décor from April's On Main or Thistle & Clover, and explore trendy fashions at MOss and Ginsey Rose.

Jean Dryden of The Glass Workbench and her fellow shop owners go all out for the holidays and welcome shoppers with open houses, unique events, and special offerings all season long.

For Jean, whose father played the original Civil War Santa when Christmas Traditions started four decades ago, that love for the holidays is in her genes and fuels her excitement year after year.

"One of my employees said, 'I feel like I'm coming to work in a Christmas card,' and I think that describes it so perfectly," Jean says. "Everyone's so happy and everything is so beautiful. With the music and candles and lights, Saint Charles at Christmas is really a great place to work."

For more information on Christmas at Saint Charles and a full schedule of events, visit [StCharlesChristmas.com](http://StCharlesChristmas.com) or call 800-366-2427.

# SILLY TO SUBLIME



### MAKE A RUN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

There's no better way to burn off the kettle corn, gingerbread, and hot cocoa than going out for a run. And there's no better time to take to the roads for a tour of Main Street than the annual Santa's North Pole Dash and Children's Snowman Shuffle, a fundraiser that takes place every December for the Greater Saint Charles County Chamber of Commerce.

Holiday 5Ks may have become standard throughout the region, but the North Pole Dash was the first of its kind in the Saint Louis area and continues to be the most unique. Every 5K participant gets a free Santa beard, hat, and costume shirt to channel their inner Saint Nicholas; children get their own snowman shirt for their quarter-mile Shuffle.

"With this race, it's everyone's chance to let off some steam—to get dressed up and act silly," says event coordinator Wendy Rackovan, vice president of marketing and communications for the chamber. "Many runners go all out and create a new outfit every year, from tulle skirts to pajama pants."

The Saturday morning 5K starts and ends at Frontier Park on December 3, with an eye-catching route down Main Street and through Frenchtown. Stick around after the awards ceremony to mingle with your fellow runners over breakfast before heading to the shopping district for one-day deals offered only to race participants, plus food and drink specials from local restaurants. It's a one-of-a-kind opportunity to experience the heart of Saint Charles while doing some good for your own heart. [SantasNorthPoleDash.com](http://SantasNorthPoleDash.com) • 636-946-0633



### DISCOVERING THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS WITH LAS POSADAS

As historic Saint Charles brims with holiday festivities, the community is equally focused on preserving the reason behind the season.

More than forty years ago, a group of shopkeepers united to bring *Las Posadas* to Main Street. A Spanish custom since the 1500s, the *Las Posadas* procession reenacts the journey of Mary and Joseph as they seek shelter in Bethlehem and is one of the few of its kind continuing in the United States. Lighting the actors' way through Saint Charles are thousands of candles, held by participants as they join the couple on their quest, with the Fife and Drum Corps and a Mormon youth choir providing the musical accompaniment.

The procession, held on the first Saturday in December, slowly winds through ten blocks of South Main Street as Mary and Joseph stop at different establishments, beginning at the historic Wick Inn. Turned down by hotel owners and shopkeepers, the couple finally discovers shelter at the Jaycee Stage in Frontier Park, where the gospel of the Nativity comes to life along the Missouri River.

When the procession concludes, thousands of guests gather together for an old-fashioned

singalong around the yule log, pulled along the *Las Posadas* route on the same sled kids used when the tradition began four decades ago.

*Las Posadas* is a nondenominational event sponsored by a number of Saint Charles churches that work in sync throughout the year to preserve this tradition and provide a celebration where director Kathryn Byrd says all guests, regardless of their religion, can celebrate the birth of Christ in an open, welcoming environment. [StCharlesLasPosadas.com](http://StCharlesLasPosadas.com) • *Boone's Lick and South Main Streets*

