



Aqua di Gio I was spraying intermittently on my persons to ward off the smell of the aircraft I had been sitting on for the last 24 hours. "Cologne?" I asked, "Why?"

Cliff explained there was a press trip to promote the cities upcoming Gay Pride (2nd - 4th July) and he needed a correspondent to cover it. Well with that I repacked some luggage, made the best of the bags under my eyes with a couple of hours sleep and sped down the M11 into deepest Essex, happy in the knowledge that I had my passport on me. Although slightly out of town, Stansted is easily accessible by the express train service from Liverpool Street, or if like me you prefer to take the motor, airport parking will set

you back only a fiver a day. German Wings were co-sponsoring this little jaunt, and no they're not Kentucky's European counterpart, but in fact Germany's premier low cost carrier. If you've flown on other budget airlines, you'll know that clapped-out planes, cramped seating and camper stewards are the order of the day. German Wings market themselves as a quality low cost airline. Their aircraft are the latest Airbus, the seats look lovely in leather, and the legroom the same as Lufthansa. Our flight took off on time and the cabin service was good with a selection of snacks and drinks available. 45 minutes later and before I knew it, I had hopped, skipped, and jumped through the airport in Cologne to be met by a gaggle of gay journalist from all over Europe, including some lovely folk from our counterparts at Attitude, Gay Times and Boyz.

Down town, Cologne was a short Mercedes ride away and as you enter the city centre, you realise what a thorough job we did of bombing the place in the war as it has been totally rebuilt since then. Different modernist styles of architecture blend into a sea of mediocrity that can sometimes be drab and dull. However there are some architectural gems and these include the wonderful **Cologne Cathedral** with its treasury dating back to the 10th century. You could combine a work-out with a bit of culture and climb the 509 steps to the top from where you'll be rewarded with a view you'll never see after the gym; a breathtaking view of the city.

There are many other less famous but equally impressive sights to visit and for those with a sweet tooth who, like Charlie, the **Chocolate Factory/Museum** should be added to your 'to do' list. The **Cologne Welcome Card** is a great way to see the city inexpensively and conveniently. Not only does it give you special offers and discounts on museums, eating out, arts and entertainment, it also gives you free bus and rail



NOT long had I been off the plane from Australia when I received a call from the Editor of this fine upstanding journal. "Hi Spencer how are you?" "Oh, hi Cliff... what's up?" "You sound tired Spencer." "Yeah, just off the plane from Sydney." I was feeling a little tired, a little wired. You know when you get that twitchy itchy bitchy feeling when you don't quite know what's going on? Well at least I could blame the jet lag for my jaded state of mind. Cliff continued. "We would like you to go to Cologne in the morning for the weekend". The only cologne I could think about was the

# COLOGNE CALLING

> BY SPENCER BARNETT

# MEGA WOOF!

VS

# COCK-PIT

CIRCUIT PARTY - COLOGNE

SAT JUNE 12TH @ CRASH  
10PM-LATE



FLYING IN FROM GERMANY  
COLOGNE'S NOTORIOUS CIRCUIT PARTY

LONDONS FINEST MEN ONLY MEGAWOOF INVITES  
COLOGNE'S NOTORIOUS COCK-PIT PARTY TO JOIN UP  
AND GIVE YOU ONE HELLUVA DANCE CRUISE MANFEST!

ADVANCE Q-JUMP TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE & FROM  
TRAX/CLONE ZONE/PROWLER/THEKINGSARMS/ROB/PARIS GYM

WWW.MEGAWOOF.COM WWW.COCK-PIT.COM

CRASH - 66 GODING ST VAUXHALL SE11 - VAUXHALL TUBE/STN



Photo: www.seenqueen.com

ing the free gay magazines on what's happening in the scene. Like any thriving city there are lots of various club events on which change on a weekly basis, so check out the local mags for more info. One mainstay is the popular leather bar **Chains**. On our night out, we ran into none other than London scene DJ and QX writer Brent Nicholls, playing at the **Bunny Club!** There won't be too much trouble in finding friendly folk in this very un-German city as 10% of Cologne's population is made up of gays and lesbians. And talking of the lovely ladies, there is a host of girly bars. A redecorated former cinema host **Ladies Night** on the second Saturday of every month ([www.gloria-theater.com](http://www.gloria-theater.com)) and total pleasure for the girls can be found at one of the city's main women only nights on the third Friday of every month at **Women Pleasure Party** ([www.womenpleasure.de](http://www.womenpleasure.de)).

Of course the city offers more than just fags, fags, and slags. **The Cologne Lights Festival** takes place the week following Pride on July 10th ([www.koelnerlichter.de](http://www.koelnerlichter.de)) and it won't surprise you that Germany has the highest number of Eurovision fans per capita anywhere in the world as the world's largest open-air festival takes place between 13-15th August. ([www.ringfestkoeln.de](http://www.ringfestkoeln.de)). Ford sponsors the **Cologne Marathon** on September 12th so if you feel like getting your kit off with 25,000 active runners, visit [www.koeln-marathon.de](http://www.koeln-marathon.de). But most of you reading this will pass on the chocolate factory and even the cathedral maybe, and will make Pride

▶ travel throughout the entire region. A 72-hour card is only 19 Euros and group/family cards work out even cheaper.

This year, **Cologne Pride** claims to be Europe's largest gay and lesbian street party. On the city's three main squares; Heumarkt, Rathausvorplatz, and Alter Markt between 2nd and 4th July, thousands will party in the old town which opens with Cologne's AIDS help campaign in the impressive Hotel Maritim. Although this is a Pride event, past attendees attest that this is an event for everybody, which is clear to see by the way that the city and associated organisations have really embraced this now famous event.

Cologne City Council are so supportive of gay tourism and the Pride event they have a special team just working on this

sector of the market. One of guides from this team was the delightful Dai, a stout German lady who liked her beer and may have been a weight lifter in her past life. She dragged us around some bars and clubs and even treated us to a traditional feast of Spit Roast pig and yet more beer. I could think of better Spit Roasts but at least this gave a flavour of the local German cuisine. And what of gay Cologne? Cast your eyes over the gay map and you'll see that the main clubs, pubs, and restaurants are clustered around the **Rudolfplatz** and the **Heumarkt**. On our bar crawl we managed to pack in only a small percentage of the city's 4000 watering holes. **Burzel** (Martinstr. 32 tel: +49 (0) 221 2724574) offers excellent home cooking at affordable prices and is a good location to get information includ-

the purpose of your visit here.

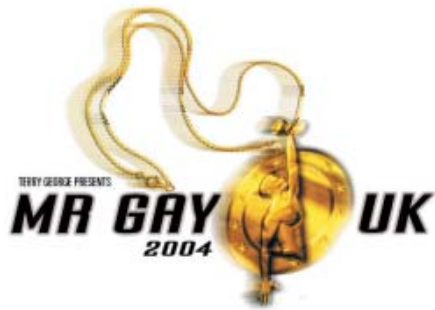
German Wings are offering a great deal from 3-4th July including flights, double room, and B&B from just 159 Euros. That's cheaper than a night out in London. **Holiday Inn** offer some great offers and the new **Intercontinental Hotel** **Cologne** offers some great deals and are also supporting the Pride event. If you don't actually stay at the Intercon, get down to its

▶ **USEFUL CONTACT FOR PLANNING YOUR STAY:**

[www.germanwings.com](http://www.germanwings.com)  
**Cologne Welcome Card**  
 + 49 (0) 22122130400  
[www.csd-cologne.de](http://www.csd-cologne.de)  
[www.holidayinn.com](http://www.holidayinn.com)  
**Cologne Intercontinental Hotel** + 49 (0) 22128061601

> **Alternative tour operator Manaround** operate packages to Cologne Pride, tel: 020 8902 7177 or [www.manaround.com](http://www.manaround.com)

trendy **'Harry's Bar'** where its cute bar boys will serve you some great original cock...tails! When you are doling yourself up to go out, applying the Angel, slapping on the Eau Savage, and bathing in Burberry Men, it's worth remembering these poofy perfumes owe their heritage to Cologne which was made famous by John Maria Farina who named his fragrance Eau de Cologne after his home town 300 years ago. **Farina House** is open to the public and if your nostrils need a change of scene after the Pride celebrations in Cologne this would make a nice finisher before you come home.



**ONLINE SEMI-FINAL  
 18 FINALISTS MUST GO!**

You decide who reaches the Grand Final held at **G-A-Y** London Sat 4th September (TBC) and broadcast LIVE on



Vote from 14th June until August Bank Holiday weekend at [www.mrgayuk.co.uk/2004](http://www.mrgayuk.co.uk/2004)  
 Results announced at Manchester Pride 2004

**WIN A HOLIDAY!**

Use your mobile to answer this question:  
 Who is the current Mr Gay UK 2003?  
 Txt **COMPETITION**  
 plus your answer to **89100**

