

30 Swiss pines at the 30th Swiss pine festival

A successful Swiss stone pine festival delighted many visitors on Saturday 12.8. and Sunday 13.8. and brought forth 3 radiant "Zirbenhoheiten".

St. Wolfgang am Lavantegg was the festive centre last weekend. Tractor presentations, the election of the Zirbenhoheiten, raffles, music and culinary delights ensured an exuberant atmosphere. The numerous guests were guided through the programme by Maria Staller and warmly welcomed by the Mayor of Obdach, Peter Bacher, the person responsible for Zirbenland Events Fritz Stölzl, and the Chairman of the Region Murtal, Michael Hausleitner-Ranzmaier. On the occasion of the anniversary celebration, an anniversary Swiss stone pine tree was planted and all visitors celebrating their 30th birthday this year were able to enjoy their own Swiss stone pine tree. In keeping with the anniversary number, 30 Swiss stone pines were brought to the people and are looking forward to growing in the Mur Valley.

The reigning Zirbenhoheiten and the future candidates drove onto the festival grounds during the tractor presentation. Equipped by Neuböck Moden, they were dressed in a specially tailored Zirbenlanddirndl, which reflected the characteristics of the Swiss stone pine in its strong red and harmonious deep green.

The queens were welcomed by the reigning "Narzissenhoheiten" from Ausseerland and the "Bährlauchkönigin" from south-eastern Styria, who were delighted to meet their future colleagues.

In the online voting, the jury voting and the public vote, Julia Mostögl emerged as the new "Zirbenkönigin" by a narrow margin. She is accompanied by the "Zirbenprinzessinnen" Angelina Fixl and Julia Hiebaum. Together they will present the Murtal region in the coming year at many events such as the Bauernbundball in Graz, the Steiermarkfrühling in Vienna and local events such as the Formula 1.

The anniversary celebration came to a happy end with music and dancing. The catering establishments involved in the organisation, Alpengasthof Sabathy, Almrestaurant Stölzl and Seetalblick, are very satisfied with the hustle and bustle of the event, the good mood and the traditional atmosphere and are already looking forward to the next festival in the new year 2024.

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