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# BALTIC MANORS MAGAZINE

*Stories from  
the reawakened  
hinterland*

**N**O OTHER REGION OF THE WORLD HAS A GREATER DENSITY OF MANOR HOUSES THAN THE TRANQUIL HINTERLAND OF THE SOUTHERN BALTIC SEA COASTS. THE STATELY OLD BUILDINGS REPRESENT THE SHARED HISTORY AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES THERE. IT IS AN ENTIRE MANOR HOUSE LANDSCAPE THAT HAS COME TO LIFE IN RECENT YEARS THANKS TO THE COURAGE AND CREATIVE IDEAS OF MANY "SPACE PIONEERS". AND THAT'S WHAT OUR STORIES IN THIS ISSUE ARE ALL ABOUT.



# Contents

**A castle for life** Two men who were only looking for living a quiet life in the country ended up having a wonderful adventure saving a moated castle from decay. **P. 6**

**A place for possibilities** The "space pioneer" phenomenon has been around for a long time in Skåne. A visit to a castle that has been infused with an innovative spirit for decades. **P. 10**

**Finding a unicorn** Remembering a moving encounter with an old woman whose life reflected the history of an entire era and region. **P. 14**

**Taking root at Jackowo Manor** At the age of 18, Anna Mazuś wanted to emigrate and get away from Polish country life. But fate decided otherwise and made her Poland's most successful farmer and a very happy manor house owner. **P. 22**

**From sleeping beauties to new splendours** The Parsęta River Basin offers an incomparable variety of Baltic Manors. Some still lie dormant, but they are extremely photogenic even as ruins. Other houses are pulsating with new life. A photo gallery. **P. 26**

**The art of restoration** When Kummerow Castle's new owner planned an exhibition of modern photography, he realised that the building was an art exhibit in itself. **P. 30**

**Żuławy - a cultural landscape** Is this the Netherlands in the middle of Poland? Visitors immediately notice that something is different here. A view of a region cultivated by human hands and which is particularly attractive to tourists today. **P. 36**

**The wine rebel at Frederiksdal Manor** An immaculate manor on an extremely picturesque stretch of land that comes with an ambitious plan: to create the most authentic cherry wine in the world. **P. 38**

# Editorial

When you talk to the “space pioneers” of the Baltic Manors, there is this typical story that comes up again and again. They will tell you – in countless variations, but it's always similar – how their manor house journey all began: how they stood in front of these old walls; how they were intimidated by the manor at first because it was very dilapidated. But then, suddenly, something happened – as if the old building had spoken to them: take care of me, we belong together, it will be good! It is something akin to a founding myth that allowed new life to settle into many of those old places in recent years. This made historical heritage accessible again and secured it for the future, as well as helping a highly attractive and creative cultural landscape start to blossom, too: from hotels and restaurants to agritourism, event locations, art studios, cultural centres, museums, co-working spaces and even modern monasteries. More than ever, it is worth exploring the rural hinterland of the southern Baltic Sea coasts.

Nowhere in the world is there a greater density of estates and manor houses, which have never been as open and inviting as they are today. Once you arrive, many visitors feel rather like the “space pioneers”: they stand in front of these walls and it does something to them. Perhaps they sense that they are not just dealing with lovingly restored buildings that are so captivating with their perfectly imperfect charm. It's about something bigger: the Baltic Manors are witnesses to the close ties that existed for centuries between the Baltic Sea countries before they were cut off by the dramatic tide of history in the 20th century. The common cultural landscape that is being resurrected here in a new, contemporary way has existed before. The buildings, right up to their moss-covered roofs, are full of centuries-old legends and stories about them – which are now being continued in many places with new ideas for a revitalised rural life.

There is hardly a more beautiful way to approach the Baltic Manors than through stories. The fact that, despite their architectural splendour, they are often about a humble attitude towards life and nature, makes them all the more valuable as a message for our times. Feel free to read and discover. This booklet is in itself like a little narrative tour through the region. If it awakens your desire to really set out, then we will be delighted to welcome you!

The classic Baltic Manor is not only a magnificent historic building of wealthy landowners, it usually also includes a whole ensemble of buildings such as the steward's house, stables and farm workers' houses – as well as a park and a tree-lined way. The manor always represented the economic and social centre of the village. In many places today, this function is being restored.



## A taste for manors

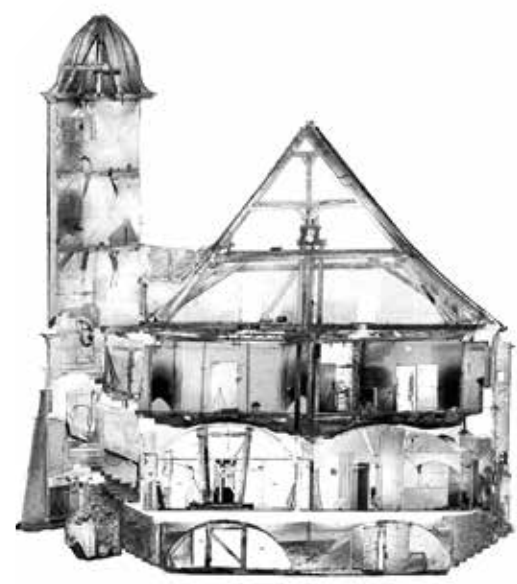


Since the launch of the Baltic Manors network in 2018, Annika Kiehn has been on the road a lot: country after country, she has been travelling around the regions' manor houses, listening to exciting stories of their past and present inhabitants, enjoying the vibrant new life in these old buildings herself and then infecting the readers with the enthusiasm of her story blog on our project website. The fact that she regularly succeeds so well isn't just because she is an excellent freelance journalist. Annika's affinity for

the old and new manor house culture has obvious biographical reasons, too: having grown up in East Germany's post-communist turmoil, she returned to rural Mecklenburg-Vorpommern after having lived in Berlin and abroad. She was delighted to observe how the new zeitgeist of sustainability, nature and community awareness also found its way into the region's manor houses with the first “space pioneers”. Since then, she has loved telling the stories of these visionaries and was for that reason the perfect choice when a writer was needed for Baltic Manors. We are pleased that some of her texts of her manor fascination feature in this issue. You can read all the others here: ► [www.baltic-manors.eu/blog/](http://www.baltic-manors.eu/blog/)

# A castle for life

Quilow Castle in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern



Quilow moated castle is one of the oldest Renaissance castles in the region – an architectural transition phenomenon from medieval castle to the self-representation of lords.

Where until recently everything was still a building site, a hospitable place has emerged.

**T**O ESCAPE TO THE COUNTRYSIDE, TO START ANEW – THAT WAS TEACHER DIRK LAGALL'S AND HIS PARTNER, THE ACTOR UWE EICHLER'S MAJOR PLAN IN 2014. AFTER A FATEFUL CALL WITH THE FOUNDATION "STIFTUNG KULTURERBE", THEY WERE BOTH FACING THE ADVENTURE OF THEIR LIVES: THE NON-PROFIT FOUNDATION WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO OVERSEE THE PROCESS OF REBUILDING THE QUILOW MOATED CASTLE, LOCATED IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.



When the two men visited the castle for the first time, it was in a miserable condition, having been abandoned 30 years ago. However, for them it was the perfect challenge. Knowing they would get professional help from the foundation, they said, "YES! Let's do it."

Six years later, everyone who was involved in this is very proud to have managed the most nerve-racking period of their lives. Due to 90 percent funding from the European Union as well as the German Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the castle is now open to the public: for culture and tourism, for locals and holiday makers, for artistic and commercial projects, for amateurs and professionals, for young and old. "The plan is never to be finished; this project should always be allowed to evolve," says Uwe Eichler.

As the castle's new owners, Uwe and Dirk found a home in the old caretaker's house.

Today you can also stay there in spartan but very charming guest rooms.



The transition of the Baltic Manor is extraordinary. It sparkles with a fresh coating of white paint – however the ghosts of the past are still visible upstairs in the museum section: old wooden beams, bare walls with either 16th-century paintings or wall-paper from the GDR era. The café downstairs is a true highlight with urban flair at its best. Four years ago, this room was dark and dusty and only to be entered with great caution. These days, however, you'll find modern interiors within the historic brickwork. It is a rare jewel in this region. Uwe Eichler talks about overcoming history and modern bureaucracy, as well as being a "Raumpionier" or "space pioneer" despite never wanting to be one. →



## »THE BIG ORIGINAL FIREPLACE ADDS TO THE CHARM OF THE ROOM. IT WAS STOLEN FROM THE CASTLE BUT SOME PEOPLE FROM THE VILLAGE BROUGHT IT BACK AGAIN.«

**Uwe, the café and Baltic Manor are both stunning. How are you two doing now that the restoration process is complete?**

**Uwe Eichler:** We are doing pretty well. The coronavirus pandemic hit us hard, just like every other public place. However, we still had guests visiting; some of them now are regular visitors, which is nice. We also managed to attract local people to find work here or stay with us as tourists. In spring 2020, we were just about to decorate the café when we had the lockdown. So, we had to choose the interior by only looking at it on the internet, which was a bit of a challenge.

We managed, though, and the big original fireplace adds to the charm of this room. It was stolen from the castle, but some people from the village brought it back again. So, we are grateful to have such a unique and authentic piece of history back in the castle. We had a small official opening in August 2020, but things evolve slowly, so we are keen to develop a routine of some kind.

**Do you feel that you are now finished?**

**Uwe Eichler:** Not at all. What is 'finished', anyway? After three years of preparation, we have now been renovating this beauty for the past three years – and so far 57 building companies have been involved. My hair has turned grey over the course of this period due to the masses of bureaucracy we had to handle; it was crazy. We have turned the upper floor into a museum section to tell a bit of the history of the house, the attic into a spacious room for seminars and the downstairs into a café. Our guests are really diverse – they are neighbours, tourists and artists. How to reach out to them is my task for the upcoming season.

**What was it like to leave Berlin and move to the countryside to become so-called Raumpioniere ("space pioneers")?**

**Uwe Eichler:** It was great. We've deliberately chosen this path, so it's fine. We longed for peace and solitude. Dirk grew up in a village, so he is used to this lifestyle. I adapted quickly.

Whenever I need to be in Berlin, I am also happy to leave as quickly as possible. We made a deal with the foundation to assist us with the restoration process and afterwards we can work with this great place. But to be honest, I don't see myself as a Raumpionier. It is simply our duty to care for the place, as it has been for the past eight years. It didn't cross my mind that we would develop something big in the end. But it's fun.

**Isn't there a risk that the plan might not work out?**

**Uwe Eichler:** True. The project could be just as good, but it won't work if the circumstances don't match your intention.

Enchanted nature characterises the scene around the moated castle.



If you don't feel it, it's hopeless. However, there are great people around us in the village. More than 80 percent of them own a dog, making it easy to catch up while going for a walk. We constantly have people around us at a frequency that tops our time in Berlin: everyone who worked on the building, our friends who visit regularly and stay for a couple of days as well as our guests.

**What did you learn about old houses?**

**Uwe Eichler:** I now understand what rebuilding is all about and have a more skilled eye for historic houses. Due to the restoration process, I have learned quite a bit about what it takes to maintain such an old building. As we discovered, you need to be humble, especially if you want to live in one.

### "IT WAS A CON- STANT BATTLE BETWEEN US AND THE HOUSE"

We went years without running water in our kitchen, heated solely by our ovens; and we lacked heating in the bathroom for a very long time. That was okay; we got used to it. It is a constant battle between us and the house – it is a never-ending process to use your best efforts to meet the needs of the house.



GDR nostalgia on four wheels: the "Trabbi Club" resides in an outbuilding at the moated castle and repairs and maintains old Trabant vehicles.

**Do you miss anything?**

**Uwe Eichler:** To be honest, I wish there was an underground train. I always need a car to run errands, which requires a lot of planning.

**And in terms of culinary delights, do you miss living in the capital?**

**Uwe Eichler:** We are doing quite okay. Our motto is "LESS IS MORE". In our café/bistro we offer two kinds of meals, one of which is vegetarian. We think this is sufficient. We are very eager to find local manufacturers, which is not as easy as I had expected. Our former mayor breeds cows and he shares the meat with us. Our neighbours at Zinzow Manor are successful sheep and water buffalo breeders and they also produce liquor, to name but a few. But we are constantly looking out for

more. How can we develop a consistent economic circle is a question that should be on the politicians' agenda to allow this region to prosper.

**Has there ever been a moment when you both thought, "Okay, that's it, we quit"?**

**Uwe Eichler:** No, never. It was never the manor that made us suffer. It was partly due to the circumstances that were challenging. For example, when we started the café, we didn't have enough staff to manage the many guests, which was a bit overwhelming. The restoration process was taking its toll on us, too. There was a phase when we had to pause to be able to sort it out again. But in the end, it saved us from making serious mistakes. Even this stressful phase was necessary

for the whole project to be successful. Sometimes, things seemed pretty dark, but we always managed to cope with them. Whatever we do here, we always hold on to one principle: we don't run up any debts. We simply look after the castle for some of the time in its long history. 🏰

by Annika Kiehn

► [www.wasserschloss-quilow.de](http://www.wasserschloss-quilow.de)

Making the past visible: that was the aim of both renovation and exhibition.





# A place for possibilities

Community vibes in South Sweden

Svaneholm Castle in Southeast Skåne

SINCE THE FALL OF THE IRON CURTAIN, THE TERM "SPACE PIONEERS" HAS BEEN USED FOR PEOPLE WHO TOOK THE RISK OF MOVING TO THE COUNTRYSIDE, BRINGING NEW LIFE TO THE OLD BALTIC MANORS. EVEN SCANDINAVIA, WHICH WAS SPARED THESE HISTORICAL DISRUPTIONS, HAD ITS OWN SPACE PIONEERS – ALTHOUGH MUCH EARLIER. A VISIT TO A CASTLE THAT HAS BEEN INFUSED WITH AN INNOVATIVE SPIRIT FOR CENTURIES.



Providing visitors with inspiring learning experiences – that is Gunni Blixen's goal.

In the mid 90s, the term "Raumpioniere" or "space pioneers" arose in the German province of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. It addresses the brave folk, who dare to move into the midst of the countryside and battle a non-existent infrastructure in starting something on their own. This term became quite popular when "ordinary people" instead of noble descendants decided to buy a Baltic Manor and bring it back to life. This phenomenon refers mostly to countries like East Germany, Poland and Lithuania, all of which share a similar post-communist era, when manors were left abandoned and in ruins – unlike Sweden and Denmark, where the estates were mainly kept in private hands and are therefore still in a respectable condition.

## IT WAS SAVED DUE TO ONE OF THE FIRST CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGNS EVER

Svaneholm Castle, in the middle of southern Skåne, between Ystad and Malmö, might be an exception as it had already been having its very own experience of space pioneers, way earlier than 1990 with its most prominent former owner Rutger Macklean. Born to a noble and rich family, he had turned his heart and soul to the lesser privileged ones. As an agricultural and educational reformer, his liberal ideas became the foundation of Sweden's wealth and prosperity today. It was the political party of the so-called "caps", to whom Macklean belonged, who fought for free trading and an end to monopolies and prohibitions. When Sweden got a new constitution in 1809, it was mainly shaped by Rutger Macklean's ideas.

## A very laid back and open-minded community

To him, education was the key to success. He envisioned that only when children had a solid knowledge base, would they be able to prosper and with them the community. He opened the first public school in Skurup, a village nearby. It meant a tremendous change to ordinary workers, whose children would then sit exams twice a year. Macklean's noble spirit and his willingness to improve other people's lives can be seen as one of his major achievements.

The exhibition comprises more than 13,000 exhibits displayed on four floors.

Until today his positive vibes linger all over Svaneholm Castle – now nestled in a very laid back and open-minded community. Its very own achievements are visible once you visit the castle yourself. "It is a place of possibilities," raves Bertil Nilsson, chairman of the Svaneholm Castle Co-operative Society, which is one part of the castle's group of owners. After the last owner, count Augustin Ehrensvärd, died in 1934, his castle was turned into a public place. A museum was established, devoted to keeping the legacy of the castle's history alive for others.

## Everyone can become a part owner at Svaneholm

These days Svaneholm Castle is probably one of the most unconventional estates in all of Sweden. It was saved due to what could be called one of the first crowdfunding campaigns ever, which collected money from many shareholders for the purchase. This still hasn't changed. Everyone can become a part owner at Svaneholm Castle at any time. For 30 Swedish Krona, which is about three Euro, you can buy a share of the castle, for the same price as it was in 1935. Nilsson mentions more than 40,000 shareholders so far, but some shareholders can have five, ten or more shares. "We are open to everyone from around the world," says Nilsson, a former teacher for mathematics and physics, who joined the board in 2015. With the funding experience he gained from previous cultural projects, he now helps find solutions for the castle's economic future, what he calls "a very interesting task". "When it comes to making long-term decisions, we are free to take on opportunities and see how things develop without pressure from an owner or landlord in the background," he explains via Zoom, sitting in the castle's café and restaurant. Besides monetary and culinary responsibilities, a museum association owns and takes care of the museum and its exhibitions as well. →





Midsummer is one of the Swedes' most popular festivals: of course, it is also celebrated in Svaneholm – and visitors are very welcome.

It holds a range of more than 13,000 pieces exhibited over four floors. You can learn about life at the castle in the 18th century – and a wide range of historic textiles offers an insight into the fashion trends of the former female owners. A broad range of workshops guarantees exciting time-travel experiences in a historic classroom for school children, who come for regular visits to Svaneholm Castle.

**"IT'S SUCH A COOL 16TH CENTURY CASTLE. YOU CAN FEEL THAT IT HAS ITS SECRETS AS YOU GO UP THE MAJESTIC STAIRS"**

Gunnel von Blixen Finecke, nicknamed "Gunni", member of Svaneholm Castle's museum association's creative board and former teacher of history, has been an active volunteer since the 1980s. She provides guided tours for school children. Just like Macklean, her major ambition is to inspire others with the wonders of learning. "Macklean changed the system of learning. Until then people used to learn things such as Bible texts only by heart. He tried to implement how important it was to strive for knowledge."

Education is still one of the castle's main programmes. "We are eager to preserve our cultural heritage and we would like to involve the village communities in the area around the castle to exchange knowledge. We feel that they very much appreciate our initiative." Lately, Gunni says, she connected with regional young crafters, who would join the Baltic Manor festival, which is one of the

major activities of the Baltic Manors network and takes place in summer. Finding synergetic alliances with the younger ones is a major step to preserve the castle's future.

It is due to the commitment of so many skilled members on the boards of the castle – and also other volunteers from outside – that Svaneholm Castle holds a great bunch of attractive offers for visitors. "It is important for us that everyone feels appreciated in what they are doing and to find the expertise we need," Bertil says, such as an online-pro like Tove Walden, who joined the board in summer 2021. "As a child I spent lots of time at the castle and was bored by it. These days I came to like the place with a fresh view," she says. Running her own online marketing company, she now helps to update the website and handles social media activities. "It is such a cool 16th century castle. You can feel that it has its secrets while you go up its majestic stairs. Looking at it, how it is situated next to the lake, it is kind of wrapped up in a fog of magic," she says. She also appreciates getting in touch with the history of her home country and benefitting the castle with her expertise. "My aim is also to get as much insight as possible so that I will be able to prepare exhibitions myself. And I can see even more fun things coming up when we have finally overcome the coronavirus pandemic."

by Annika Kiehn

► [svaneholmsslott.se](http://svaneholmsslott.se)

# More stories

**1 Bukówko Hideaway**  
Instructive: Zofia Kosczan and her husband have transformed the Western Pomeranian manor where they used to be teachers into an informal hot tip hotel.  
► [bit.ly/bukowko](http://bit.ly/bukowko)



**2 Perfectly imperfect**  
The neo-Gothic Vogelsang Manor in Mecklenburg was in a deplorable state 10 years ago. Robert Uhde has turned it into a very charming venue.  
► [bit.ly/vogelsang-manor](http://bit.ly/vogelsang-manor)

**3 Vila Komoda**  
A young Lithuanian couple gave up their business careers in London and returned home to the seaside resort of Palanga to open this jewel of a hotel.  
► [bit.ly/villakomoda](http://bit.ly/villakomoda)



**4 Streithof Stories**  
A former manor in Vorpommern has been brought back to life by a group of creative people who came across some fascinating stories in the process.  
→ [bit.ly/streithof](http://bit.ly/streithof)

# Southeast Skåne

The southernmost tip of Sweden is a landscape full of contrasts – with rolling hills, wide plains, dramatic cliffs and deep green forests. And the castle tour of Skåne is an excellent way to get to know this area.

150 km long, it takes you down roads that are off the beaten track, with Svaneholm and Christinehof castles as two of its highlights. The tour includes five castles, as fortress and an abbey – all ancient sites which reflect the fascinating Danish-Swedish history of Skåne and offer visitors a multitude of experiences, including culture, food and breathtaking natural scenery. No matter whether you travel by car, ride a bike or go on foot, you are sure to find your favorite castle, museum, natural beauty spot, beach, garden, café or restaurant and a place to stay overnight. You are always close to nature and wildlife here and places to explore are only a short distance away. Take your time. Be a true Scanian – come and enjoy a stress-free stay.

The castle tour of Skåne has also special offers for children. Bring your children on a treasure hunt around the Castle Tour together with our mascot Count Korre.

For example, in the summer of 2022, each of the destinations has a riddle for kids to solve as part of a historical mystery tour. All your child needs is a smart phone

for the treasure hunt QR codes which are at each of the destinations. **Find more information about the castle tour of Skåne at:** ► [www.slottsrundan.se](http://www.slottsrundan.se)



# Finding a unicorn

*How Lena Grigoleit became the voice of the multi-ethnic Memel Territory*

Rambynas Regional Park in Lithuania Minor



**C**AN ONE PERSON'S LIFE RESEMBLE A WHOLE REGION, A WHOLE TIMESPAN EVEN? WHEN THE GERMAN JOURNALIST ULLA LACHAUER FOUND LENA GRIGOLEIT, A PRUSSIAN-BORN LITHUANIAN, IT WAS LIKE WINNING THE LOTTERY. A SUPPOSEDLY ORDINARY WOMAN WHO RESEMBLED THE OLD MEMELLAND, LITHUANIA MINOR, LIKE NO ONE ELSE. ULLA LACHAUER TELLS HER STORY IN HER BOOK "PARADIESSTRASSE", WHICH BECAME A BESTSELLER AND STILL SERVES AS A LITERARY WITNESS OF A TIME OF PEASANTRY WISDOM IN THE MULTI-ETHNIC REGION OF RAMBYNAS REGIONAL PARK. OUR BLOGGER ANNIKA KIEHN SPOKE WITH THE AUTHOR AND RECORDED HER MEMORIES.



Lena Grigoleit's own house was rather modest. But the old Memelland, where she spent her life, has produced a rich manor house culture in its chequered history (see following pages).

### Getting attached

I started working as a freelance journalist in my early thirties when I decided that I would like to write my doctoral thesis, but I had no clue what topic I should choose. My supervisor said to me: "Write about displaced people. That topic is often seen from a far-right angle; it's time to see it from a different perspective!" At first, I thought: "Oh my!" – this political stuff has been annoying me since I was a child. But then, by chance, I learned about the refugees of the Memel territory.

This spirit of a long-lost time, which had been locked behind the Iron Curtain since 1945, immediately appealed to me. Since all I knew was clichés, I dug a bit deeper. I thought I would never be able to visit the region, but then came Mikhail Gorbachev and suddenly there was hope.

### Finding Lena

I first visited Lithuania in November 1988. I was 37 years old and working as a journalist. Lithuania was still a Soviet occupation zone, but the declaration of independence became an urgent subject. I knew change was bound to happen and was on a mission to make a film about it. We entered the country illegally by taxi, it was kind of random. We came back in September 1989. One of the places I definitely wanted to shoot →

were Bitėnai and the old Prussian Götterberg Rambynas, the scenes of the literary works by Tilsit-born writer Johannes Bobrowski. He was my guiding star by the way he describes the clash of nationalities and different cultures of this multi-ethnic region where Lithuanians, Polish people, Germans and Jews all live together. After we had shot the locations, I was still unsatisfied because I hadn't found what I was looking for. We were just about to leave for good, when a man passed our way and I asked him, if he knew a person who could tell us about the times "back then". He replied: "Lena Grigoleit! You can tell her house by the many dahlias."

And there she was: a small woman with tousled hair wearing rubber shoes and an old-fashioned apron, an image of Bobrowski's tales personified. Standing at the fence, she kept talking and talking while we were filming. While I was listening to her, I thought: Oh my god, what a terrible fate this woman had to endure! A German who stayed in her village

with her Lithuanian husband and her two daughters while everyone else had escaped on the trek towards the West. Later, the family was deported by the Soviets to Siberia. When they returned in 1956, she and her husband were employed in the local "Sowchose", a huge farming estate run by the state. For decades they had lived a life in poverty and fear, but she was a bright and lively person, always smiling. She was a witness of a time hardly anyone knew anything about. She was very eager to talk and I immediately warmed to her that sunny evening in 1989. I said goodbye, convinced that I would be writing her story.

### Lithuanian independence

I went back to Germany and we kept in touch writing letters. Those letters are now archived in Lüneburg's "Nordost-Institut". I also sent her parcels with sunflower oil, because she was allergic to the Lithuanian one, as well as poppy seeds, anchovies and rat poison – whatever she wanted. We developed a very close relationship.

In March 1990, while I was in Klaipėda visiting a friend, a politically tense climate arose due to the Lithuanian government's declaration of independence from the Russian government. It was quite frightening. Helicopters were flying around, tanks were rolling through the streets and everyone was anxious as to how the Soviets would react. I then went to Vilnius and tanks were surrounding the parliament, demanding that the Lithuanians surrender.

### I WAS ON MY WAY TO LENA AS SOON AS I COULD

I somehow got into the parliament building and awaited the outcome of the situation, wondering if the Lithuanians would stay calm. Just before the ultimatum was to come to an end, I hopped on the last plane back to Berlin. I contacted Lena frequently. I was very worried about her and her family. After the August putsch in Moscow in 1991, Lithuania was liberated – and I was on my way to Lena as soon as I could.



### Living with Lena

When I was a child, I had often spent my holidays at my relatives in the countryside, so the time at Lena's reminded me a lot of my childhood – the simple food, taking a bath in the river, or rather neglect hygiene a bit, crawling into damp bedlinen at night with a hot stone – it was all very cozy. Lena used to live in her parents' house, which was quite ruined – unrenovated with a brine barrel and earth closet. She grew vegetables in her big garden. I slept in the servants' room and even in spring it was damn cold in there. But we ate a lot of Kugelis, a Lithuanian specialty made of potatoes, bacon and sour cream. I couldn't get enough of them.

Lena was already an old woman in her 80s, nonetheless she wanted to be a proper farmer – so she was happy I was there to help. For the interviews we used to sit at the kitchen

Lithuania Minor's territory, which had been under the rule of the Teutonic Knights since the 13th century, later became part of the Kingdom of Prussia and then of the German Empire. Here, where German and Lithuanian cultures were in lively exchange for centuries, a particularly rich manor house landscape developed. The historical pictures on these pages give an impression of those times.

table most of the time, but often I also enjoyed talking to her while we worked at the cemetery, on the field or when we were sitting at the Nemunas River. At night, I quickly wrote down her words in my journal. To me it felt as if I was on holiday.

### Lena's private side

One of Lena's sayings was: "The world is just as colorful as a world can be!" She was super curious and despite the hard times she had to go through and the darkness she had to overcome, she remained a very fearless person.

### I CHERISH THIS MOMENT OF UNSPOKEN WORDS

Her daughters instead, who were born in 1935 and 1940, suffer from a gloomier nature. They said to their mother: "You had such a carefree upbringing, but we grew up amid these horrors." They also experienced a hard time in Siberia – particularly Birutė, her oldest daughter. Lena's

grandchildren grew up under the Soviet regime but they took advantage of the liberation of 1991 to follow their own paths. The youngest grandson, Mindaugas, came back to Lena's house and started a new life as a farmer.

Lena had strong self-esteem, which was based on her resolute mind. She had not the slightest shame to tell me what she wanted me to bring her from the West – like Monsoon-soap or laced tissues. I was very moved when she confessed her fondness for beautiful nightgowns. In January 1995, the book hadn't yet been published, I went to see her again and brought her a wallet with 1,500 Deutsch Marks in it. It was part of my advance fee and she was very happy about it. As a gesture, she gave me some Rubels, so that I could buy an Amber necklace. I still wear it.

The most private encounter between us was probably when she asked me to trim her fingernails. "I want them to look like those of the ladies in the city," she said. Her nails were cracked, so we bathed them before I trimmed them. It somehow made her happy. I truly cherish this moment of unspoken words. Lena died three months later, on 22 April 1995.

### The book

The book was published in 1996 (first in German) shortly after Lena's death. It became an instant success. It was translated into several languages: Russian, Polish, Lithuanian and even Icelandic. The Lithuanian version "Rojaus kelias" was republished in 2020. Even today, the book has quite a strong impact on how people see the Soviet world. →

How do we perceive this episode of world history where people were displaced, divided, lost? Lena's story is not driven by ideology. It is rather a remarkable story of a person, whose life reflects a century in a multi-ethnic region which was shaped by political and economic change. I received a lot of positive letters from readers, I remember a banker writing to me: "I would never have expected an old woman in an apron to speak such truthful words. It really made me reflect on my own fate."

THE WISDOM OF A  
FARMER'S INTELLECT

Living with Lena allowed me to explore her story from an emotional perspective rather than an intellectual one. It probably set the tone for the book. I tried to get a feeling for her sound, it was quite a challenge to find a written style for her spoken words. I had to invent vocabulary to give an idea of her singsong-voice and the neat words she used,



Ulla Lachauer published the book "Paradiesstraße" in 1997. She lives and works as a freelance journalist and documentary filmmaker in Stuttgart, Germany.



which reveal that she belonged to a different era. It was as much an ethnographic challenge, I wanted to stress the wisdom of a farmer's intellect. I think especially we Germans underestimate this way of thinking.

Personal outcome

Lena was my bridge to this region, this beautiful country. My husband and I visit it every other year or so. We actually became part of Lena's remaining family. There are still people in the village who call me "Ullachen", which I like.

When the Wall fell in November 1989, I watched it all on television together with my family. We cried like babies. And again, I felt this longing coming up inside me to talk to my father about his time as a soldier in Russia, but he would not go there. It was our last chance for an honest talk, sadly we missed out. Like so many other post-war-children, I secretly wondered to what extent my father might have been involved in the crimes committed by the Nazi regime. My interest in the Baltic region was probably driven by getting into the topic myself – in order to imagine what this war might have meant to my father and to establish a kind of empathy for him despite it.



Lena's legacy

Lena Grigoleit was the last witness of a world at the Nemunas River that is now gone forever. It makes me a little angry that people today hardly listen to the voices of the villagers. One rather flatters those with an academic background, who are supposed to be the guiding lights for us all. Underestimating and neglecting those who have precious knowledge of the world in a different way, a wisdom connected to nature and who might not be able to speak with such eloquence, is a real shame.

LENA GRIGOLEIT WAS THE  
LAST WITNESS OF A WORLD  
THAT IS GONE FOREVER

They carry a certain life experience inside them, which is not of great use in the city – however it is nevertheless true, it is just the context that's different in rural worlds just like Lena's. To me as a modern metropolitan person, they provide a kind of alien and exotic quality, which fascinates me. Seeing these worlds slowly vanish saddens me a lot. 🍂

More stories

1 Dark Days

To find out more about the history of their manor in Schmarsow in Vorpommern, its new owners have started interviewing local witnesses of the war.  
► [bit.ly/lenagrigoleit](https://bit.ly/lenagrigoleit)



2 "Shadow on my soul"

Growing up on an estate near Gdańsk, former Swedish minister Jens Orback's mother had to flee from the Red Army. Here he talks about historical traumas.  
► [bit.ly/jensorback](https://bit.ly/jensorback)

3 Remembering Šėreiklaukis

An initiative in Lithuania Minor shows how to keep the memory of a manor alive, although hardly any of the old buildings are still standing.  
► [bit.ly/sereiklaukis](https://bit.ly/sereiklaukis)



4 The Skåne War

Sweden and Denmark have been at war over and over again for centuries. An exhibition at Svaneholm Castle in Skåne tells why fighting first took place in northern Germany in 1675.  
► [bit.ly/svaneholm](https://bit.ly/svaneholm)



Lithuania Minor

German and Lithuanian cultures have long enjoyed a flourishing exchange in this area, which has led to a particularly rich culture of manors. Rambynas Regional Park, with its untouched nature, is now considered a national treasure.

Go on a tour

Please find more information about Lithuania Minor and its many tourist attractions at:  
► [www.saugoma.lt/en](https://www.saugoma.lt/en)

Discover the region's rich history, nature and landscape on the scenic Lithuania Minor & Panemunė-Route from Klaipėda to Kaunas:

► [bit.ly/minorpanemune](https://bit.ly/minorpanemune)

Dive deeper into the region's eventful history where many cultures have left their mark:

► [www.mlimuziejus.lt/en](https://www.mlimuziejus.lt/en)

Castles and manor houses

Panemunė Castle offers first-class art exhibitions as well as comfortable accommodation:

► [www.panemunespilis.lt](https://www.panemunespilis.lt)

Raudondvaris Manor is an impressive monument of 17th century Renaissance architecture in Lithuania:

► [www.raudondvarioldvaras.lt](https://www.raudondvarioldvaras.lt)

Landowner Hugo Scheu had already begun preserving the regions cultural tradition. The museum in Šilutė has now reopened with a complete makeover:  
► [bit.ly/hugoscheu](https://bit.ly/hugoscheu)

Regional and fine dining

Senasis Rambynas hotel and restaurant:  
► [bit.ly/senasis](https://bit.ly/senasis)

The restaurant of Panemunė Castle:  
► [www.panemunespilis.lt](https://www.panemunespilis.lt)

Discover

Lithuania Minor and taste the treasures of old Prussia! The Mociškiai farm-education, honey and tea trade:  
► [mociskiupalivarkas.lt/edukacijos/](https://mociskiupalivarkas.lt/edukacijos/)




Visit a sacred place

In Rambynas Regional Park you can experience untouched nature alongside a rich history. Two rivers, the Jura and the Nemunas, join here and form many oxbow lakes. It has been

a nesting place for a unique colony of storks, probably for thousands of years – and German and Lithuanian culture has long been closely connected in this area too. Take in the picturesque view from the famous Rambynas Hill over the lower Nemunas Valley. Walk through the old cemetery of Bitėnai and observe a number of German names on the gravestones. Incidentally, part of the regional park is the "Paradise Road" path and there are information boards about the life of Lena Grigoleit. The outdoor exhibition at Šėreiklaukis Manor, where the famous Prussian reformer Heinrich Theodor von Schön was born, is also worth seeing.

► [bit.ly/rambynas-park](https://bit.ly/rambynas-park)  
► Video: [bit.ly/rambyno](https://bit.ly/rambyno)



# Celebrating a new lease of life in historical stately homes

**T**HERE IS NO OTHER REGION IN THE WORLD THAT HAS A HIGHER DENSITY OF MANOR HOUSES THAN THE SOUTHERN BALTIC SEA REGION – AND THAT'S PROBABLY WHY THERE IS SUCH A UNIQUELY FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE HERE EVERY SUMMER WHEN HUNDREDS OF THE STately HOMES THROW OPEN THEIR DOORS TO VISITORS AND INVITE YOU TO THE INTERNATIONAL BALTIC MANOR FESTIVAL.

Let yourself be infected by the enthusiasm of the new owners during a guided tour of the house, stroll through castle grounds in the evening sun to the sounds of classical music and later enjoy pleasant conversation around the campfire with a glass of wine. What began in 2010 in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern as the "MittsommerRemise" is now also on offer at the many manor houses in Poland, Lithuania, Sweden and Denmark: a cultural trip to the countryside where each region presents itself individually – with live music, good food and participative activities. In addition to the houses, which are always open to visitors as hotels, restaurants and cultural sites, many private places are now also inviting you in to celebrate. And that means celebrating in a rich traditional style, you might say, although today it is much more casual than in the "good old days". There is a special charm in visiting these homes which until recently were lying in ruins. You get a vivid insight into the ongoing works, the redevelopment ideas and the "space pioneers'" visions. It is a real pleasure to experience all the new life and the future being created here. 🏡

## More info

about places and dates:

► <https://baltic-manors.eu/festival/>

# Taking root at Jackowo Manor

**W**HEN ANNA MAZUŚ TURNED 18, SHE LEFT HER HOME IN THE POLISH COUNTRYSIDE. HER PLAN WAS TO MIGRATE TO CANADA TO START A NEW LIFE. BUT FATE DECIDED DIFFERENTLY. INSTEAD, SHE BECAME A FARMER – AND A BALTIC MANOR OWNER AS WELL. SHE AND HER DAUGHTER NICOLE HAVE NOT ONLY FOUND A HOME IN THE KASHUBIAN VILLAGE OF JACKOWO, IT IS ALSO A SUPERB LOCATION FOR THEIR AGRI-TOURISM BUSINESS.



## Jackowo Manor in Northern Kashubia

### A peaceful place for guests and horses

Folwark Jackowo is a rural haven situated in Northern Kashubia right on the Polish coast. It is a one-and-a-half-hour drive north of Gdańsk and the Baltic Sea is just five kilometres away. Choosing an agritourism approach, Anna and her daughter Nicole decided to share their everyday life with their guests. Nicole, who joins us after a while, tells me it was a natural decision.

"I would also like to get to know our guests a little bit. I want to hear their opinions and exchange views on life. I am very proud that some of them, who kept visiting us from the very beginning, have become friends over time."

### They are social hosts

Perhaps this approach is not intended for those who want a break from their routine and other people.

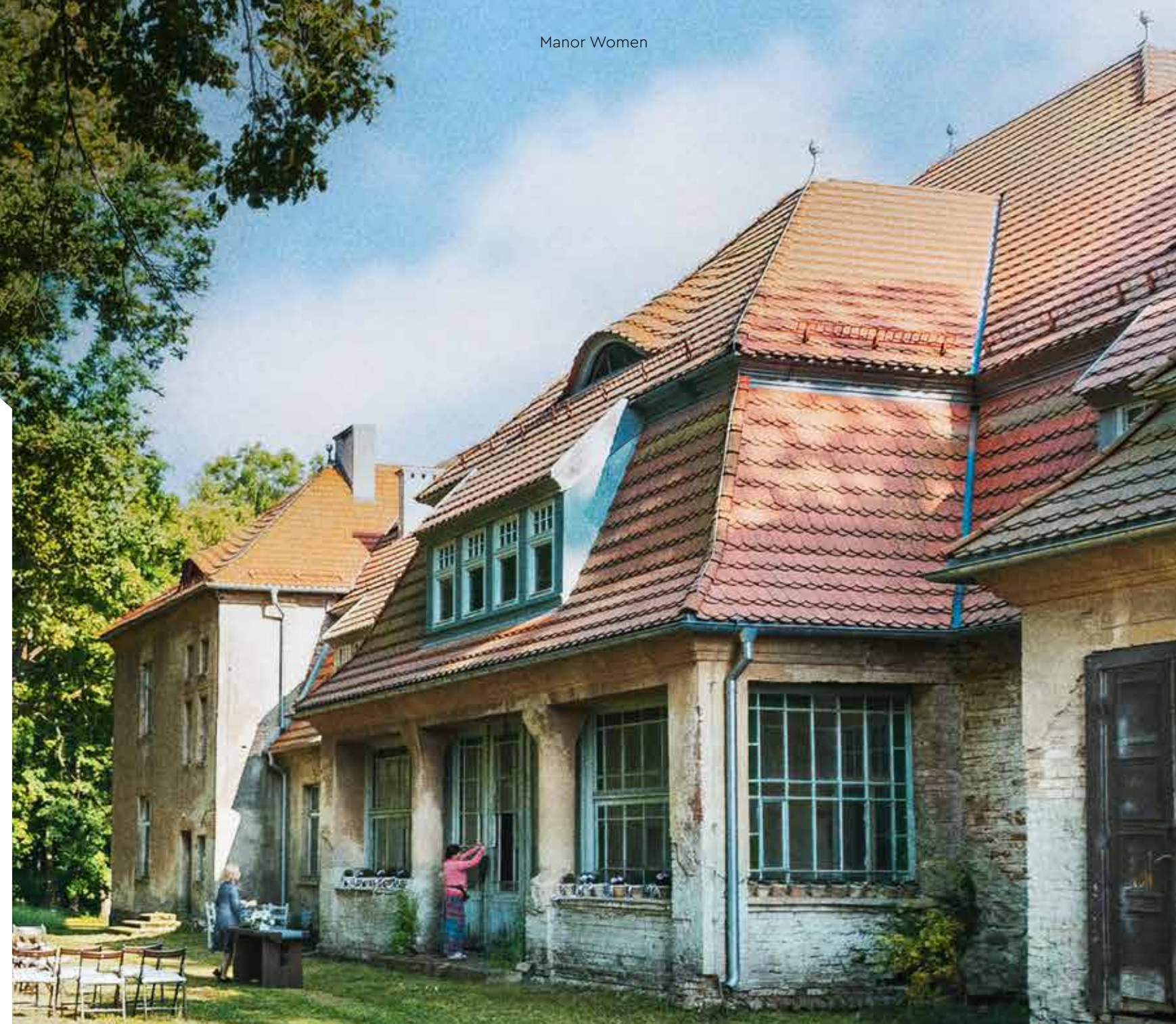
Agritourism is the lighter version of concepts like "working holiday", "Au pair" and "Wwoofing". They allow you to be part of everyday life in a foreign country, which is one of the best ways to immerse oneself in a different culture.

### HER FOOD FEELS LIKE AN INSTANT HUG OR COMING HOME TO MUM

When you enter the estate, the obvious features get your attention: nature, horses, an impressive Baltic Manor and a magical greenhouse. Then you hear the silence. A perfect setting to calm down and enjoy the simple pleasures of life like going for a walk, having a cup of tea or reading a book. There is an unspoken rule to switch off your phone and bury it deep down in your travel bag.

Anna and her daughter Nicole breed horses – and love to ride out around Jackowo Manor.

Now, let's not forget to mention the heart of the place: the impressive Baltic Manor. It belonged to the Fließbach family before WWII. After the land reform in 1945, the estate was converted into a communist agricultural business, which explains the masses of concrete that still dominate a large part of it. It was through Anna Mazuś that I learned about Jens Orback and the refugee story of his mother, Katja, as she once belonged to the family. →



### Great emotional impact

Anna handed me the book and told me that the remaining family members, who are now spread across Germany and Sweden, come to visit the place every now and then. Those reunions often have a great emotional impact on the new owners as well. "They totally admire our ambition to restore the manor,

while some of our guests take a quick glance and exclaim, 'Oh, this is such a shabby place!'" Anna smiles mildly. She knows that Folwark Jackowo has far more comfort to offer than first meets the eye. Most of it was added in 2011 when her daughter Nicole, now 32 years old, dared to start an agritourism

business supported by EU funds. The two women keep their businesses strictly separate – Anna is the farmer and Nicole is the host. Nicole loves spoiling her guests with a four-course-meal. Her food feels like an instant hug or coming home to mum after a long day. →

The large community room, which has a few tables and a stunning kitchen island, is mainly used for meals. Each morning, guests at Folwark Jackowo can anticipate a delectable breakfast prepared by Nicole. "When Nicole was younger, she always made breakfast for us, even when she was still quite young. I liked to sleep in, so that ritual has stuck with her to this day," Anna recalls.

Plans for a a boutique hotel

Although it still looks like a bit of a ruin, a new roof adds to its lingering glory. Anna plans to turn it into a boutique hotel in the long run. She smiles in amazement as she recalls the beginnings of their adventure in Jackowo and probably her own bravery-slash-naivety.

"WHEN I SAW THE MANOR, IT EMITTED A WARMTH I HAD NEVER FELT BEFORE IN MY LIFE"

"When I first came to visit this place I had just bought, I looked around and everything looked shabby, truly horrible. It kind of scared me. But when I saw the manor, it emitted a warmth I had never felt before in my life. I immediately felt at home, it was crazy," she recalls. A crush on an old house can be inexplicable; however, bearing the burden of the high renovation costs with ease is hard to comprehend for an ordinary person: "I don't exactly know why I am doing it. But this strong feeling of needing to do it beats all kinds of rational thoughts that would otherwise hold me back and make me live an easy life in Italy. I know I somehow must do it and it has nothing much to do with my business."

What a view: some holiday flats look out over the magical old greenhouse.



Overall, Jackowo captivates through the charm of the unfinished. But the holiday flats are near to perfect.

Nicole, her daughter who grew up in Folwark Jackowo, feels the same way. Although she is a trained vet, she had no intention of working as one. Instead, she made her home her business. "I simply wanted to return and maintain a relationship with my family here," Nicole exclaims. As a result, she developed her idea for the perfect stay for guests, which stems from her own well-being at Jackowo: to simply enjoy yourself.



She says, "That is why we have no spa or similar wellness offers. We don't need to create a good time and I think our guests appreciate it. You can go for a nice horse ride or bike around, go to the beach or sit on one of the comfy hanging chairs in the park and read a book." Nicole admits that, occasionally, it happens that guests cannot connect to the place. "My offer is special; it is not for everyone. It is for outdoorsy people who like to interact with others. People who don't need to be entertained will enjoy themselves the most here.

"THERE IS NO PLACE AS PERFECT AS THIS ONE"

They see the advantage rather than what has not yet been achieved. Whenever someone points out something negative about Jackowo, I just think to myself: there is no place as perfect as this one." 🌿

by Annika Kiehn

► [www.folwarkjackowo.pl](http://www.folwarkjackowo.pl)

More stories

1 Women's Castle

About 280 years ago, the businesswoman Christina Piper built Christinehof Castle in Skåne, Sweden. Today, a cultural association still pays homage to her there.

► [bit.ly/christinehof](http://bit.ly/christinehof)



2 Whole new picture

Marie-Pierre Boel Andresen was an art historian. Then she took over her family's manor house in Kærstrup, Denmark and proved herself in the male-dominated business of farming.

► [bit.ly/kaerstrup](http://bit.ly/kaerstrup)

3 Ingrida Šilgalytė

Q: What drives a young cultural scientist to move back to the village of Plungė in her rural home region after her studies in Vilnius? A: A manor house full of art.

► [bit.ly/silgalyte](http://bit.ly/silgalyte)



4 Future Way of Living

In the rural north-east of Germany, a fun-loving entrepreneur opens the region's first coworking space in Damerow. Little does she know that it will be the most extraordinary experience of her life.

→ [bit.ly/damerow](http://bit.ly/damerow)

Northern Kashubia

Welcome to a unique region of great scenic diversity with vast beaches, extensive forests, lakes and rivers. The unique Kashubian culture with its own language and customs adds to this region's special appeal along with the many manors and palaces.

About 20 Baltic Manors are waiting for you in Northern Kashubia –

luxury hotels, apartments, seasonal and agritourism accommodations, museums and cultural centers:

► [www.kaszubypolnocne.pl](http://www.kaszubypolnocne.pl)

Do you need that extra bit of relaxation?

Several Baltic Manors offer wellness and spa facilities such as Rekowo Górne, Wieniawa, Lisewski Dwór and Kłanino:

► [www.hotelwieniawa.com](http://www.hotelwieniawa.com)

► [www.lisewskidwor.pl](http://www.lisewskidwor.pl)

All the places are connected by a "route of manors and palaces".

Why not go on a discovery tour. You can do it by bike in three days (180 km), it takes less time by car or motorbike (about 220 km). Wherever you feel you like it and want to see more, stop and immerse yourself in the wide range of what's on offer: get a taste of the local cuisine or experience history. Routes with a GPX track:

► [bit.ly/manortraseo](http://bit.ly/manortraseo)

In English

► [bit.ly/manorkomoot](http://bit.ly/manorkomoot)

Find exquisite cuisine at:

Ciekocinko Palace

► [www.palacciekocinko.pl](http://www.palacciekocinko.pl)

Krokowa Castle

► [www.zamekkrokowa.pl](http://www.zamekkrokowa.pl)

Try homemade ice cream at:

Kłanino Palace

► [www.klanino.pl](http://www.klanino.pl)

The kitchens of the manors

Rzucewo and Prusewo

use local produce such as herbs from their own gardens:

► [www.prusewo.pl](http://www.prusewo.pl)

► [zameksobieski.pl](http://zameksobieski.pl)

Next to Bychowo manor

is a traditional sausage production place which is worth seeing:

► [www.bychowo.pl](http://www.bychowo.pl)



Wonderful revitalisation

The process of bringing new life to these old places is now in full swing, with the two Baltic Manors in Jackowo and Sasino being prime examples. Even though the owners still

have their hands full restoring the old buildings, they already provide a wonderful place to relax. Folwark Jackowo is famous for its accommodation (see previous pages) and the nearby coast is an inviting place for cycling or horse riding. Or you could take time to recover from the hustle and bustle of everyday life in Cisowry Zakątek in one of the comfortable thatched-roof houses ([www.cisowryzakatek.pl](http://www.cisowryzakatek.pl)). Feel like going on an excursion? Then visit the Stilo lighthouse or learn more about Kashubian culture at the palace in Wejherowo ([www.muzeum-wejherowo.pl](http://www.muzeum-wejherowo.pl)). A visit to the restaurant "Ewa invites" ([www.ewazaprasza.pl](http://www.ewazaprasza.pl)) makes a wonderful end to the day.

# From sleeping beauties to new splendours

**I**N WESTERN POMERANIA, THE PARSEŃA RIVER BASIN REGION IN PARTICULAR OFFERS AN UNPARALLELED VARIETY OF BALTIC MANORS. ALTHOUGH SOME ARE STILL IN DEEP SLUMBER, THEY ARE ALL EXTREMELY PHOTOGENIC EVEN AS RUINS. MANY OTHERS, HOWEVER, HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN GIVEN A NEW LEASE OF LIFE AND HAVE BEGUN TO PULSATE AGAIN. SOME OF THEM YOU CAN ONLY ADMIRE FROM THE OUTSIDE, OTHERS HAVE BECOME EXCEPTIONAL PLACES WITH UNIQUE OFFERS FOR TOURISTS. ALL TOGETHER THEY FORM ONE OF THE RICHEST COLLECTIONS OF THESE HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN THE BALTIC SEA'S HINTERLAND. THERE IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THEM ALL IN TURN – WHETHER BY CAR, BY BICYCLE OR ON FOOT. JOIN US ON OUR FIRST PHOTOGRAPHIC ROUND TRIP.



Having been used as an agricultural administration building after the war, the Rymań Manor House became vacant in 1975. In 1985, there were some plans to turn it into a hotel, but it was not until the new millennium that they were realised – in all their glory.

The manor house in Luboradza on the edge of the Drawsko Landscape Park is a perfect place for people seeking peace, nature and history.



So run down and yet so photogenic: the former estate of the German Podewil family in what is now Podwilcze. It is surrounded by a truly romantic park, where you can also admire other buildings that belonged to the castle complex.



The palace in Siemczyno – which houses a beautiful hotel, museum and restaurant – in the evening light, with the Parsęta River in the background. It meanders for 120 kilometres northwards before flowing into the Baltic Sea at Kołobrzeg. A rich and varied natural landscape stretches along its banks – and there are plenty of manors to discover, too.

# More stories



### 1 "Not a piece of nature"

Frederik von Lüttichau looks after Denmark's oldest Baroque garden in Søholt. He explains why these gardens were the smartphones of the 16th century.

► [bit.ly/soholt](https://bit.ly/soholt)

### 2 Grow like a tree

Annika Kiehn follows in the footsteps of German philosopher Johann Gottlieb Fichte through the Owl Gorge in Northern Kashubia and is having some profound insights as she does so.

► [bit.ly/krokowa](https://bit.ly/krokowa)

### 3 So many manors

A cycling route in Northern Kashubia joins over 20 magnificent manors and palaces together all set in beautiful nature. Learn more about it in the video.

► [bit.ly/trailkashubia](https://bit.ly/trailkashubia)



### 4 Natural treasure

The Rambyno Regional Park on the Nemunas River offers pure nature – and is simultaneously nothing less than a Lithuanian national treasure.

► [bit.ly/rambyno](https://bit.ly/rambyno)



# Parsęta Region

*The Parsęta River Basin offers a huge range of Baltic Manors, but the variety of natural landscapes along the riverbanks is just as great. Beautiful lakes, untouched nature – the area is also extremely attractive for anglers, hikers and cyclists.*

**The manor in Luboradza** is a perfect place for people seeking peace, nature and history:

► [www.dworpomorski.pl](https://www.dworpomorski.pl)

On the right bank of the Chotla River you'll find the **village of Bukówko** that was once a fiefdom of the von Münchow knights:

► [bit.ly/wstarympalacu](https://bit.ly/wstarympalacu)

**The palace of Rymań**, dating back to 1751, has been restored and extended to give the historic interiors a form of contemporary hotel comfort:

► [www.hotelryman.pl/de](https://www.hotelryman.pl/de)

### Virtual Tour

Discover manors in the Parsęta River Basin and plan your trip at:

► [www.balticmanors360.eu](https://www.balticmanors360.eu)

Here you can explore 30 manor houses and palaces on a virtual tour. The remains of the great estates of families like von Manteuffel, von Kleist and von Glassenapp testify to Zachodniopomorskie's fascinating past.

### More info on the region:

► [pomorzechodnie.travel](https://pomorzechodnie.travel)

### Plan your fishing trip at:

► [www.parseta.pl](https://www.parseta.pl)

### Fine Dining

So you want to enjoy the interiors of a historic farm and excellent Polish cuisine prepared with the highest quality products? Then the palace in Siemczyno is there for you:

► [palacsiemczyno.pl/en/](https://palacsiemczyno.pl/en/)

Discover a place where modernity and comfort are equally appreciated: the restaurant of the **palace hotel in Rymań**. The chefs prepare dishes of extraordinary beauty and exceptional taste, inspired mainly by local recipes and regional products:

► [www.hotelryman.pl/de/](https://www.hotelryman.pl/de/)

### Time travelling



It only takes one step to enter the Baroque era and discover the work of old craftsmen by crossing the threshold of the palace in Siemczyno. Visiting the museum is like travelling back in time. You get to know the flavours of the Baroque and even dress up as a baron, listen to the sound of the Viola da Gamba and reflect on the passing of time as well as the vanity of the world, which back then were the inspirational themes for artists. Ceramics workshops allow you to learn the techniques of hand-molding and how to use a pottery wheel. For a more comprehensive Baltic Manor experience, you can follow the route of manors starting at Rymań Palace, past Siemczyno Palace, the Luboradza manor house, the village of Bukówko – whilst enjoying what all these places can offer – and on the way back visit the Karlino Museum ([www.muzeum.kokkarlino.pl](https://www.muzeum.kokkarlino.pl)) as well as the palace in Kozia Góra.

You can't go inside all the magnificent Baltic Manors. The one in Nosowo, for example, is used as a vocational training school. But looking at it from the outside is a feast for the eyes and is something you can enjoy repeatedly on a manor tour along the Parsęta River.



Was des Volkes  
Hände schaffen.  
Ist des Volkes  
eigen sein

## The art of restoration



**W**HEN ITS NEW OWNER TOOK ON KUMMEROW CASTLE TO TURN IT INTO AN EXHIBITION VENUE FOR MODERN PHOTOGRAPHY, HE REALISED: THE HOUSE ITSELF WAS AN EQUALLY VALUABLE PIECE OF ART. WITH THE APPROPRIATE SENSITIVITY, IT WAS RENOVATED AND MADE ACCESSIBLE TO VISITORS

Kummerow Castle in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

When Kummerow Castle, completed in 1730, lost its role as the noble German Maltzahn family's home, it served a variety of functions during the German Democratic Republic (GDR period 1949-1989). These functions included a restaurant, a holiday camping site, a post office, a nursery and many more – a vivid era that turned the Baltic Manor into a public house. However, like many other Baltic Manors in the province of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, it was shut down by the authorities following German reunification. National ownership was quickly given up to shift maintenance costs to private owners again and for decades it appeared as though nobody could properly manage this Baroque beauty.

**KUMMEROW CASTLE, SET NEXT TO LAKE KUMMEROW, IS ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS PHOTO MUSEUMS OF GERMANY**

**To turn a ruin into a place filled with life again is an extraordinarily sensitive transition process**

Then along came Torsten Kunert from Berlin. As a real estate agent, he was familiar with the demands of a nationally listed building. Besides, he fell for the landscape of this area. Not only did he restore most of the manor's original charm, but he also outfitted it with some of the most prestigious contemporary photographic artworks you can find on the art market. As a former GDR citizen himself, Kunert had no strange feelings about preserving the layers of communist times that now contribute to the eclectic flair of the exhibition. In doing so, he established a one-of-a-kind place of beauty mixed with zeitgeist.

In Baltic Manors, art – or rather craft – is typically expressed through opulent antique furniture and decorative elements such as a hand-shaped iron staircase, stucco ceilings and parquet floors. Transforming a ruin into a place that is full of life again is an extraordinarily sensitive process, especially if it is listed and the heritage foundation also has a say in what can be done. When you find a place so worn down, it offers a vast range of possibilities for defining its new charm. The question is: how much of its historic charm can or should remain? It is a challenge and a delight to comprehensively define that.

However, Kummerow Castle, set next to Lake Kummerow, is one of Germany's – if not Europe's – most prestigious photo museums. It is also one of the most remarkable memorial places, which resembles the torn past of Baltic Manors in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.



The architecture's spaciousness provides the perfect setting for large-format photographs.

When I first entered the manor in May 2016 for a pre-opening seminar on manorial heritage, I was immediately struck by the sensitive and authentic restoration approach used to bring back and exhibit the house's beauty. As evidenced by the outcome of this process, a considerable effort has been expended to realise such grand visions. Kummerow Castle is an outstanding example of how the art of restoration can highlight the proportions of an old building. Built between 1725 and 1730 following the example of the Palace of Versailles, it has kept most of its original grace. Once you enter the castle, you are immediately caught in a very free-spirited restoration concept, which characterises the building with a unifying theme. On the front door, a yellow plastic sign warns visitors: "This building is under construction." It is meant as a joke to highlight that this place has seen hard times which will not be forgotten during the restoration that would make it look new. →

**»HE SAID THAT IF HE HAD COME A YEAR LATER, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKELY THAT THE HOUSE MIGHT HAVE JUST FALLEN APART BY THEN«**

I adore the humour that pervades the building's fragmented appearance. According to Kunert's daughter Aileen, who now manages the place since her father died in spring 2020, "Very often guests take a quick look around and say: 'Oh, we'll come back when it's finished!' And when I tell them that IT IS actually finished, they get even more confused. And then there is that moment of silence and I can sense how the visitors are trying to get adjusted to this rather unconventional approach of restoration. There are very controversial opinions on how it should have been done."

**"HE WANTED TO HONOR THE LAYERS OF TIME, WHICH HAVE SHAPED THE HOUSE. ESPECIALLY THE ZEITGEIST OF THE GDR"**

Kunert, an art lover and real estate agent/dealer, bought the castle in 2011. It is considered one of the most significant Baltic Manor buildings in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. "He said that if he had come a year later, it would have been likely that the house might have just fallen apart by then," she recalls. Kunert was looking for a place that would serve as an exhibition site for his private collection of contemporary photographic artwork.

Aileen never tires of explaining the restoration concept, which follows a supposedly random mix of historical details and modern replacements. She says, "This place

gives me a certain comfort I find hard to explain – in that you should follow the rules to a certain extent and then make your own turn to find your true self. This is exactly what is mirrored in Kummerow Castle." Concerning her father, she says, "He sort of wanted to honour the layers of time, which have shaped the house. It was especially important to keep the zeitgeist of the GDR, which had no appreciation for anything noble, as this period in the history of Germany had a great impact on my father's life."



Aileen Kunert manages the photo exhibition and is leading it into the future.

**A unique approach to show the impacts of politics in this rural region**

The house reflects his ambiguous life due to his past as a former Berlin GDR citizen. Kunert intended to highlight the various facets of the original and semi-original interior. The appeal of a Lenin slogan, for instance, can be highly disturbing for a visitor, especially if it reflects their own history in the GDR. "To my father, they were authentic," says Aileen. "And as a result, they were most true to him, which is why he cherished them." →

Not modern photo art, but simply a beautiful motif: Kummerow Castle from the outside.





Of course, Kummerow Castle is also extremely photogenic and therefore part of the exhibition.

The preservation of fragments can be interpreted as a reflection of his own history. For Kunert, it was more than just a nostalgic fondness to keep up with these traces of the past. With the GDR times in contrast to the Baltic Manor house tradition, Kunert dared to give a unique approach to illustrate the effects of politics in this rural region that is now poised for tourism growth.

"I like the contrast of Baroque architecture, which is plastered with GDR propaganda quotes and images. Some guests might dislike them, arguing that they are inappropriate for such an elegant building," says Aileen. "And there's the clue to it: the broken parts of the house become exhibition pieces themselves, so they perfectly complete the fusion of the historic interior and the modern photographs. My dad used to say: 'I want nothing fake in this house!' Fake, for him, meant to restore the original substance so you could not tell at first glance if it is old or new. But here, you can immediately see where

**"THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT, ISN'T IT? IT'S THE CRACKS THAT SHAPE US."**

the glory is gone forever and where it is preserved. In that, the house becomes a true storyteller of the past – with every phase of it!"

Marvellous photographs are perfectly suited to the large rooms with an air of grandeur and aristocracy. What is typically found in capital city museums, such as the MOMA or Tate Modern, is transposed into the middle of nowhere – with works by famous artists like Andreas Gursky, Martin Schoeller, Helmut Newton, Marina Abramović and Will McBride, as well as some famous GDR artists. Torsten Kunert liked to be edgy, combining beauty with awkwardness. A theme which he extends in his collection. Aileen pauses for a moment: "That's what life is all about, isn't it? It's the cracks that shape us." 🍷

by Annika Kiehn

► [schloss-kummerow.de](https://schloss-kummerow.de)



The communist era left numerous traces here. They are also part of this place's history and have therefore been preserved.

# More stories

**1 Fuglsang**  
A fine example of a real Baltic Manor beauty – and right next door a highly regarded museum of art. Something like this can only be found in Denmark's Lolland-Falster region.  
► [bit.ly/fuglsang](https://bit.ly/fuglsang)



**2 Manor of craft**  
Till Richter was an art professor, then he discovered Buggenhagen in Vorpommern. How an enthusiasm for modern art and manors gave rise to a unique place.  
► [bit.ly/tillrichter](https://bit.ly/tillrichter)

**3 Castle of colours**  
It's a monument to many layers of art history and now Panemunė Castle in Lithuania Minor houses modern art.  
► [bit.ly/panemune-castle](https://bit.ly/panemune-castle)



**4 Genius loci**  
Karolina Golebiowska draws inspiration for her art from the Grąbkowo Manor in Pomorskie Region. She shares this inspiration with others in painting workshops.  
► [bit.ly/grabkowo](https://bit.ly/grabkowo)

# Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

*There's nowhere else where you can admire such a great density of estates and manors than here, in north-eastern Germany. After German reunification, this historic cultural land-scape with its vast fields and lakes was revived – as a uniquely attractive holiday area in the Baltic Sea's hinterland.*

**Around 50 beautiful manor and castle hotels** – from starred hotels to holiday flats:  
► [urlaub-im-schloss.de](https://urlaub-im-schloss.de)

**Discover the manor house landscape of Vorpommern**  
► [manors.vorpommern.de](https://manors.vorpommern.de)

**Time out at Gutshof Liepen** – enjoy the wellness & spa area and regional delights at the restaurant:  
► [gutshof-liepen.de](https://gutshof-liepen.de)

**Family deal** – organic, fair and sustainable holidays at BIO HOTEL Gut Nisdorf close to the Baltic Sea:  
► [gut-nisdorf.de](https://gut-nisdorf.de)

**"Von Schloss zu Schloss-Reisen"** – multi-day tours by car, cycle or as a hike. Example: "Naturally romantic": follow in the footsteps of Caspar David Friedrich, the most eminent artist of German early Romanticism. It's a four-day car trip from Rügen to Greifswald, the heartland of German Romanticism, with two nights each in two castle hotels, incl. admission to the Rügen National Park Centre, the Caspar David Friedrich Centre and the Pomeranian State Museum.  
► [von-schloss-zu-schloss.de](https://von-schloss-zu-schloss.de)

Regional und fine dining:  
**Gorow Castle Estate near Rostock**  
► [schlossgut-gorow.de](https://schlossgut-gorow.de)  
**Relais & Chateaux Hotels Burg Schlitz**  
► [burg-schlitz.de](https://burg-schlitz.de)  
**Romantik-Hotel Ludorf**  
► [gutshaus-ludorf.de](https://gutshaus-ludorf.de)

Or would you rather cook for yourself?  
**Schloss Schmarsow** offers cooking courses with Erwin Seitz:  
► [schloss-schmarsow.de](https://schloss-schmarsow.de)  
In **Ramin** everything revolves around wild herbs from your own garden:  
► [gutshaus-ramin.de](https://gutshaus-ramin.de)



## Two manors and a river

The villages Quilow and Stolpe in Vorpommern are situated directly opposite each other separated only by the pristine river landscape of the Peene. They are connected by a

picturesque passenger ferry which also provides access to two picture-book manor houses. Quilow's moated castle is a creative place – from the lovingly created historical exhibition and Trabi-car museum to the small castle restaurant and the minimally furnished guest rooms. The charming Stolpe manor, on the other hand, offers a high-class hotel with a starred restaurant and a heated outdoor pool. A visit to the old Fährkrug is also highly recommended – a restaurant where the poet Fritz Reuter was a regular guest.  
► [gutshaus-stolpe.de](https://gutshaus-stolpe.de) ► [wasserschloss-quilow.de](https://wasserschloss-quilow.de)

# Żuławy, a cultural landscape



**V**ISITORS NOTICE STRAIGHT AWAY THAT SOMETHING IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT HERE, SOMEHOW SPECIAL. ENCLOSED BY TWO ARMS OF THE VISTULA ESTUARY, ŻULAWY IS A FERTILE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE IN ITS PUREST FORM: IT WAS CREATED BY THE PEOPLE.

Like large areas of the Netherlands, it was wrested from the water by dikes, pumps and drainage systems in historical times. Large parts of this very flat region, which is still criss-crossed by 17,000 kilometres of water channels, are even below sea level. In terms of its scenic appeal and touristic highlights, however, this green lowland with its lush meadows and pastures is a real winner: Żuławy is picturesque and looks as if it was created by the old Dutch master painters, not least because of its characteristic arcaded houses with wood-carved façades that can be admired everywhere here. In fact, it was the immigrants from Holland and Friesland, often Mennonites, who settled here and created this cultural landscape by bringing their architectural style with them. Today, new life is stirring again in many of these stately buildings, from gastronomy to culture and other uses – and with a perfectly developed network of cycle paths to connect them all together. Due to the flatness of the land, there couldn't be a more pleasant way for families with children and older people to explore this region and its many tourist attractions. 🌿

## More info

Please find everything you need to know about a stay in Żuławy including accommodation, attractions and various tours at:

► [www.traseo.pl/trasy/user/PUMA](http://www.traseo.pl/trasy/user/PUMA)



# The wine rebel at Frederiksdal Manor-

*finding a niche in a worldwide acclaimed cherry winery*



**A**N ENTREPRENEUR'S LIFE IS A LONG PATH PAVED WITH TRIAL AND ERROR, REJECTING THE "NOS" AND SEARCHING FOR A "YES" INSTEAD. HARALD KRABBE IS ONE OF THEM. HE IS THE OWNER OF FREDERIKSDAL MANOR, A PICTURESQUE ESTATE ON LOLLAND'S WEST COAST, SOUTH DENMARK. THE GRAND WHITE BALTIC MANOR SPARKLES LIKE A DIAMOND AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF LUSH GREENERY AND THE BALTIC SEA. ITS PRISTINE CONDITION DEMONSTRATES THAT IT HAS UNDERGONE A THOROUGH RENOVATION PROCESS.

Frederiksdal Manor in Lolland-Falster



Situated directly on the coast, Frederiksdal looks like the archetypal Baltic Manor.

"It is quite decadent, I know," says Harald Krabbe. "It's the result of someone's success, boredom and a need to show off. It's also my heritage, though. And as a famous Danish landowner once said, 'My heritage is my freedom'". He smiles and explains: "It is what you do with it; you have no other choice – and that kind of speaks for me, too. When you talk to young people these days, they seem utterly confused because they have so many choices and don't know which one to go after. That's a pity. With this estate, my path is pretty much set." And it seems he is making the most of it.

**"EVEN IF I HADN'T HAD THIS FARM, I WOULD STILL HAVE BECOME A FARMER BECAUSE I LOVE BEING ONE"**

Now in his early 50s, Harald Krabbe is the eldest of five siblings and a descendant of a long Danish family line. As tradition has it, he held the privilege of inheriting the estate. "I recall my father saying to me when I was 14, 'Do you want it?' and I said, 'yes.'" For 21 years now, he has been running the estate, which his grandfather bought in 1956. It is said to date back to 1305, but the manor was built in 1756 in a late-Baroque style.



Krabbe is a trained farmer who mostly grows various crops, grass seeds and agroforestry. "Even if I hadn't had this farm, I would still have become a farmer anyway because I love being one," he says. However, he admits that farming has become a rather fragile and wearying business these days, heavily influenced by the ups and downs of the global market. Perhaps not the best position for maintaining a manor. "This house is insanely expensive, but I like to keep it, so I have to think in terms of money," says Krabbe. Owning, preserving and, above all, heating almost 2,000 square meters of living space is surely a challenge. However, a lack of money has proven to be a valuable source for endless creativity and sometimes all it takes is the right timing.

**HE SMILES WITH A CONFIDENCE THAT SEEMS TO DERIVE FROM AN UTTERLY POSITIVE MIND**

Harald Krabbe seems to be the kind of person who envisions future projects all the time. Once he goes for something, he likes to do it thoroughly. That is also true for the manor's restoration. All windows were restored using the old-fashioned technique of dipping them in a tank of heated linseed oil to make sure they get an extra layer of protection on a natural basis. It is a time-consuming and expensive process, but the effect is long-lasting. "And that," Krabbe says, "is the overall purpose of maintaining Frederiksdal."

His life is guided by a simple philosophy: "Everything I do, I do because I like it. In terms of the manor, I have just borrowed it. I've been put in there, it's my job to look after it. And I find it exciting." He smiles with a confidence that seems to derive from an utterly positive mind. →

Harald Krabbe always seems to have a Plan B, C and D up his sleeve. He was forced to seek alternative sources of income in the early years of the new millennium. When the rise of globalisation ruined the family's long-standing cherry-juice business, he planned to cut down the cherry trees and plant grain instead.

### They drank their way through Europe

Luckily, fate had a different plan. Legend has it that in 2006, one day changed everything. He went for a walk around the fields with food journalist Morten Brink Iwersen and chef Jan Friis Mikkelsen when Iwersen suggested, after tasting the rich flavour of the unique Danish stenvnskirsebær cherry, "Let's make wine from them!" Krabbe responded with a spontaneous "Okay!", which marked the beginning of a now 15-year ongoing journey of producing award-winning cherry fruit wine sold throughout the world. To fathom the essence of traditional wine production, they started off with the best field study there is: a three-week road trip to various wineries in Italy, Spain and France. "We literally drank our way through Europe. I would say we are soul brothers in terms of food and wine. You could pick three random wines out of a shelf of one hundred and I am pretty sure we would prefer the same ones, even if we did not know what the other's choice was."

Their courage for an adventure led them to process the cherry in the traditional winemaking method, which means the wine will ferment freely and mature in oak barrels.



The wine is stored outdoors so that the sun, rain and cold give it its special flavour.

"Becoming a wine producer," Harald Krabbe says, "is like becoming an artist. You choose which direction you want to go – whether you want it to be a Picasso, a Renoir or Andy Warhol. You make the decision."

### SO, THAT'S THE GOAL: TO CREATE THE MOST AUTHENTIC CHERRY WINE THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN – AND EXPAND

Meanwhile, the "Frederiksdal cherry universe," as the partnership calls itself, holds a range of different products of exceptional flavours such as Liquor, Vintage and Sue Lie. Its flavour comes from being aged in French oak barrels and the amalgamation of two or three different vintages. It takes an average of nine years for a wine to be ready to serve. However, another fact adds to the unique taste.

"It's the terroir of the Stevns cherry, as we call it – the unique taste that derives from the fact that it has found the perfect conditions to grow in Lolland. Its acidity is one-of-a-kind; it is the DNA of our fruit. Nothing else on the planet has this level of acidity. It has been habituated here for millions of years and won't grow elsewhere. We are on an island where the surrounding seawater is not very deep, so the sea functions like a heating bank. It is being warmed up by the sun, which is why the winters are warmer than in other regions and the summers cooler. The land is very fertile clay that can hold water more efficiently. So, all in all, Lolland is a fantastic place for growing food," exclaims Krabbe.

### An important shift for his life

What started as a vague idea has turned Frederiksdal into a renowned monopoly business, which, according to Harald Krabbe, will guarantee it to last for a few more generations. So, that's the goal: to create the most authentic cherry wine the world has ever seen and expand from a start-up company into the biggest winery in the Nordic countries. "It has been a very important shift for my life," says Krabbe. He finally found an alternative way to do farming by producing world-class wine. "Ten years ago, I used to say I was stuck alone in a John Deere tractor cabin. These days, I'm travelling to China or the US to sell our wine. It's good fun," says Krabbe. 🍷

by Annika Kiehn

► [frederiksdal.com](http://frederiksdal.com)

## More stories

### 1 Flavour of Żulawy

In one of the arcaded houses that are typical of the cultural landscape in the Vistula Delta, Marek is reviving local culinary traditions with new creations.

► [bit.ly/littledutcher](http://bit.ly/littledutcher)

### 2 Memel wine

The Priekulė winery in Lithuania was launched in 2015 and already Vytautas Dabašinskas has made it a success. The tasting room is well worth a visit.

► [bit.ly/priekule](http://bit.ly/priekule)



Food

### 3 Delicious Ludorf

The Achtenhagen family ensures only the best regional ingredients are used to create culinary highlights at the Romantik-hotel on Lake Müritz in Mecklenburg.

► [bit.ly/ludorf-manor](http://bit.ly/ludorf-manor)



### 4 A taste of history

At Pederstrup in Lolland-Falster the old manor kitchen has been faithfully restored. You can experience first-hand how cooking was done in the olden days in cooking classes.

► [bit.ly/pederstrup](http://bit.ly/pederstrup)



## Lolland-Falster

*Grab your bike, walking stick or car and take a trip around the unique manor landscape of Lolland and Falster. As you go you can enjoy the medieval Aalholm, classical Corselitze and Pederstrup manors as well as the historic Fuglsang and Ljungholm manors.*

Lolland-Falster offers cultural, gastronomic and outdoor experiences, which are extraordinary:

► [www.Visitlolland-falster.com](http://www.Visitlolland-falster.com)

The favourable climate and rich topsoil give a great taste to the local produce. On Lolland-Falster everything is just a short distance away. Enjoy shopping, cafés and cultural experiences in one of the old towns, or the authenticity on one of the small cosy islands.

"Naturlandet" inspires you to explore Lolland-Falster on foot, bike, horseback or in a kayak:

► [www.naturlandet.dk/english](http://www.naturlandet.dk/english)

Peaceful country roads, quiet nature trails, historic market towns, wide yellow fields and infinite coastlines. Around Sakskøbing a 17 km tour takes you through a vast manor estate countryside. Among others the estates of **Oreby Manor**, **Berritsgård Manor** and **Krenkerup Manor** with a brewery and a brewing pub.

Culinary manors:

**Den Grønne Verden at Søllestedgaard**

► [www.dengronneverden.dk](http://www.dengronneverden.dk)

**Fuglsang Manor**

► [www.fuglsangherreg-aard.dk](http://www.fuglsangherreg-aard.dk)

**Krenkerup Brewery**

► [www.krenkerupbryggeri.dk](http://www.krenkerupbryggeri.dk)

Parks for every taste:

**Søholt baroque garden**

► [www.soeholt.nu/barokhaven-b](http://www.soeholt.nu/barokhaven-b)

**Corselitze English Garden**

► [corselitze.dk/fideicommiset/corselitzehave/](http://corselitze.dk/fideicommiset/corselitzehave/)

**Knuthenborg SafariPark**

► [knuthenborg.dk](http://knuthenborg.dk)



### Where Denmark was modernised

By the end of the 18th century most of western Lolland belonged to Count Christian Ditlev Frederik Reventlow. Christianssaede, the main manor of the county, is now being restored and you can visit the vast forest surrounding it and get a sense of past glories. The once favourite abode of the Count and his wife, Charlotte Frederikke, Pederstrup now houses the Reventlow Museum. You can visit the couple's home and dig into the fascinating story of their life and grand ideas for modernizing Denmark. Enjoy the old woodfired stove in the kitchen, the Chinese room and lift the lids of the old terrines in the dining room.

► [christianssaede.dk](http://christianssaede.dk)

► [museumlollandfalster.dk/pederstrup/](http://museumlollandfalster.dk/pederstrup/)

# "These houses are like little children"



Robert Uhde is the owner and operator of Vogelsang Manor in Mecklenburg, which can be booked as an event location. Interested? More information: [www.herrenhausvogelsang.de](http://www.herrenhausvogelsang.de)

"When I saw Vogelsang for the first time, it was completely dilapidated. That put me off and at the same time it touched something in me. These houses are like little children, they demand our full attention. If you take care of them, it can happen that in the middle of it – while living on a building site for years – you almost want to give up. But after three or four years of hard work, we were rewarded for our efforts. In the summer months, we are now almost fully booked as an event location – and you can see manors still have the potential to be the living room of a village. People like to come together there and the way they use the houses reflects much of today's zeitgeist. There is an increased need for

community spirit and a more mindful relationship with nature. This newly awakened life is a great tribute to these buildings and that also makes me a little proud. At the same time, a manor like this makes you humble – because you realise that you'll never be finished! And that's a good thing too. A life without a manor would definitely be less inspiring."



Janusz Pieniążek runs a holiday resort with very tastefully designed homes in Sasino. He is converting the local manor into a high-class hotel. [www.palacsasinood-nova.pl](http://www.palacsasinood-nova.pl)

"The sight of everything that is old has never left me cold. No matter whether it was pieces of furniture or glassware, or above all: buildings. Their past makes things unique, gives them a special value. That's why I've been collecting old furniture and decor from the fifties for as long as I can remember. And

for this reason, I have always wanted to have my own palace. The more abandoned and ramshackle the better. Because I dreamed of saving such a place, of giving it a future. When Sasino was put up for sale, I knew it was now or never! My wife and I were already running a holiday resort with eco-houses in this area. We have always dreamed of great things and knew that we will achieve that too. Since then, we have been making the palace more beautiful every day – and, with a view to its past, more authentic. For me, Sasino Palace is a sleeping beauty and I am the prince who kisses it awake."

*Can you imagine becoming a space Pioneer yourself? There are still many „sleeping beauties“ in the Baltic Sea region waiting to be kissed awake. More information:*

- [www.pomeraniamanors.pl](http://www.pomeraniamanors.pl)
- [www.mein-urlaub-im-schloss.de](http://www.mein-urlaub-im-schloss.de)
- [www.gutsdorf.de](http://www.gutsdorf.de)

## Baltic Manors Exhibition:

### Fascination times seven

One more reason to explore the entire Baltic Manor landscape with its more than 2,000 historic houses: Since spring 2022, an exhibition spread over seven locations and five countries has been informing visitors about the fascination of the manor houses of this region. Their

common history is thematised as well as the regional specialities and impressive biographies of their inhabitants – then as now. To form a complete picture of history, destruction, change and new flourishing. It's hard to find a more beautiful and educational way of touring the hinterland of the Baltic Sea than on a tour from site to site.

### More information:

- [www.baltic-manors.eu/theexhibition](http://www.baltic-manors.eu/theexhibition)



## The Baltic Manors Network



There are more than 2,000 manors in the South Baltic area, 500 of which offer tourist services. Under the leadership of the Tourism Association Vorpommern, 14 institutions from five countries – all experts in manors, tourism and rural development – teamed up to use their potential for

developing rural tourism. With the slogan "BALTIC MANORS – Old places. new life.", they jointly promote the South Baltic area as a manor tourism destination while initiating international exchange for the manor owners on innovative use and preservation concepts. The basis and framework for this is the Interreg project "South Baltic Manors", which runs from 2018 to 2022 and is part-financed by the European Union within the Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020.

## Involved institutions

### Germany:

Tourism Association Vorpommern, Regional Planning Association Vorpommern, Association Vorpommersche Dorfstrasse, Association of Palaces and Manors in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

### Poland:

The Union of Towns and Communes of the Parsęta River Basin, Tourist Association Northern Kashubia, Polish Union of Active Mobility,

Museum of Kashubian-Pomeranian Literature and Music, Pomorskie Tourist Board

### Lithuania:

Rambynas Regional Park, Klaipėda University

### Denmark:

Museum Lolland-Falster

### Sweden:

Culture Association Christinas Wänner, Wemmenhög's Museum Association at Svaneholm Castle

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European Regional Development Fund



*"Those who stay  
on the coast  
cannot discover  
new oceans"*

Ferdinand Magellan