

Press Release

A passion for Hamburg:

The sporting city of Hamburg hosts a wide range of international events

Hamburg, 2006 (HHT) – International sporting events such as the ATP Masters tennis tournament and the Holsten-City-Man-Triathlon have a firm place in Hamburg's sporting calendar. Each year the city hosts around 35 national and international sporting events. This year's Football World Cup will make no difference to that either and as ever, there will be numerous soccer, handball, hockey, ice hockey, volleyball and American Football games to delight fans used to seeing top-class competition in the city. Some renowned horsejumping events and regattas round off an action-packed programme which is set to draw countless guests to the city from home and abroad.

Among the international sporting highlights are the cycle race Vattenfall Cyclassics (it used to be known as the HEW Cyclassics), the Conergy-Marathon (formerly the Hanse-Marathon) and the Holsten-City-Man-Triathlon World Cup, all of which have proved a magnet to hundreds of thousands of sports fans every year in the past. The ATP tennis tournament at Rotherbaum is the biggest and most important event of its kind in Hamburg. The horsereacing, horsejumping and dressage derbys transform Hamburg into an equestrian mecca every year. The FinalFour tournament for the German Handball trophy will ensure a capacity crowd in the Color Line Arena, and the numerous key games in the top divisions of football, handball, ice hockey, American Football, volleyball and hockey will keep followers thrilled the whole year round. For watersports the inner Alster Lake in the city centre is the chief venue

For many decades now sports have played a key role in the Hanseatic City. The city's sporting life has been shaped by the numerous clubs, league division sides and lively amateur participation within its boundaries. The Hamburger Sport-Verein (HSV) is the only football club to have remained in the top echelon of the premier German league ever since it was founded. Today the club plays at an ultra-modern stadium in the Volkspark park with capacity for 55,000 fans. Since spring 2005 this arena has also been hosting the American Football professionals of the Hamburg Seadevils who play in the NFL Europe league. Right next to the stadium is the Color Line Arena, home to the city's ice hockey squad, the Hamburg Freezers and federal level handball team, HSV Handball. With an eye to its application to stage the Olympic Games, Hamburg will by 2006 have completed one of the modern training halls in Germany for light athletic sport, giving the city world-class status for these competitors.

The Olympic centre Hamburg-Schleswig-Holstein nurtures sporting talent on its way to world-class competition. It is being revamped at a cost of 17 million euros in order to augment the current facilities for swimmers and rowers with those for beach-volleyball, sailing and hockey. The world's best boxers have long been resident in Hamburg. World champions Dariusz Michalczewski, Vital and Vladimir Klitschko have all trained at the Universal boxing studios. Today, "Boxstall Universum" is one of the most successful boxing outfits in the world.

To mark the World Cup, Hamburg Tourismus GmbH has put together two packages in its catalogue "Happy Hamburg Reisen 2006" which should quicken the pulse of any football fan. In line with the motto of "Being there is best", guests can stay in a double room for three nights during the World Cup between June 5 and July 4 starting at 399 euros per person. The price includes accommodation with breakfast at the Hotel Crowne Plaza, with one evening meal, the Hamburg-Card (which gives reduced admission to a host of facilities), a trip on the Alster Lake and a visit to the football village "Fan Fest Hamburg 2006". All the World Cup games will be shown here live on king-size television screens. The village also offers plenty of soccer atmosphere with culinary delights and a range of action-packed games and activities. Guests who want to see Hamburg's first division club Hamburg HSV play live might like to try one of the "HSV - a living

legend“ offers. The cost of 76 euros per person includes not only entry to a match of your choice but a guided tour of the AOL stadium which allows you to look behind the scenes at HSV, visit the club museum and come away with a HSV souvenir bag.

For more information on sporting events and/or travel packages related to Hamburg please get in touch with the HHT, consult the website www.hamburg-tourism.de or ring the hotline on 040-300 51 – 351

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