



**CZECH  
OUT** ▶  
beyond Prague



## Dočesná in Žatec, Czech Republic

52nd Hop Harvest Festival, September 4-5, 2009, [www.docesna.cz](http://www.docesna.cz)

The Hop Harvest Festival is a major cultural event organized by the royal city of Žatec which was first mentioned in writing over a thousand years ago. The event is held annually on the first Friday and Saturday in September.

Originally, the event was meant as a celebration of the last hops to be picked however over the years it has undergone a number of changes. Today live music, beer-drinking contests and hop-picking competitions are also part of the event.

Dominating the programme is the promotion of a selected hop grower to the rank of a knight, and his/her decoration with a hop wreath, the opening of a keg and the picking of the very last hops of the season

in the smallest hop field in the world located in the same square.

Breweries, mainly those that use the Žatec hops to make their beer, present their products at the festival.

An expert beer-tasting, highly valued by breweries, takes place in the Hop Institute by a jury of 120 laymen and experts tasting 40 samples from 15 breweries. This particular beer-tasting is one of 5 which take place during the festival, the results of which are considered directly relevant to the quality of the beer.

### Tourist Information Centre

Městský úřad Žatec (Town Hall)  
Nám. Svobody 1, 438 24 Žatec, Czech Republic  
Tel/fax: +420 415 736 156  
e-mail: [infocentrum@mesto-zatec.cz](mailto:infocentrum@mesto-zatec.cz)  
[www.mesto-zatec.cz](http://www.mesto-zatec.cz)

### Hop Growers Union of the Czech Republic

Mostecká 2580, 438 19 Žatec, Czech Republic  
[www.zateckychmel.eu](http://www.zateckychmel.eu), [www.czhops.cz](http://www.czhops.cz)

### Czech Tourist Office

13 Harley Street, London, W1G 9QG  
[www.czechtourism.co.uk](http://www.czechtourism.co.uk)

