



Best traditional basket Basket maker from Neufra wins prize in England

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by Bertram Schwarz

Great honour for a basket maker from Neufra: Dieter Deringer has won the 1st prize for the best traditional basket - in England. The award ceremony is in September.

Basketmaker Dieter Deringer from Neufra (Sigmaringen district) has won the "Best Traditional Basket 2023" award in England for a ERGO-Log Basket. The "Worshipful Company of Basketmakers" - the honourable society of basketmakers - awarded him at this year's international competition of the Company. Deringer had already convinced the English four years ago with a basket from his workshop.

The winning piece: a log basket, also suitable as a laundry basket.



With this traditional log basket Dieter Deringer won the 1st prize at the Basketmakers Association in London.

Deringer's current winning basket is suitable for both laundry and logs. It is woven from willow rods and it hugs (nestles to) the body of the person carrying it with a curved shape on one side. That is what is so special about it. The basket, woven in different colours, looks sturdy and finely crafted at the same time.



Basketmaker Dieter Deringer at work.

The small workshop in Neufra could also appear in a fairytale film. Willow rods stand in the back, baskets hang from the ceiling, the basket maker sits in front at the window, surrounded by baskets of almost every shape.

"I am self-taught as a basketmaker (autodidact). I have never attended a course and have no apprenticeship as a basket maker. According to German standards, I can't weave at all because there's no piece of paper saying (which states that) I'm a master basket maker or journeyman."

Dieter Deringer



A basket for a trumpet - Dieter Deringer in Neufra also has something like that.

Baskets for fruit, trumpets and dogs

Besides the common shopping baskets, Deringer also makes baskets that can be carried on the back or over the shoulder. He weaves large sleeping baskets for dogs, fruit and newspaper baskets. He has a trumpet basket with lining in his range and a mushroom picking basket.



Of course, Camino, the basket maker's dog, also has a basket woven for him. (Photo: SWR, Bertram Schwarz)

It takes Deringer five hours to make a basket plus a few hours of preparatory work. He has now been a self-employed basket maker for 34 years and is as enthusiastic about his craft as he was in the beginning.