

## 10. Leipzig

In 2010, Leipzig, a small industrial city in the former East Germany with an illustrious past, will be marking the 325th anniversary of the birth of its former resident Johann Sebastian Bach and the 200th birthday of Robert Schumann with concerts, festivals and a reopened Bach Museum ([www.bach-leipzig.de](http://www.bach-leipzig.de)).

But the city's cultural high note is likely to be the Neo Rauch retrospective opening in April at the Leipzig Museum of Fine Arts ([www.mdbk.de](http://www.mdbk.de)), a show devoted to the father of the New Leipzig School of artists, a scene that for the past decade has been the toast of the contemporary art world. The art cognoscenti will also make their way to the Spinnerei ([www.spinnerei.de](http://www.spinnerei.de)), a former cotton mill that is home to 11 galleries, a cafe and a quirky new pension called the Meisterzimmer ([www.meisterzimmer.de](http://www.meisterzimmer.de)), with rooms starting at 50 euros, or \$70 at \$1.40 to the euro.

The city is also making a splash on the musical front. Moon Harbour Recordings and Kann Records, two indie labels producing innovative electronica from D.J.'s, are based here. Sevensol and Matthias Tanzmann will undoubtedly be lugging their laptops to Leipzig Pop Up ([www.leipzig-popup.de](http://www.leipzig-popup.de)), a trade fair and music festival taking place in May. Otherwise, gigs can be heard year-round in the city's underbelly of abandoned factories and squats that look a lot like Berlin — maybe 10 years ago.

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