

241027 PHO BRA ST PETE HALLOWEEN HORRORWOOD HISTORIC FESTIVAL

Horrorwood is an annual festival in St. Petersburg FL celebrating Hollywood, that is Halloween. You would think it was Hollywood based on how everybody shows up. But it's a great event full of families, lots of entertainment and food.



The theme is Halloween so you can't expect to see lots of outlandish costumes, floats and decorations that celebrate the annual festival. This is classic Americana and as someone who has lived outside the United States most of his life it looks oddly familiar. That is because in every country that I've ever lived in Halloween is popular. I've not lived in a country where people don't like to dress up in costume, drink and socialize in public. It's always a smash hit.



It's the scary part of Halloween that many cultures are afraid of. But I know as a little kid you'd like

to be afraid. In fact most of the classic European fairy tales are absolutely frightening. So Halloween has that aspect to it which is not only American but traditional.



I don't know what you can read into this mural but even Marilyn Monroe is seemingly afraid of what she sees. But it's all in good fun and the kids really love it. I think the adults get a similar kick out of the whole thing.



This year I went with my daughter and we had a great time. She's a throwback sort of and likes old movies. There weren't too many kids her age who even know what this movie was. It's a cult classic back from the 90s really before she was born. The movie is Napoleon dynamite and I'm not gonna take time here to explain why this T-shirt makes any sense.



But you can find cookie people and cookie food. Or in this case cookie food. I'm not sure cookie and cookie are spelled the same. But it was fun for everyone. There really isn't anything that you can address which is incorrect or improper. I suppose other than your birthday suit you would be fine walking down the street. And who knows right.





If I said that this year there were 20,000 people at this festival I meet under count. It was absolutely jammed with people. In fact I've never seen this many people on the road at one time.

And yet it did not feel crowded like a concert or some type of a mass outdoor event. It still had a small town feel to it.



You can walk around, talk to the vendors and exchange pleasantries and comments with passersby. There is lots to drink alcohol and otherwise. People do walk around with a drink or glass of wine in their hand. Yet I saw no one that was out of bounds or improper. I saw nothing that would have prevented the average family from just having a great time with small children.



Saint Petersburg is open to everyone. It's a wide open accepting place which is comfortable and familiar. I think bygones can be bygones here and everyone can have a good time no matter who you are. Especially in Halloween when you can dress up as whoever you want.



So next year don't make any excuse that you can't come. Don't think that you need a costume or that that the costume has to be extravagant. You can come dressed as you wish. In any costume that you can find. You'll see people walking around in all sorts of garb. The only requirement is that you have a great time.





If I didn't mention that Saint Petersburg is home to more than a dozen microbreweries. This is something that has been popular in the United States for the last 20 years and certainly that applies to Saint Petersburg. You can find any number of microbreweries with excellent beer. I don't drink alcohol and unfortunately none of the microbreweries has invested in the machinery to remove alcohol from their local products. But you can get nationally known non alcoholic beers as well. And as I mentioned earlier walking along the street there are plenty of vendors that sell non alcoholic beverages to those like me that don't drink alcohol. But have a good time as you can see everyone else is.





Like I said it's the strangest of things. I wish I could have taken more pictures of some of the odd costumes and a shenanigans that people came up with. Let your imagination run wild and do whatever is comfortable. You'll be accepted and laughed at in a good way.





Commercial vendors, restaurants, arts and crafts and everything in between can be found along the avenue. The traffic is completely closed off and this festival goes on for over 5 miles. Make sure you have comfortable walking shoes. I couldn't believe how big this celebration was until I tried to walk it. We didn't reach the end and had to turn around. It was quite tiring.





So bring your family, bring your pets and if you can bring a wagon with a cooler and some ice. There's no prohibition on bringing your own food or beverage. I think if you checked into it it would be prohibited to bring your own alcohol but generally if people don't make a fool out of themselves nobody cares. I certainly did not see anyone behave in a way that would have attracted any attention at all. That is except their costume.





So there you have it. Horrorwood 2024. You can't beat it with a stick as they used to say when I was small. Is a gigantic celebration. If you're someone that likes Halloween anything to do with Halloween then this celebration is for you.

Bring your family, bring your pet and bring your wallet. It's not expensive but you'll wanna partake and buy some of the products arts and crafts and food. It's a fantastic celebration. Don't miss this and really put it on your calendar. You'll not feel so bad if you live in one of those neighborhoods that does not have trick or treat. This will make up for it; see you next year.



THE END