



## “The Little Alsace of Texas”

Castroville was founded in 1844 by Henri Castro, for whom it is named. The first settlers were mostly Catholic farmers from Alsace, a region of France. Castroville still has strong cultural ties to Alsace as many of its citizens are descendents of the original settlers who journeyed here from Alsace. Castroville's has two sister cities in Alsace, France, Equisheim and Ensisheim.

Henri Castro was among the first to foresee the eventual value of Texas real estate. He contracted with the Republic of Texas to bring settlers (taxpayers) in exchange for a large grant of land between San Antonio and the Rio Grande. He was most successful in getting recruits from the Rhine Valley, particularly from the French province of Alsace. Castro as second only to Stephen F. Austin in the number of settlers he brought to Texas.

In September of 1844, the colonist established the town of Castroville in a scenic bend of the Medina River. Many of their unique dwellings quaintly sit among the 300 preserved historic structures which still survive in the old part of town, now a National Historic District.

Castroville has received such prestigious awards as the Preserve America Community designation by Laura Bush in January of 2004. The designation recognizes communities that are leaders in building the future on the strong foundation of their heritage. Additionally, in February 2009, Castroville was amongst the first of three Texas cities to receive the prestigious First Lady's Texas Treasures Award from Anita Perry. The award honors communities that have worked creatively in recognizing and preserving their authentic Texas sense of place.

Castroville is proud of its history and of its heritage that combines the cultures of several ethnic groups, We invite visitors to drive out for a relaxing stroll through the shaded streets along the Medina River and take a step back in time.



*“Walk back into history”*

# Castroville's 8th Annual Volksmarch

Sponsored by



AVA-939

## Saturday, September 3, 2011

### 10km/6km Walks

SW11/90173



**ELIGIBILITY/TYPE OF EVENT:** Noncompetitive. Walk, jog or run at your own pace. It is open to all and families are encouraged to participate. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Everyone **MUST** register and carry a Start Card and turn it in at the **FINISH**. This event normally will be held regardless of weather conditions.

**STARTING POINT:** Castroville Regional Park Breezeway

**STARTING POINT ADDRESS:** 816 Alsace St., Castroville, Texas 78009

**START TIME:** 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **FINISH TIME:** 2:30 p.m.

**DISTANCE:** 10km/6km (6.2mi/3.7mi) The route may be walked **TWICE** on the same Start card for 20km Distance Credit.

**AWARD:** There is **NO** award this year.

**FEES:** IVV Credit Only and Non-IVV Participation (**NO** IVV Credit) is \$3.00. There is no preregistration and there are no refunds. First time walkers are complimentary.

**TRAIL:** The route is considered easy and is on city sidewalks and low-traveled city streets. The route meanders past historic landmarks and sites, a timeworn cemetery, through many tree-covered streets, and through the scenic Regional Park. A major highway will be crossed at a crosswalk as well as the Medina River. The trail is suitable for strollers but may be difficult for wheelchairs due to a couple hills. Use good judgment and watch for cars when crossing HWY 90. The Trail Rating is 1.

**RESTROOMS & WATER:** Water and restrooms are available at the Start/Finish.

**FUN & FOOD:** Back again this year is the inclusion of a walking trail through beautiful Castroville Regional Park. Several other points of interest will be along the route including historical homes, the scenic Medina River, the Steinbach House, and much more! There are also many restaurants to choose from including American, Alsatian cuisine, Mexican and fast food. Also enjoy shopping at the many gift and collectible shops in town. Visit [www.castroville.com](http://www.castroville.com) to see all that Castroville has to offer.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** You may bring your leashed pet **AND** you must pick up its excrements. Smoking is permitted on the public portions of the trail, but you must not litter. Animals are not permitted in buildings along the route.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Castroville offers the Hotel Alsace & Spa Resort as well as numerous Bed and Breakfasts to meet all your needs. Contact the Chamber of Commerce for information **1-800-778-6775** or visit [www.castroville.com](http://www.castroville.com).

**AVA SPECIAL PROGRAMS:** America's Gardens Programs; Artistic Heritage; Firehouses; Grist Mills Program; Historic Churches; Honoring Law Enforcement; Museums Program; and Veteran Memorials Event Program.

**DISCLAIMER:** The sponsors are not liable for accidents, thefts, and/or material damage. Reasonable effort has been made by the sponsor to make this a safe, enjoyable and memorable event.

**INFORMATION:** Ashlee Bates at the Chamber of Commerce Office. Telephone (830) 538-3142 or email [ashlee@castroville.com](mailto:ashlee@castroville.com) or toll free at 1-800-778-6775. Visit [www.castroville.com](http://www.castroville.com) for more information on Castroville or send us mail at P.O. Box 572, Castroville, TX 78009.

**DIRECTIONS:** From San Antonio head West on US-90. Castroville is approximately 14 miles from Loop-471 and 10.6 miles from Loop-1604. Continue through Castroville and take a left on Athens right before the Dairy Queen. Travel 5 blocks and turn right onto Lisbon Street. Continue to end of that road and turn right into the park.

