



“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”

in Castroville, Texas

Year Round Volksmarch

January 1 - December 31, 2011

Sponsored by



Volkssport Club

AVA-939

10km/5km Walk

SW11/Y1877



SPONSOR: Castroville Chamber of Commerce Volkssport Club AVA-939

ELIGIBILITY/TYPE OF EVENT: Noncompetitive. Year round. 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: Sammy's Restaurant

STARTING POINT ADDRESS: 202 U.S. Hwy 90 East, Castroville, Texas 78009

START TIME: Daily, Dawn to Dusk

DISTANCE: 10km/5km (6.2mi/3.1mi) The route may be walked **TWICE** on the same Start card for 20km Distance Credit.

AWARD: None

REGISTRATION: The Walk Box is located in the foyer of Sammy's Restaurant. It contains a Registration Log, Registration Instructions, Walk Directions, a map, Start Cards and Insert Cards. There is **NO** Preregistration.

FEES:

IVV CREDIT ONLY: \$3.00

NON IVV CREDIT: \$3.00

There are **NO** refunds

ROUTE: The walk starts just outside of downtown Castroville with its classic stores, unique Alsatian architecture and antique and collectible shops. The route meanders past historic landmarks and sites, a timeworn cemetery, through many tree-covered streets, and through the scenic Regional Park. The walk is flat except for a few gentle rolling up and down grades and is suitable for strollers. Use good judgment and watch for cars when crossing HWY 90. The Trail Rating is 1.

IVV CREDIT: Only one IVV Certification Stamp for this event may be entered on your IVV Event Record Book every 6 months (JAN-JUNE and JULY-DEC). You are permitted to get **EVENT** Credit twice during the calendar year. You may get unlimited IVV Distance Credit during each six month period. IVV Insert Cards are available in the **WALK BOX**.

RESTROOMS & WATER: Water and restrooms are available at the Start & Finish. There are very few restaurants and fast food places along the route as well as restrooms. It is a good idea to carry water during the hot summer months.

MISCELLANEOUS: Pets are welcome but they must be kept on a leash at all times.

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

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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: A special **THANKS** to the owners/staff of Sammy's Restaurant for their cooperation and support of Castroville's Year Round Volkssport Event.

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

DIRECTIONS: From San Antonio go West on US-90. The Start is 14 miles from Loop-471 and 10.6 miles from Loop-1604. Stop at the traffic light just before the bridge (FM 471 north goes to the right). Turn **LEFT** onto Lower La Coste Rd (no street sign). Sammy's Restaurant is clearly visible on the **LEFT**. Ample parking is available around the restaurant.

