

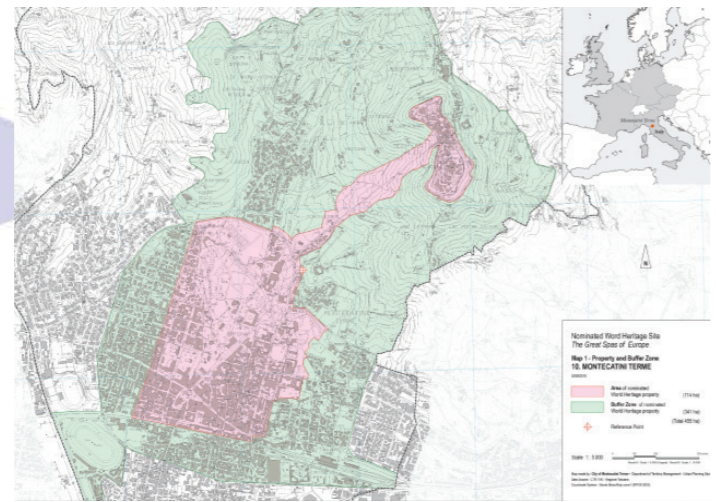
Montecatini Terme



Montecatini Terme, with its early distinguished role in the recognition of the medical properties of mineral water, is an important representation in a country rich in thermal springs. Attracting important intellectuals and artists, such as Verdi, Puccini and Leoncavallo, it also represents the last major materialisation of any 'Great Spa'. An ambitious regeneration project transformed a late-eighteenth century 'garden spa' into a 'landscape spa'.



Monumental spa architecture, centred on four principal springs, is dotted jewel-like within an oasis of gardens, formal parkland and promenades. The image of greenery continues in a swathe of pine trees and terraced olive groves that, together with the historic funicular railway, ascend the steep mountainside crowned by Montecatini Alto - the focal point of the Viale Verdi, the central boulevard and main axis of the modern spa. With its eclectic and liberty spa architecture reinterpreted in Tuscan style, Montecatini Terme continues to serve as a centre for balneological treatment.



GREAT SPAS of Europe

Nomination for World Heritage (UNESCO)



City of Montecatini Terme

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GREAT SPAS of Europe

City of Bath
Bad Ems
Bad Kissingen
Vichy
Baden-Baden
Spa
Frantiskovy Lazne
Karlovy Vary
Mariánské Lázně
Baden bei Wien
Montecatini Terme

GREAT SPAS of Europe



Transnational serial nomination for inclusion on the *UNESCO World Heritage List*



What is Great Spas of Europe?

Great Spas of Europe is a group of eleven spa towns across seven countries that has been nominated to UNESCO for inscription on the World Heritage List as a transnational serial 'property'. Property - eleven places developed around mineral springs - provides exceptional testimony to a complex, and unprecedented urban typology and cultural movement - the spa town. Each of these eleven spa towns developed between 1700 and the 1930s around natural mineral springs, which acted as the catalyst for an innovative model of spatial organisation dedicated to curative, therapeutic and social functions. 'Taking the cure', externally and internally, was complemented by related visitor facilities and spa-support infrastructure integrated into an overall urban context that includes a carefully managed recreational and therapeutic environment all set within a picturesque spa landscape. As an ensemble of elite places in terms of political, social and cultural achievements, Great Spas contributed to the transformation of European society through the reduction of the gap between the social elite and a growing middle class. spa towns hosted major political events and their special creative atmosphere inspired works of high-art in music, literature and painting that are of outstanding universal value. Its sustained function as a series of curative venues for body, mind and spirit ensures a continued contribution to European culture, behaviour, health and customs.

The Unesco bid

On 22nd January 2019, Montecatini Terme submitted the nomination for inclusion on the World Heritage List with ten other spa towns from seven European countries: Baden-Baden, Bad Ems, Bad Kissingen (Germany), Bath (United Kingdom), Baden bei Wien (Austria), Spa (Belgium), Vichy (France), Karlovy Vary, Františkovy Lázně and Mariánské Lázně (Czech Republic). Under the moniker *Great Spas of Europe*, these towns want the «exceptional universal value» witness from Ancient times to the 20th century, to be recognized them.



Bad Ems

Bad Ems, is a compact 'Great Spa', a model in form and function that documents the temporal depth of the European bathing tradition. Tightly contained in a deeply cut valley of a tributary of the Rhine, the picturesque 'Imperial Spa' became one of the most important spa towns in Germany; a venue for major political events and decisions, pioneering gaming and a linked musical heritage. Its thermal springs are clustered by the river where the principal spa quarter has continually occupied the same site throughout history. Distinguished architectural heritage reveal developments from the medieval 'Wildbad' through courtly life in the Baroque, to the sophisticated international resort of the nineteenth century and modernising developments of the early twentieth century. The transition into an interconnected spa landscape, with challenging therapeutic trails and high rocky overlooks, remains fully legible. *Bad Ems* mineral water has a long bottling history, and its salts were used in famous pastilles.



Bad Kissingen

Bad Kissingen, the Bavarian 'Great Spa' that bridges nineteenth century neoclassicism and modernity, is outstanding for the reform era of the early twentieth century. Architect Max Littmann built and rebuilt almost the entire spa in exceptional architecture using innovative forms and materials; the unparalleled Wandelhalle pump room is the largest structure of its kind in the world. Development took place outside the medieval walled town, guided by the cluster of springs, the Saale River, and the oldest formal spa garden outside an urban context, the whole making a seamless transition into parks and wooded hills. Internationalism increased from 1874 with visits by German Imperial Chancellor Otto von Bismarck. His living quarters are preserved at the Upper Saline, part of a second spa quarter distinguished by early industrial-scale facilities for the production of brine, an important feature of European spas. Health tourism remains vibrant in this 'Great Spa' maintained in its original function.

Baden bei Wien

Baden bei Wien, is located next to the great European metropolis of Vienna, historic seat of one of the world's greatest imperial dynasties - the Habsburgs. Baden was long their favourite summer resort; a 'Spa of Emperors' and a magnet for high-level politics. The town uniquely combines the architecture of the beginning of the nineteenth century ("Biedermeier") with the architecture and infrastructures of the turn of the twentieth century when Baden became a world class spa resort. The spa district is centred on the spa garden that contains the architectural cluster of Kurhaus, Trinkhalle, Sommerarena and music pavilion. The therapeutic and recreational spa landscape extends into a scenic terrain of hills and valley that contain a distinguished belt of 'sommerfrische' villas for Viennese and parks. Musical heritage of outstanding universal significance is linked to one of the favourite workplaces of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven and Johann Strauß.



Baden-Baden

Baden-Baden, the 'Summer Capital of Europe', was patronised by the ruling and cultural elite of nineteenth century continental Europe. Located on the western edge of the Black Forest, it became one of Europe's largest and most fashionable spas with an unbroken tradition of using mineral water for healing from antiquity to the present. All development phases have been preserved in the city's physical structure, but the nineteenth century is predominant. Reflected by the separate spa quarter, newly developed across the River Oos from the old town, it was here, in the Kurhaus and Casino, that *Baden-Baden* acquired a worldwide reputation as the supreme example of the German gaming spa. It was also a place of inspiration for major artists and works of universal significance. Today, balneological treatments and bathing continue with great popularity in both historic and new thermal establishments, while an outstanding tradition of music and theatre is vibrantly sustained.



City of Bath

City of Bath is held to be one of the earliest and most profoundly influential 'Great Spas'. From a medieval walled city around its central cluster of hot springs, the grand 'Georgian Spa' was created during the eighteenth century when frequently visited by Royalty and high aristocracy. Bath doctors pioneered diagnostic medicine based on its mineral waters, and the surrounding landscape was managed as part of 'the cure'. Dedicated to leisure, pleasure and high-fashion, 'Masters of the Ceremony' devised and policed the 'Rules of Bath', a model for continental spas. Architectural spa prototypes were pioneered, and Bath contributed to the creation of a polite society, helping to shape European democratic traditions and ideals. Distinguished by iconic spa buildings, exceptional Georgian town planning, Palladian architectural ensembles, crescents and squares, Bath has managed its hot springs for 2000 years. Today, it is sustained as a living spa, its bathing functions enhanced by original refurbishments and new additions.



Františkovy Lázně

Františkovy Lázně is a planned ideal nineteenth century 'new (spa) town' on flat basin terrain in the 'West Bohemian Spa Triangle'. It survives with exceptional integrity and authenticity and was built at the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries on a 300m-square orthogonal grid centred on a polycentric and widespread thermal spring-field. Its harmonious architectonic look is founded on the Baroque principles of axiality and symmetry and is characterised by an inner and outer spa landscape with a triple belt of parks, in which twenty-four springs and their architecturally interesting pavilions are linked by long and level promenades. The property is surrounded by extensive forest and moorland that inspired it to become one of the earliest peat spas in the world. Its historic specialism in treating women's illnesses prompted ladies to visit without accompaniment by men, an emergent place of emancipation. Musical and literary works were created by composers and authors of international renown.



Karlovy Vary

Karlovy Vary is the largest spa in Europe and principal Bohemian spa. Known as 'the largest open-air salon of Europe', it hosted royal families, European heads-of-state, high aristocracy and prominent artists. It is distinguished by a geyser-like spring phenomenon and unique composition of thermal water, innovative methods in balneology, and a prolific and outstanding architectural spa ensemble. The spa quarter follows the numerous hot springs that issue in the deeply incised Teplá (= Warm) River valley and displays rich Historicist and Art Nouveau styles from the town's internationally-oriented Golden Era of the second half of the nineteenth century. An enveloping spa landscape is characterised by terraced valley sides, extravagant villas, promenades and pathways, and solitary lookout buildings. Historic spa buildings continue in use for balneological treatments and nowhere today is the 'drinking cure' more evident than in the beautiful colonnades where thousands of daily visitors may be seen with traditionally-shaped porcelain spa cups.



Mariánské Lázně

Mariánské Lázně is an early nineteenth-century 'new (spa) town' in the 'West Bohemian Spa Triangle'. It retains high authenticity and structural integrity and makes a significant contribution to the innovative historic urban landscape of *The Great Spas of Europe*. The 'spa in a park' exhibits a grand harmony with nature, and from the 1870s gained an international reputation as a meeting place of royal families and the aristocracy, a venue for important global political negotiations, for scientific gatherings, and as a place of inspiration for high-art. Prolific mineral springs provide a focus for Central Park and a diverse neoclassical ensemble of outstanding nineteenth and early twentieth century spa buildings, including pavilions and an iconic colonnade. Springs rise in a swathe of wooded hills with therapeutic and recreational trails. *Mariánské Lázně* continues to be one of the most significant centres of European balneotherapy, 'taking the cure' in original spa buildings with preserved interiors and equipment.



Spa

Spa, the 'eponymous spa town' and 'Pearl of the Belgian Ardennes', played a precursory role in the recognition of the medical properties of mineral water from the early seventeenth century. Its carbonated waters were ideally suited to drinking and have been widely distributed across Europe ever since, leading to the introduction of the name "spa" in the English vocabulary. Since the early eighteenth century, *Spa's* numerous springs that issue on a wooded hillside south of the town served for both crenotherapy and physical activity, a network of walks linking the various springs and connecting them to the town. *Spa* became internationally-renowned as the 'Café of Europe', and a pioneer of gaming. From the second half of the nineteenth century it was transformed into a modern spa resort with French classicist architecture. Today, thermal tradition and know-how is sustained by the addition of a new thermal centre overlooking the town.



Vichy

Vichy, 'Queen of Spas', greatly contributed to the creation of nineteenth century European spa culture, in which France played a major role. It is the most prestigious and well-known French spa town, the model spa serving as a benchmark in both France and its colonies. Located on a flat plain beside the River Allier, it combines Parisian urban principles with a spa promenade inside the city. Napoleon III encouraged the building of a new spa town laid out with parks and boulevards, a cosmopolitan 'Little Paris' of grand bath complexes, pump rooms connected by covered promenades, casino and theatre, hotels and villas. The success of *Vichy* resumed after difficult times in the Second World War, and bottled water - 'reine des villes d'eaux' - continued to be exported in large quantities, worldwide. This further provides the basis for trademark cosmetics and skin care products of the Vichy Laboratories, the leading skincare brand in European continental pharmacies.

