



VICHY UNESCO

WORLD HERITAGE

11 spa towns for a joint nomination

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GREAT
SPAS *of Europe*

EDITO

Vichy has an exceptional heritage.

Its residents know this and, through the ages, people taking the waters, tourists or simply curious people have been able to enjoy a remarkable natural setting and magnificent architectural elements. Artists, politicians, ambassadors and heads of state, industrialists and international traders: all the big names came to Vichy and made our city shine beyond the borders.

They have thus laid the foundations of an intangible and tangible heritage that has enriched the universal value of the thermal heritage of our city for decades.

Today, we are applying, together with the inhabitants of Vichy, and the many national and international supporters, to be included, together with ten other exceptional European spa towns, in UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Spread your love of the city, support our approach and become the representatives of our shared nomination. By committing yourself in this way, you are part of the age-old tradition of renowned ambassadors who have worn the colours of our spa town.

Frédéric Aguilera
Mayor of Vichy



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

SOME OF OUR CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE PROPERTIES ARE PRICELESS AND IRREPLACEABLE, WHICH IS WHY THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION WAS CREATED IN 1972. THEY HAVE AN OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE FOR HUMANITY, WHICH MUST BE PROTECTED, PRESERVED AND TRANSMITTED TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Under the name Great Spas of Europe, the eleven most representative spa towns of Europe have come together to submit a joint nomination to UNESCO World Heritage List. These cities must demonstrate their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and meet at least one of the ten selection criteria. The Great Spas of Europe's nomination is based on four of them. As such, these 11 cities are an exceptional testimony...

... places of experimentation that have benefited and contributed to the eighteenth century Enlightenment movement radically changing attitudes towards science, medicine, nature and art. These cities influenced the early development of sea-bathing, climatic and gaming resorts throughout the world.

**INFLUENCE ON MODERN
EUROPEAN TOWNS**

CRITERION
II

... a new approach to healthcare that has been developed in Europe around natural mineral water springs, combining diagnoses and medical prescription, physical exercise and leisure opportunities. A thermal tradition that flourished from the 18th century to the early 20th century and continues to thrive today.

**«TAKING THE CURE»: HUMAN
HEALTH AND MINERAL SPRINGS**

CRITERION
III

... an original and prestigious urban development combining health and leisure (resorts), reconciling urban amenities and the benefits of nature, organised around mineral springs and luxurious facilities (bathing establishments, spring halls, casinos, theatres, large hotels, villas, etc.), all integrated within a green environment of parks and gardens, promenades, sports and leisure areas.

A UNIQUE URBAN TYPOLOGY

CRITERION
IV

... places directly linked to the cultural, social and political ideas that have helped to shape European democratic traditions and ideals. As international meeting places, the spas are distinguished as regular hosts to prominent figures in the arts and humanities, and also to European rulers, politicians and diplomats, national elites and international high society. As preferred resorts of artists, here, many original works were conceived, performed or exhibited for the first time

**VECTORS OF
TRANSNATIONAL CULTURE**

CRITERION
VI

THE OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF THE MAJOR SPA TOWNS OF EUROPE

Bad Ems, Montecatini Terme, Františkovy Lázně, Mariánské Lázně, Vichy, Bad Kissingen, Baden-Baden, Karlovy Vary, Bath, Spa, Baden bei Wien

Under the name of the Great Spas of Europe, the eleven most representative cities of European spa towns have come together to submit a joint nomination to UNESCO World Heritage List.

« It's not a monument, It's a movement »





VICHY

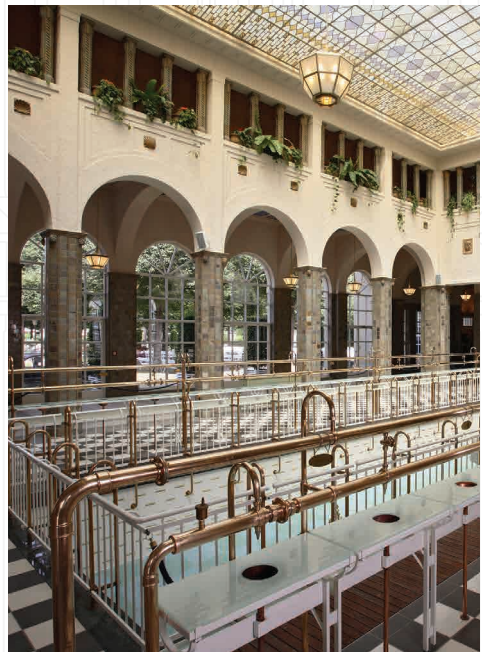
France

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 construction of a new spa town created with parks, a large casino and boulevards, a cosmopolitan «Petit Paris». 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.

BAD KISSINGEN

Germany

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

Austria

The city of Baden bei Wien is located next to the great European metropolis of Vienna, the historic seat of one of the world's largest imperial dynasties, the Habsburgs. Baden bei Wien has long been their favourite summer resort, a «Spa of Emperors» and a magnet for the political elite. 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.



BAD EMS

Germany

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.

MARIÁNSKÉ LÁZNĚ

Czech Republic

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.



KARLOVY VARY

Czech Republic

Karlovy Vary is the largest spa in Bohemia. 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.



MONTECATINI TERME

Italy

Very early on, the doctors of Montecatini Terme recognized the therapeutic properties of thermal water. 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.

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 springfield. Its harmonious architectonic look is founded on the Baroque principles of axuality 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.



SPA

Belgium

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-



FRANTIŠKOVY LÁZNĚ

Czech Republic

Františkovy Lázně is a planned ideal nineteenth century 'new (spa) town' on flat basin terrain in

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.

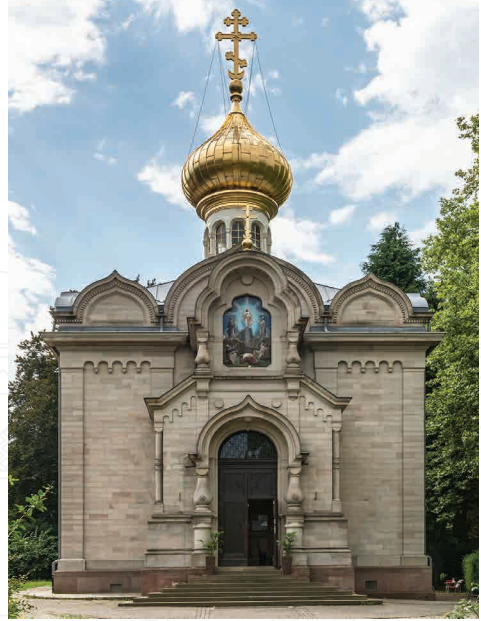
(*) Thermal water treatment



BATH

United Kingdom

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. 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.



BADEN-BADEN

Germany

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. The old town of Baden-Baden and the spa area are located on both sides of the Oos River. Baden-Baden has acquired a worldwide reputation as the ultimate example of the German recreational spa with its Kurhaus and Casino. 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.

DISCOVER OR REDISCOVER

To understand the Outstanding Universal Value and its attributes, discover 33 characteristic elements of a spa town.

SPRINGS

- 1 Chomel, Célestins, Grande-Grille, Hôpital, Lucas (*Spring hall*)
- 2 Célestins spring
- 3 Hospital spring

SPA LANDSCAPE

- 31 Springs park
- 32 Allier parks
- 33 Célestins park

PERIMETER



Perimeter of the nominated property

ACCOMODATION, SPA INFRASTRUCTURE, CHURCHES

- 4 Célestins spring's pavilion
- 5 Lardy spring's pavilion
- 6 Springs hall
- 7 Spring's park galleries
- 8 1st class spa establishment
- 9 2nd class spa establishment
- 10 Grand Casino
- 11 Opéra
- 12 Hospital's Source Galleries
- 13 Bandstand

SPA ENSEMBLES

- 14 Emperor's chalet
Eugénie's chalet
- 15 Strauss Villa
- 16 Rue Alquéi
- 17 Ambassadors Hotel
- 18 Thermal Hotel
- 19 International Hotel
- 20 Park Hotel
- 21 Rue Hubert-Colombier
- 22 Castel Flamand
- 23 Venitian Villa
- 24 Astoria Hotel
- 25 Passage Giboin
- 26 Saint-Louis Church
- 27 Protestant Temple
- 28 Notre-Dame-des-Malades Church
- 29 Thermal avenues radiating from the station to the thermal district
- 30 Guardian's pavilion in the Allier parks



La Rotonde

Thermes Callou

Thermes Les Dômes

Spa Vichy Célestins

Galerie Napoléon

Hall des Sources

Tourism information office

Congress center Opéra

Source de l'Hôpital

Source Lardy

university and technological centre

Source des Célestins

Célestin's beach

The walks and Allier's lake beaches

ALLIER RIVER

BELLEVERVE BRIDGE

AV. PIERRE COLTON

AV. THERMALE

AV. VICTORIA

R. JEAN JAURES

R. DE PARIS

R. LUCAS

R. GEORGES CLEMENCEAU

R. DU PRÉSIDENT WILSON

AV. DU PRÉSIDENT DOUMER

BD. CARNOT

BD. DES ÉTATS-UNIS

BD. DE RUSSIE

AV. ARISTIDE BRIAND

BD. DU PRÉSIDENT J. F. KENNEDY

R. DU CASINO

R. DU MARECHAL FOCH

AV. DES CÉLESTINS

Pl. P.V. Leger

Pl. du 8 Mai 1945

Pl. de la Liberté

Pl. des 4 Chemins

Pl. V. Hugo

Eglise St. Blaise



AV. LÉON

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