



New Palace of Bayreuth: Margrave's Fountain with a view of the Corps de logis

New Palace and Court Garden

Although the Old Palace erected in the 17th century was an imposing building, it no longer satisfied the requirements of the baroque court. Its destruction in a fire in January 1753 brought forward the decision to build a new palace, which was thus begun in the same year under Margrave Friedrich von Brandenburg-Bayreuth. As with the Old Hermitage Palace, his wife Wilhelmine had a major influence on the design of the rooms.

Highlights of the palace are the Cabinet of Fragmented Mirrors, the salon with its gold ceiling, Wilhelmine's bedroom and the Old Music Room. In the southern wing of the palace is what is probably the finest interior in the Bayreuth rococo style: carved gilt palm trees, their crowns reaching into the sky, are set at intervals along the walnut panelling with its pronounced grain, creating the illusion of a palm grove for the guests who attended banquets here. After the main palace had been completed, in 1759 the margrave began the little, initially free-standing Italian palace for his second wife, Sophie Karoline von Braunschweig-Wolfenbüttel, which was connected shortly afterwards with the southern wing of the New Palace. On the ground floor of the



Figure of Terpsichore in the Court Garden of the New Palace, Johann Georg Ziegler, before 1749

New Palace today is the Museum of "Bayreuth Faience – Rummel Collection" with outstanding items from the Bayreuth Manufactory. The collection covers the whole period of production from its beginnings until 1788.

After the New Palace was built, the Court Garden, which had been the property of the margraviate since the end of the 16th century, was also redesigned and extended.

The pall mall avenue planted in 1679 (pall mall was a popular game comparable with croquet) was included in the new complex. South of this the margravian couple laid out avenues, hedge gardens, pergolas and parterres.

At the end of the 18th century the gardens were turned into an "English-style" park with winding paths and natural stands of trees. The dominant features of the geometric garden, the canal and the three main avenues, have however remained. In 1990 the parterre in front of the south wing was reconstructed.



Margravine Wilhelmine von Bayreuth, Antoine Pesne, ca. 1732 (left); Palm Room, Adam Rudolph Albin, 1758 (right)



Auditorium of the Margravian Opera House with a view of the court loge

Margravian Opera House

In the 18th century an opera house as large and magnificent as the most famous houses of its day was built in the small residential town of Bayreuth. Primarily initiated by Margravine Wilhelmine, this new construction was begun in 1744 from plans by Joseph St. Pierre and completed in only four years. The façade is modelled on the architectural style of upper Italy and sets the opera house apart from the adjacent houses. The interior was designed by Giuseppe Galli Bibiena, probably the most famous theatre architect of the time.

Inside, the theatre is dominated by the court loge, which indicates through its design that the presence of the margravian couple was as important as the theatre performance itself. Glorification of the ruler was however also the function of the other features of the interior decoration, such as the Fama figures hovering above the proscenium arch with the margravian coat of arms. Preserved in its entirety, this interior is both ceremonious and full of vitality. The opera house is one of the few remaining 18th-century theatre buildings in Europe; the splendid performances staged here, especially during the Franconian Festival in May and June, are an unforgettable experience.



Sun Temple of the New Hermitage Palace crowned with the sun chariot of Apollo

Hermitage and Court Garden

In 1715 Margrave Georg Wilhelm built the Old Palace near the residential town of Bayreuth as the central feature of a court hermitage. In 1753, when Margrave Friedrich took over the government of the margraviate, he presented the Hermitage to his wife Wilhelmine. Fascinated by this unique complex, the margravine immediately began enlarging it, first adding new rooms to the Old Palace including a Music Room, a Japanese Cabinet and the Chinese Mirror Cabinet, in which she wrote her celebrated memoirs.

Between 1743 and 1745 various buildings and fountains such as the Ruined Theatre and the Lower Grotto with the hermitage of Margrave Friedrich were produced from designs by Joseph St Pierre. The New Palace and the Upper Grotto were built from 1749 to 1753.

In the sections added by Wilhelmine to the existing gardens she introduced traditional baroque elements such as hedge gardens, pergolas and waterworks. Created in an era when there were no gardens of this type at all in Germany, the Hermitage is thus unique amongst the gardens of the 18th century.

INFORMATION

Schloss- und Gartenverwaltung Bayreuth-Eremitage
Ludwigstr. 21 · 95444 Bayreuth · Tel. (09 21) 7 59 69-0 · Fax -15
sgvbayreuth@bsv.bayern.de

NEW PALACE AND COURT GARDEN

Ludwigstr. 21 · 95444 Bayreuth

OPENING TIMES

April – September: 9am – 6pm
October – March: 10am – 4pm

Court Garden always accessible
& accessible for wheelchairs · disabled parking places available

TRANSPORTATION

Train to Bayreuth main station and bus no. 2 to "Stadtmitte"
Chargeable car and bus parking facilities (P6 Stadthalle)

MARGRAVIAL OPERA HOUSE

Opernstraße 14 · 95444 Bayreuth

OPENING TIMES

April – September: 9am – 6pm
October – March: 10am – 4pm

& accessible for wheelchairs · disabled parking places available

TRANSPORTATION

Train to Bayreuth main station and 10 minutes' walk or bus no. 2 to "Wölfelstraße" · Chargeable underground parking facilities (P7 behind the opera house)

HERMITAGE AND COURT GARDEN

Eremitage Haus Nr. 1 · 95448 Bayreuth (St. Johannis district)

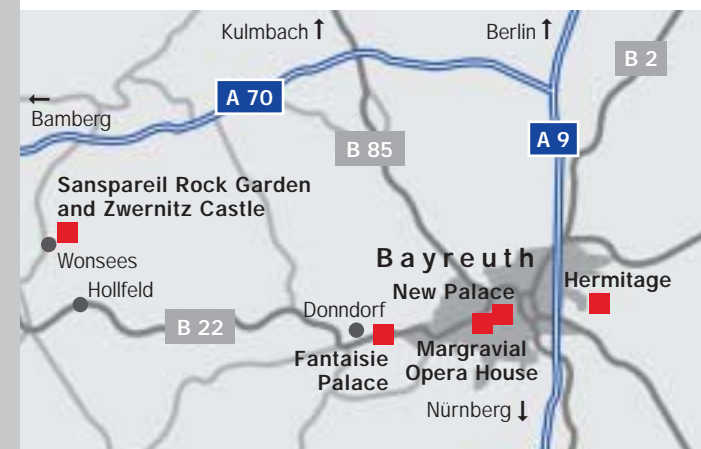
OPENING TIMES

April – September: 9am – 6pm
1 – 15 October: 10am – 4pm · 16 October – March: closed
Garden always accessible

& Park and Old Palace accessible for wheelchairs

TRANSPORTATION

Train to Bayreuth main station and bus no. 2 to "Eremitage"
Car and bus parking facilities at the entrance to the park





Sanspareil Rock Garden: stage of the ruined "Roman" theatre; Title picture: Old Hermitage Palace

SANSPAREIL ROCK GARDEN WITH ORIENTAL BUILDING AND ZWERNITZ CASTLE

Haus Nr. 29 · 96197 Wonsees
Tel. (0 92 74) 3 30 und (0 92 74) 12 21

OPENING TIMES

April – September: 9am – 6pm · 1 – 15 October: 10am – 4pm
16 October – March: closed
Closed Mondays · Garden always accessible

TRANSPORTATION

Car and bus parking facilities at the entrance to the park

FANTAISIE PALACE AND PARK

Bamberger Str. 3 · 95488 Eckersdorf/Donndorf
Tel. (0921) 73 1400-11 · Fax -15 · www.gartenkunst-museum.de

OPENING TIMES

April – September: 9am – 6pm · 1 – 15 October: 10am – 4pm
16 October – March: closed
Closed Mondays · Garden always accessible


♿ Lift available in the Garden Museum

TRANSPORTATION

Train to Bayreuth main station
Bus 8231, 8443, 8446, 8449 to Donndorf "Fantaisie"

All castles are closed on 1 January, Shrove Tuesday, 24, 25 and 31 December.

Information on all places of interest:

 Bayerische Verwaltung der staatlichen Schlösser, Gärten und Seen
Postfach 20 20 63 · 80020 München
info@bsv.bayern.de · www.schloesser.bayern.de

Sanspareil Rock Garden with Oriental Building and Zwernitz Castle

On first seeing the bizarre rock formations in the beech grove not far from Zwernitz Castle a guest of Margrave Friedrich is said to have exclaimed "C'est sans pareil!" – "It has no equal!". Between 1744 and 1748 the Oriental Building and the kitchen building opposite were constructed in this unusual natural setting from designs by the court architect Joseph St. Pierre. These two buildings, which were used for festivities at the Bayreuth Court, are grouped around a sunken garden parterre, which was recreated in 1984 from a copper engraving made in 1748. The park bordering these buildings was decorated with very little alteration to the natural surroundings with a ruined theatre and numerous smaller buildings, most of them in an Eastern Asian style; these did not however survive beyond the 19th century. The ruined theatre which still exists today demonstrates the dependence of all mankind's creations on the factor of time and is a reminder that even classical works are subject to decay. All these park buildings were probably the inspiration of the highly educated and artistic Margravine Wilhelmine. In Zwernitz Castle there is a collection of side-arms, shaft weapons and furniture from the 16th to the 18th century.

Oriental Building with parterre de broderie



Fantaisie Palace with carpet bed and sculptures from the mixed style epoch

Fantaisie Palace and Park

In 1761, three years after the death of his wife Wilhelmine, Margrave Friedrich started to build a palace in Donndorf but did not live to see it completed. His daughter Elisabeth Friederike Sophie received the property in 1763 and named it "Fantaisie". Under her direction the palace was finished and by 1780 also a late baroque garden. The pavilion, the cascade and the Neptune Fountain have remained from this period. From 1793 Friederike Dorothee Sophie von Württemberg extended the gardens in the sentimental landscape style and added a catacomb and the pillar of harmony. From 1839 to 1881 Duke Alexander von Württemberg rebuilt the palace and extended the park



Spindler Cabinet (top left); Duchess Elisabeth Friederike Sophie von Württemberg (top right); Copper engraving and garden tools from the museum (below); Potpourri vase (bottom picture)

to give it its present form, with landscape sections, sculptures, fountains and terraces. Since 2000 Fantaisie Palace has been the location of the first garden museum in Germany. With numerous valuable exhibits it illustrates the history of garden design from the 17th to the 19th century. The museum tour includes the White Hall and the reconstructed Spindler Cabinet with its elaborate marquetry. The attractive palace park has original design elements from the three relevant phases of development in the rococo, the sentimental landscape and the mixed style, and is as important a historic record as the palace itself. A visit to the Fantaisie garden museum is not complete without a walk through the park with its numerous buildings and monuments.

Bayreuth

- New Palace and Court Garden
- Margravia Opera House
- Hermitage and Court Garden
- Sanspareil Rock Garden
- Fantaisie Palace and Park

