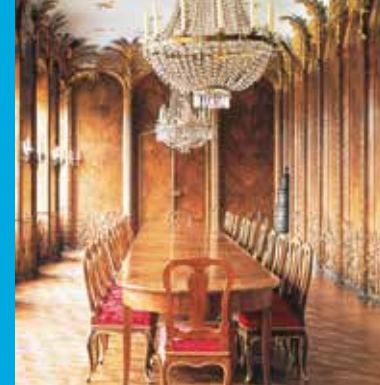




*I wish you  
a fascinating  
visit to Bayreuth!*

**Dr. Markus Söder, MdL**

*Bavarian Minister of State of  
Finance, Regional Development  
and Regional Identity*



*Palm Room, 1758 (left); Garden Hall of the Italian Palace (right)*



*The stage with the reconstructed stage set*



*View of the Old Hermitage Palace with the fountain*

## 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

*New Palace of Bayreuth with Margrave's Fountain*



Italian palace for his second wife, Sophie Karoline von Braunschweig-Wolfenbüttel, which was connected shortly afterwards with the southern wing of the New Palace. The New Palace includes several museum sections such as the 'Bayreuth Faience – Rummel Collection', with items from the Bayreuth Manufactory, the Bavarian State Collection of Paintings, with late Baroque art, and the permanent 'Dr. Löer Miniatures Collection' with 18th century erotic works. In 2008 the Italian Palace and the grotto tract were opened after comprehensive renovation. After the New Palace was built, the Court Garden, which had been the property of the margravate 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 margravial 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 three main avenues, have however remained. In 1990 the parterre in front of the south wing was reconstructed.

*Wilhelmine of Bayreuth in pilgrim costume, A. Pesne, c. 1750*



## Margravial Opera House

The opera house inaugurated in 1748 is one of the most impressive examples of Baroque architecture built to celebrate a special occasion. It was modelled on the greatest opera houses of the time in Vienna and Dresden. Its interior with tiers of loges made entirely of wood was designed by Giuseppe Galli Bibiena, the most important theatre architect of his day. The theatre was built at the instigation of Margravine Wilhelmine, a sister of Frederick the Great, who was herself an author, composer and the director of the court opera. The theatre was built for the lavish festivities surrounding the wedding of the Bayreuth princess Elisabeth Friederike Sophie and Duke Carl Eugen of Württemberg in September 1748. In 2012 the opera house was placed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List. Following a comprehensive renovation programme completed in 2018 to ensure the permanent preservation of this monument of European music culture, it once again provides an authentic picture of the opera world in the Baroque age.

*Interior of the opera house, looking towards the stage portal*



## 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 1735, 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.

*The Lower Grotto is located at the lowest point in the garden*



### INFORMATION

Schloss- und Gartenverwaltung Bayreuth-Eremitage  
Ludwigstr. 21 · 95444 Bayreuth · Tel. 0921 75969-0  
sgvbayreuth@bsv.bayern.de · www.bayreuth-wilhelmine.de

### NEW PALACE AND COURT GARDEN

Ludwigstr. 21 · 95444 Bayreuth

#### OPENING TIMES

Apr.–Sep.: 9am–6pm · Oct.–Mar.: 10am–4pm · open daily  
Court Garden always accessible  
♿ accessible for wheelchairs · disabled parking places available

#### TRANSPORTATION

Train to Bayreuth main station and bus to 'Sternplatz'  
Parking facilities: www.bayreuth.de

### MARGRAVIAL OPERA HOUSE

Opernstraße 14 · 95444 Bayreuth

#### OPENING TIMES

Apr.–Sep.: 9am–6pm · Oct.–Mar.: 10am–4pm  
The opera house may be closed temporarily due to event rehearsals.

There are **multimedia shows at fixed times** (every 45 minutes). Visitors are able to look round the opera house on their own afterwards until the next show.

♿ accessible for wheelchairs  
municipal parking spaces for the disabled  
(Wölfelstraße, Münzgasse)

#### TRANSPORTATION

Train to Bayreuth main station and bus to 'Luitpoldplatz'  
Parking facilities: www.bayreuth.de

### HERMITAGE AND COURT GARDEN

Eremitage 4 · 95448 Bayreuth

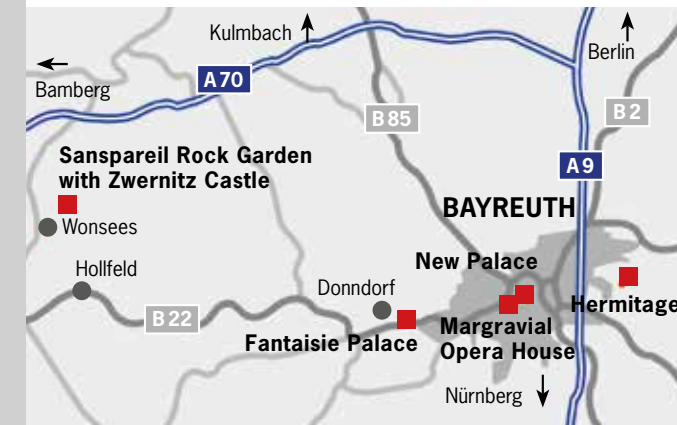
#### OPENING TIMES

Apr.–Sep.: 9am–6pm · 1–15 Oct.: 10am–4pm · open daily  
16 Oct.–Mar.: closed · Garden always accessible  
♿ Park and Old Palace accessible for wheelchairs

#### TRANSPORTATION

Train to Bayreuth main station and bus to 'Eremitage'  
Car and bus parking facilities at the entrance to the park

03/2018







Zwernitz Castle; Title picture: New Hermitage Palace



Sanspareil Rock Garden: stage of the ruined 'Roman' theatre



Aeolus Grotto with gazebo, G. Vogel after J. G. Köppel, 1793



Copper engraving and garden tools from the museum

**SANSPAREIL ROCK GARDEN WITH ORIENTAL BUILDING AND ZWERNITZ CASTLE**

Sanspareil 34 / 29 · 96197 Wunsees  
Tel. 09274 808909-11

**OPENING TIMES**  
Apr.–Sep.: 9am–6pm · 1–15 Oct.: 10am–4pm  
Closed Mondays  
16 Oct.–Mar.: closed  
Garden always accessible  
& Oriental Building accessible via back entrance,  
Zwernitz Castle rooms only accessible via staircase

**TRANSPORTATION**  
Car and bus parking facilities at the entrance to the park

**FANTAISIE PALACE AND PARK**

Bayreuther Str. 2 · 95488 Eckersdorf/Donndorf  
Tel. 0921 731400-11  
www.gartenkunst-museum.de

**OPENING TIMES**  
Apr.–Sep.: 9am–6pm · 1–15 Oct.: 10am–4pm  
Closed Mondays  
16 Oct.–Mar.: closed · Garden always accessible  
& Lift available in the Garden Museum

**TRANSPORTATION**  
Train to Bayreuth main station  
Bus to 'Donndorf Hotel Fantaisie'  
Car parking facilities, bus parking spaces near the town hall

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

 Bayerische Verwaltung der staatlichen Schlösser, Gärten und Seen  
Postfach 20 20 63 · 80020 München  
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

Oriental Building with parterre de broderie



probably the inspiration of the highly educated and artistic Margravine Wilhelmine. In 2011 a museum documenting the hunting pursuits of the Ansbach and Bayreuth margraves in the 18th century with valuable exhibits was established in Zwernitz Castle.

**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

Fantaisie Palace with sculptures from the mixed style epoch



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 to give it its present form, with landscape sections, sculptures, fountains and terraces. Since 2000 Fantaisie Palace has been the location of the first gardenmuseum 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 styles, 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.

Duchess Elisabeth Friederike Sophie (left); Spindler Cabinet (right)



**Bayreuth**

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

