



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 Wonsees  
Tel. +49 9274 808909-11

### OPENING TIMES

Apr.–Sept.: 9am–6pm · 1–15 Oct.: 10am–4pm  
Closed Mondays · Closed 16 Oct.–Mar.  
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. +49 921 731400-11  
www.gartenkunst-museum.de

### OPENING TIMES

Apr.–Sept.: 9am–6pm · 1–15 Oct.: 10am–4pm  
Closed Mondays · Closed 16 Oct.–Mar.  
Garden always accessible

♿ Lift available in the Garden Museum

### TRANSPORTATION

Train to Bayreuth main station · Bus to 'Donndorf Hotel Fantaisie'  
Car parking facilities at the entrance to the park  
Bus parking spaces near the town hall

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

### WI-FI

Free Wi-Fi is available in parts of the New Palace and the Margravia Opera House.

 Bayerische Verwaltung der staatlichen Schlösser, Gärten und Seen

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#schloesserbayern · schloesserblog.bayern.de

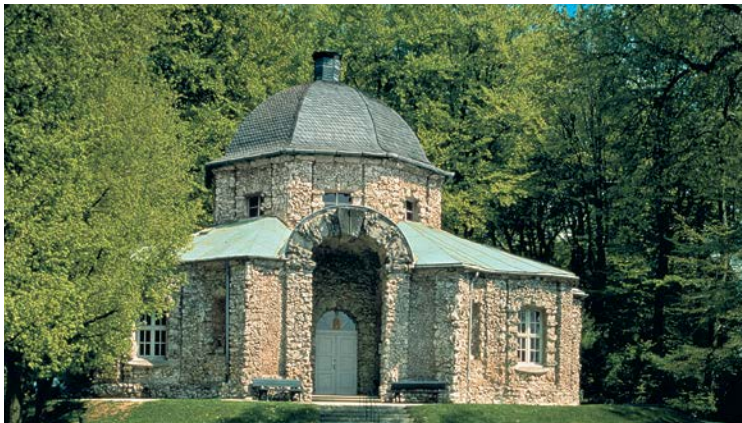


## Sanspareil Rock Garden with Oriental Building and Zwernitz Castle

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

Oriental Building with parterre de broderie



Fantaisie Palace with sculptures from the mixed style epoch

subject to decay. All these park buildings were probably the inspiration of the highly educated and artistic Margravine Wilhelmine.

Zwernitz Castle features a permanent exhibition entitled 'Hunting in the time of the margraves'. It documents hunting at the courts of the two margraviates of Ansbach and Bayreuth when it was at its peak in the 18th century.

## 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 Rococo garden. The pavilion, the cascade and the Neptune Fountain have remained from this period.

From 1793 Friederike Dorothee Sophie of 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 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 (l.); Spindler Cabinet (r.)



# Bayreuth

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



Bayerische Schlösserverwaltung





Albert Füracker, MdL  
State Minister

We wish you  
a fascinating  
visit to  
Bayreuth!



Martin Schöffel, MdL  
State Secretary



Palm Room, 1758 (l.); Garden Hall of the Italian Palace (r.)



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 seeming to reach 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. The architecture and interior of the grotto wing form a link with the outside world of the Court Garden. In addition to the state rooms, the New Palace has various permanent exhibitions: the 'Bayreuth Faience – Rummel Collection', the branch gallery of the Bavarian State Painting Collections with works from the Late Baroque era and the 'Dr Löer Collection of Miniatures' with chivalrous and erotic miniatures from the 18th century. 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 margravian couple laid out avenues, hedge gardens, pergolas and par-terres. 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 1987 the parterre in front of the south wing was reconstructed.

New Palace of Bayreuth with Margrave's Fountain



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



### Margravian Opera House: World Heritage & Museum

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 driving force behind this project was Margravine Wilhelmine, a sister of Frederick the Great, who was herself an author, composer and the director of the court opera. The occasion for which the theatre was built was the wedding of the Bayreuth princess Elisabeth Friederike Sophie and Duke Carl Eugen of Württemberg in September 1748. The interactive exhibition brings to life the world of the Baroque theatre. There are numerous hands-on options such a stage with reconstructed Baroque machinery that visitors can try operating themselves. The exhibition has been designed to be accessible to everyone and is based on the multi-sense principle.

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. The margravine immediately began enlarging the unique complex, 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. In the sections added by Margravine Wilhelmine to the existing gardens, she introduced traditional garden elements such as hedge gardens, pergolas and waterworks. With the free arrangement of the individual garden sections, the absence of a dominant central axis and the self-contained character of the individual gardens, she departed significantly from the Baroque garden tradition. The many artificial ruins, such as the ruined theatre and the margrave's hermitage, are a further feature that make the Hermitage quite unlike any other garden 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. +49 921 75969-0  
sgvbayreuth@bsv.bayern.de · www.bayreuth-wilhelmine.de

### NEW PALACE AND COURT GARDEN

Ludwigstr. 21 · 95444 Bayreuth · Tel. +49 921 75969-21

#### OPENING TIMES

Apr.–Sept.: 9am–6pm · Oct.–Mar.: 10am–4pm · open daily  
Italian Palace with guided tour · Court Garden always accessible  
& accessible for wheelchairs · disabled parking places available

#### TRANSPORTATION

Train to Bayreuth main station · Bus to 'Sternplatz'  
Parking facilities: www.bayeuth.de

### MARGRAVIAL OPERA HOUSE: WORLD HERITAGE & MUSEUM

Opernstraße 14 · 95444 Bayreuth  
Tel. +49 921 75969-22

#### OPENING TIMES

Apr.–Sept.: 9am–6pm · Oct.–Mar.: 10am–4pm  
The opera house may be closed temporarily due to rehearsals.  
Guided tours for visitors arriving separately and small groups of up to 25 persons in the interior of the opera house: daily at 3pm in German and at 12.30pm in English  
Group tours: daily at 11am and 2pm by prior arrangement only  
& accessible for wheelchairs · municipal parking spaces for the disabled (Wölfelstraße, Münzgasse)

#### TRANSPORTATION

Train to Bayreuth main station · Bus to 'Luitpoldplatz'  
Parking facilities: www.bayeuth.de

### HERMITAGE AND COURT GARDEN

Eremitage 4 · 95448 Bayreuth · Tel. +49 921 75969-37

#### OPENING TIMES

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

#### TRANSPORTATION

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

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