Authorities responsible for those parts of the nomination specific to Baden-Baden

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Baden-Baden, July 2015

Nominated World Heritage site of Baden-Baden
(draft, May 2015)

Captions
1 Aerial view of the old city centre and the spa district from the north-east (Willi Walter, 2009).
2 State bathroom in the palace of Neues Schloss, c. 1660 (Bruno Knapp, 1996).
3 Aerial view of the villa area with Brenners Park-Hotel & Spa (Willi Walter, 2009).
5 Villa Sorrento on Lichtentaler Allee (Bernd Hausner, 2015).
6 View from the palace terrace, with the Stiftskirche on the left (Christiane Bäumer, 2015).
7 Oos footbridges in the landscape park of Lichtentaler Allee (Markus Brunsing, 2009).
8 Stourdza Chapel, 1864-66, by Leo von Klenze (Bernd Hausner, 2015).
11 Historical map of the town, 1889 (Stadtmuseum / Stadtarchiv Baden-Baden).
12 The Kurpark on Michaelsberg (Stadt Baden-Baden, 2009).
14 Aerial view of the city of Baden-Baden from the north-west (Willi Walter, 2009).
15 The Bénazet Pavilion on Lichtentaler Allee (Bernd Hausner, 2015).
The origins: The medicinal springs
Baden-Baden looks back on almost two thousand years as a spa town. It was the hot springs that induced the ancient Romans to establish the first thermal baths on the site; even today, parts of the structures survive as ruins. Throughout history, the thermal springs have provided the main source of the town’s prosperity, attracting generations of spa visitors to Baden-Baden. For the well-being of their customers, the “bathing inns” of the Middle Ages and the Early Modern era constructed a sophisticated network of wooden pipes supplying the medicinal water for their tubs. From the late 14th century onwards, the Margraves of Baden built their residential palace just above the thermal springs on Florentinerberg hill, and during the Baroque era they added a state bathroom considered one of the most magnificent of its kind.

The summer capital of Europe
Baden-Baden’s heyday as a European “fashion spa” arrived during the 19th century. In the course of only a few decades, a new spa district took shape outside of the old city walls. Eminent architects and landscape gardeners oversaw the creation of the Konversationshaus, the spa promenades, the Pump Room, the theatre and the famous landscape park Lichtentaler Allee. The casino with its State-granted gambling concession became a veritable magnet for international visitors. Under the management of its French leaseholders, the Bénazet family, the town of Baden-Baden developed into the “summer capital of Europe”, attracting spa visitors from all over in ever-growing numbers. Many of them became permanent residents, settling in the newly laid out, upmarket residential areas on the slopes surrounding the town. Numerous magnificent mansions surrounded by park-like gardens were built with a view to repositioning it as an international resort, and by international expert committees.

What obligations are accepted on inscribing a World Heritage site?
States nominating a property for inscription commit themselves to protecting and maintaining the property in accordance with the Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention for the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage, and to implementing sustainable concepts for development and tourism in order to preserve it for future generations. They will use the applicable national legislation and protection measures such as monument protection, building and planning acts as UNESCO does not create its own legislation. A monitoring process ensures that World Heritage sites are reviewed on a regular basis both internally and by international expert committees.

Who are the Great Spas of Europe?
At present, the Great Spas of Europe are represented by 16 spa towns in seven European countries. Spa Baden-Baden, Bad Ems, Bad Honnef, Bad Kissingen, Bad Pyrmont und Wiesbaden – Vichy-Bath Montereau Termes – Baden bei Wien, Bad Ischl, Františkovy Lázně, Karlovy Vary, Luhačovice und Mariánské Lázně

The spa tradition today
Even today it is easy to recapture the unique charm of Baden-Baden in its remarkable spa landscape, the Baden-Baden Festival of Music, the Ravello racecourse, and the gambling in the original, magnificent casino halls of the Kurhaus. However, without its historical neighbourhoods, its characteristic spa architecture and green spaces, and the well-maintained gentle transition of the townscape into the surrounding landscape, the place would lose just those traits that account for its international attraction. It is our responsibility to preserve this historical treasure, the foundation of the city’s renown, to maintain it and to develop it with care and foresight.

The inscription on UNESCO’s World Heritage list as a Great Spa of Europe, that Baden-Baden is striving for, along with 15 other 19th-century European spa towns, would be more than a very special distinction: even now it is an incentive for the city and its residents to reconnect with their heritage and devise carefully tailored concepts for preserving and developing it.

Outstanding Universal Value
Baden-Baden’s contribution to the Outstanding Universal Value of Great Spas of Europe lies in the fact that the city has experienced long periods of affluence, to maintain it and to develop it with care and foresight. The city’s application is part of a serial transnational nomination entitled Great Spas of Europe. This term aims to characterise major European resorts of international appeal that enjoyed their heyday predominantly during the 19th century. A specially commissioned global comparative study attached to the nomination will determine which spa towns are representative of this type, complement each other in a meaningful manner, and will have to be inscribed as a group. The overall responsibility for overseeing and submitting the nomination rests with the Czech Republic.

UNESCO World Heritage: What does it mean?
In 1972, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, or UNESCO in short, passed the so-called World Heritage Convention during its General Conference in Paris. Today, 190 states have adopted this convention to protect the cultural and natural heritage of the world. By doing so, they acknowledge that there are values of such outstanding importance that they should be considered important not only to individual nations but to humankind as a whole.

How large is the World Heritage today?
UNESCO’s list of World Heritage properties comprises 1,031 nominations in 163 countries (as of July 2015). At present, Germany owns 40 World Heritage properties, four of which are located in the state of Baden-Württemberg: the monastery of Maulbronn (inscribed 1993), the monastic island of Reichenau (inscribed 2000), parts of the Upper German-Raetian Limes (inscribed 2005) and parts of the Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps (inscribed 2011).

Baden-Baden does not apply for inscription on the World Heritage list by itself. The city’s application is part of a serial transnational World Heritage nomination entitled Great Spas of Europe. This term aims to characterise major European resorts of international appeal that enjoyed their heyday predominantly during the 19th century. A specially commissioned global comparative study attached to the nomination will determine which spa towns are representative of this type, complement each other in a meaningful manner, and will have to be inscribed as a group. The overall responsibility for overseeing and submitting the nomination rests with the Czech Republic.

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What will Baden-Baden’s road to World Heritage status look like?
The process by which Baden-Baden will become a recognised World Heritage site will take years, especially as a serial transnational nomination on this scale has rarely been proposed so far. It therefore represents a considerable challenge for all concerned. A crucial first step was taken when Baden-Baden along with the other participating spa cities was inscribed on UNESCO’s preliminary list in 2013. Our aim is to achieve full nomination with the World Heritage Centre in Paris early in 2017.