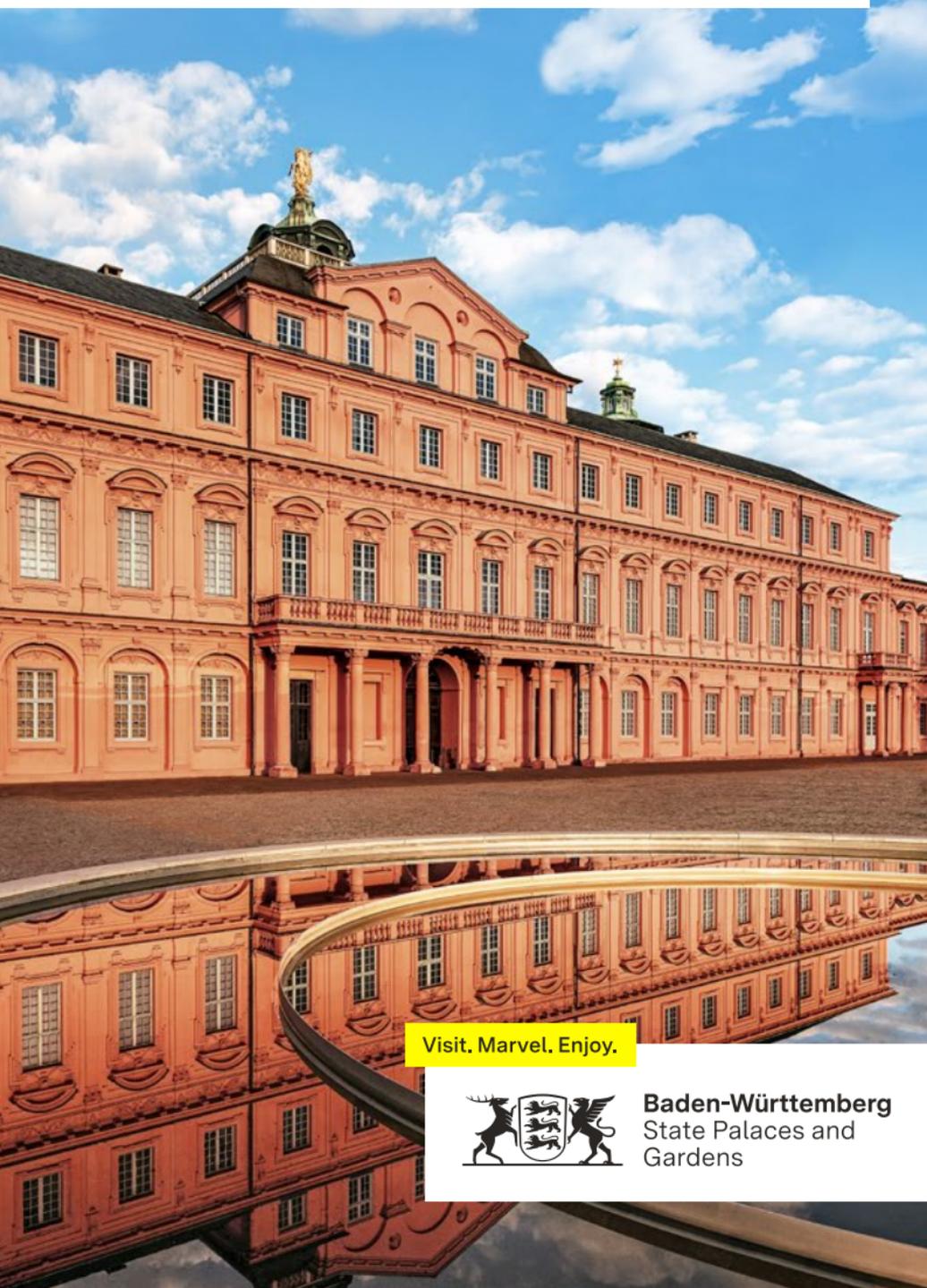




Rastatt Residential Palace

THE FIRST BAROQUE
RESIDENCE ON THE UPPER RHINE



Visit. Marvel. Enjoy.



Baden-Württemberg
State Palaces and
Gardens



Sybilla Augusta as Saint Helena: In the ceiling fresco of the Palace Church, which depicts the Finding of the Holy Cross, the Magravine assumes the role of her role model

From hunting lodge to opulent residence

In 1700, a few years after construction had started on a hunting palace at Rastatt, Margrave Ludwig Wilhelm of Baden-Baden decided that it should be expanded. Envisioning a grand residence *modeled after Versailles*, he commissioned an Italian architect, Domenico Egidio Rossi, who had previously worked for the Viennese nobility.

After the margrave's early death in 1707, his young widow Sibylla Augusta took up the reins of government. During her 20 years in

power, she oversaw the completion of the palace complex and its sumptuous interiors.

The staterooms and private apartments with their magnificent and *impressive decorations* are open to visitors as part of a tour. Illuminated frescoes by Italian artists, tapestries, furniture and the histories of its residents keep the Baroque period alive today.

Rastatt Residential Palace (Residenzschloss Rastatt) is the oldest Baroque residence in the Upper Rhine Valley. The palace, gardens and town were planned as a whole, to create an impression of elegant and perfectly-proportioned uniformity, with the palace commanding pride of place at the center.

Opulent apartments

Rastatt Residential Palace is the epitome of a Baroque residence, designed to display the might of an absolutist monarch: Visitors must first cross an expansive cour d'honneur, or grand courtyard, surrounded by an imposing three-wing complex. The roof of the main building, the corps de logis, is surmounted by a golden statue of Jupiter brandishing a thunderbolt. Two magnificent staircases lead to the heart of the main building: the *Ancestral Hall*, which served as a banquet hall and housed the gardenside staterooms.

The symbol of Rastatt: The Statue of Jupiter, formerly wielding a thunderbolt and positioned on the roof, now inhabits the staircase



In the Ancestral Hall, amongst his illustrious ancestors, the margrave could flaunt his standing as a military leader and monarch

The two room sequences, each comprising an antechamber, audience chamber, state bedroom and cabinet, were sumptuously decorated with stucco and ceiling frescoes by Italian illusionistic painters.

The Ancestral Hall of the Margraves

The Great Banqueting Hall is situated at the heart of the palace. It is referred to as the Ancestral Hall because of the numerous paintings of the Margraves of Baden. The large ceiling fresco shows Hercules being taken to Olympus – evidently a metaphor for Ludwig Wilhelm von Baden-Baden, who was a successful general. The stucco and paintings are also a reference to his function as sovereign. The whole of the building is pervaded by Baroque splendor and symbolism. Rastatt Palace thus offers fascinating insights into absolutist representation and courtly ceremonial.

The Palace Church of the Holy Cross

The lavishly renovated and carefully restored *Palace Church of the Holy Cross* was reopened to visitors in July 2017. It is one of



The 18th century interiors are remarkably well preserved, and include some exquisite details

a series of holy sites in and around Rastatt, which were erected at the beginning of the 18th century under Sibylla Augusta von Baden-Baden. With its precious, authentically preserved furnishings including illuminated columns, embroidered wall hangings, stucco marble altars, paintings and relics, it stands as a unique testament to Baroque religious devotion in Europe. In the adjoining building – formerly *Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel* – a small selection of the once abundant church treasures are on display, including a sun monstrance, a jasper chalice, saintly bodies (skeletons of catacomb saints), figures of saints, and also liturgical implements and vestments.

Palace Gardens and museums

Today's Palace Garden is a modern interpretation of the former Baroque Garden. It makes for a rewarding walk. Equally worthwhile is a visit to the fascinating *Military History Museum* in the south wing and the Memorial for the Freedom Movements in German History in the north wing of the palace.

Visitor information

Opening hours and guided tours

Palace and Palace church	Open all year round; Viewing only possible on a tour
Palace garden	Open free of charge all year round during the day
Military history museum	Open all year round; Visits possible with or without a guided tour

Please check our website or call our hotline on +49 7251 74-27 70 before your visit to find out current opening and closing times.

Our website also provides information on accessibility, discounts, special tours and other important details relevant to your visit.

Current information



At a glance

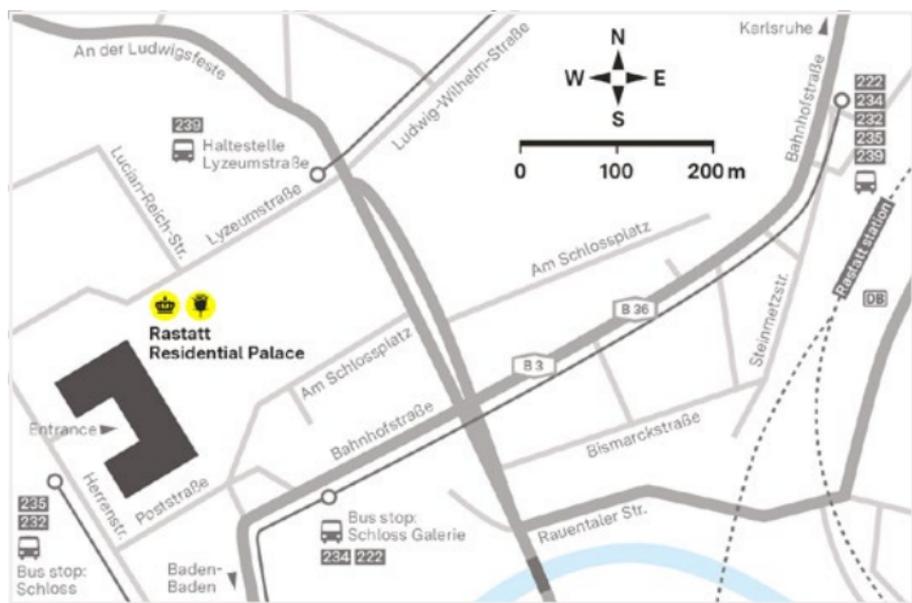
For details of our current opening times, tours, events, admission prices and catering, see: www.schloss-rastatt.de/en/visitor-information

Contact and information

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How to find us



Via public transport: from Rastatt railway station, take bus 222 or 234 to the stop “SchlossGalerie”, Mon–Sat bus 239 to “Lyzeumstraße”, or bus 232 or 235 to “Schloss”. 10–15 minutes’ walk from the railway station.
Further information, including on charging stations, can be found online.

Information about all our monuments

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