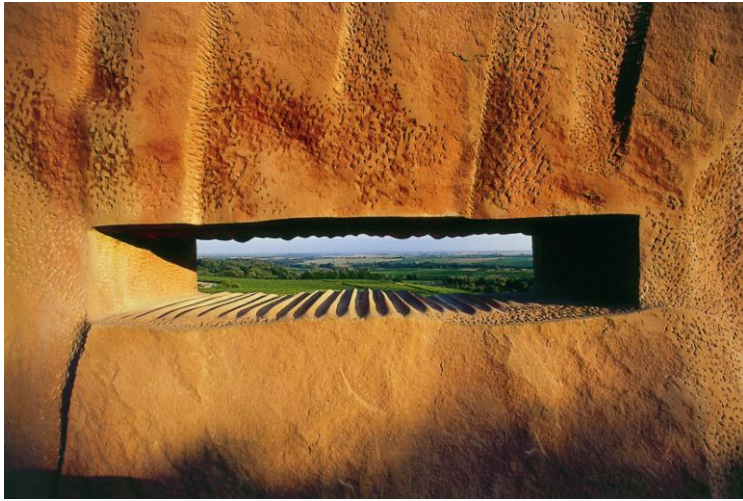


UPPER RHINE valley

ALSACE  REGION BASEL  BLACK FOREST  PALATINATE



The Southern Palatinate - a wide range of fine living

The Southern Palatinate epitomises the quality of life. If you want to experience the entire wealth of this small region located in the northern part of the Upper Rhine Valley you should visit one of the countless little wine taverns, dine at one of the award-winning restaurants, descend into the numerous wine cellars or simply behold the abundance of produce offered by the farmers and fruit-growers at their farms. Here and at the markets the regional producers and restaurateurs ensure the proverbial quality of life - an art of living found in the homemade sausage sandwich served in a cosy inn as well as in the gourmet menu of a first-class restaurant.



A very special flavour

More than 110 gastronomic enterprises from the Southern Wine Route, the Germersheim district and Landau have received an award as a *recommended hospitable house*. They all demonstrate the region's gastronomic variety and quality, where lots of what ends up in the pot comes directly from the local fields and gardens. Some of the restaurants have their own kitchen gardens where they grow chervil, marjoram, dill, borage, mint, garlic, sage and other herbs and spices, all of which provide the regional cuisine with its special flavour! The produce for the delicious ingredients from the fields of the local farmers range from asparagus, cauliflower and savoy cabbage to pumpkins, potatoes, artichokes and strawberries, peaches and figs.



A special flavour is introduced by the chestnut - locally known as *Keschde*. The weather and soil allow this fruit, which is normally found in the Provence or Switzerland's Ticino, to flourish especially well here. Chestnut trees grow extensively along the Southern Wine Route; their fruits are a delicacy, provided one knows what to do with them.

During autumn and in the wintertime the local restaurateurs create all kinds of culinary delights from the *Keschde*: soups, sausages, the regional speciality *Saumagen* (stuffed hog maw), dumplings and cakes - all prepared with chestnuts - are served along with a glass of wine. Of course they are also available in a liquid form as a liqueur enjoyed in coffee or mixed with sparkling wine.

The locals are also more than pleased and willing to present the beautiful trees to their visitors at the guided walking tours along the *Keschde Route*. The market of chestnuts and delights in Edenkoben offers a wide variety of chestnut products - perfect souvenirs for tourists and gourmets alike.

Another specialty from the local waters is the delicious Zander, or pike-perch, which can be enjoyed with a glass of tangy Riesling in one of the numerous fish restaurants on the Rhine - for example along the special bicycle path "*From Riesling to Zander*" which links the Rhine with the Southern Wine Route.



Fairytale meadows and forests



Prime game is found in the boundless forest districts of the *Pfälzerwald*, where hikers can wander for hours and hours. Deer, stags, rabbits and wild fowl such as pheasant, quail and partridge can be observed - and some of them end up on the plates of the fine regional cuisine. An especially relaxing experience of nature is offered by the protected nature reserves of the *Bienwald*, situated in the south

along the border to France, and in the unspoiled natural alluvial forests of the *Rheinauen*. The *Bienwald* is the insider's tip for nature lovers: Not only have alluvial streamside forests, small moors and dunes managed to survive here, but due to the intensive care and designation of natural forest lands it has also become a retreat for wild cats, stag beetles and rare protected species of birds. Exploring the untouched Rheinauen by bicycle on the *Veloroute Rhine* cycle path is an unforgettable experience. The primeval forest landscape can best be experienced from the water on a tour with a professional guide in an electrically powered barque. Nature definitely favours the Southern Palatinate - the climate in one of Germany's warmest regions certainly could not be more pleasant.



Wine in the glass, on the slopes of the vineyards, in the valleys

What would the Southern Palatinate be without its wine? It dominates the landscape and is an



important part of the cultural and economical diversity of the region. With more than 1800 hours of sunshine a year, winegrowing reaching back to the Roman times and the traditionally-minded winemaking families, the *Pfälzer Wine*, the wine from the Palatinate, has acquired an outstanding reputation in Germany and all over the world. When visiting the region please stop at one of the countless vineyards or visit one of the

numerous wine festivals taking place during summer and autumn. Let “your” winemaker tell you about the specifics of the climate, the ecology and oenology, varieties of grapes and special tastes over a glass of wine or two - visitors can stop anywhere and are always welcome. A hectic pace is not something common to the Southern Palatinate; and that’s not surprising - a good wine needs its time!

Trekking, water sports, castles and theme parks - the perfect place for families

If you are interested in culture, history and sightseeing you will be spoilt for choice in the Southern Palatinate - but you will also be guaranteed to find what you are looking for: Be it a knight’s castle or fortress, arts and crafts, churches or monasteries, paintings or sculptures, jazz or classical music, festivals or events - the region simply has it all. The numerous castles, palaces and ruins are for themselves time and again a real treat for the eyes. As, for example, the castle *Burg Landeck* which was built high up on a hill in the year 1200, and provides a spectacular view over the landscape till across to the Black Forest, or the dramatised guided tours at the castle *Burg Trifels* and the palace *Villa Ludwigshöhe*. Every Saturday and public holiday an actor slips into the role of a storyteller and takes his audience with him on a travel through the times back to the eventful life of King Ludwig I. of Bavaria - as the Palatinate once belonged to his realm. And a tour with the countrywomen through the passageways of the *fortress of Germersheim* brings past centuries back to life. A unique experience is offered with a ride on the *Navis Lusoria*, a replica of a Roman patrol boat. The region also offers a large number of museums if you want to continue your journey of cultural discovery.



Family holidays in the Southern Palatinate are relaxing and offer a wide variety of activities not found elsewhere. Holiday apartments are widely available, as are numerous hotels and cosy pensions. Now the discovery of what the region has to offer can begin: Adventure in the adventure park *FunForest*

close to Germersheim; the water experience *La Ola* or the zoo with some 550 exotic animals in Landau or unadulterated nature experiences on one of the trekking tours through the forests of the *Pfälzerwald* - and much, much more. In the evening the whole family has really earned its glass of wine or fresh juice and an excellent meal. And after that, everyone will quickly succumb to a pleasant good night's sleep!



The Upper Rhine Valley

The beautiful Upper Rhine Valley is located in the heart of Europe, where the Rhine connects France, Germany and Switzerland. With an area of more than 21.000 km² the region is almost as large as Tuscany, and has the same centuries-old tradition of attracting tourists who love art, culture and fine cuisine. The Upper Rhine Valley is a compact region of varied scenery and culturally of extraordinary diversity with many charming towns and villages on both sides of the Rhine. The economically prosperous region with its six million inhabitants is within easy reach and offers its visitors a lot of everything.

It never takes more than ten minutes to get from one highlight to another. Famous for its short and mild winters and pleasant summer temperatures from April to October, the region is one of the most beautiful and fertile landscapes in Europe: The markets, vineyards and sophisticated restaurants as good as gold for gourmets; the Gothic cathedrals in Freiburg, Basle and Strasbourg, medieval castles and the countless museums with art collections ranging through history make it a MUST for art connoisseurs; the unique landscape is a paradise for golfers, hikers and ramblers, swimmers, bikers and outdoor fans. Some eighteen million overnight stays each year - of which many guests are returning visitors - confirm the region's outstanding appeal to tourism.

For further detailed information:

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