



LEFT: The Jubilee City Theatre and the Batzenhäusel restaurant on Pfarrgasse. There are strong *Jugendstil* influences in the design of this theatre by architectural duo Helmer and Fellner. It was built in only ten months and opened on 2 October 1909. The debut programme included Beethoven's work *The Consecration of the House*, composed in Baden, and Johann Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* [*The Bat*].

TOP: Tickets for the evening's operetta performance can be bought from the octagonal pavillon, built in 1909 between the Spa Gardens and the Jubilee City Theatre.

BOTTOM: The Jubilee City Theatre seats over 800 between the stalls and upper and lower circles.



or other on offer: balls held by local militia, visits from the emperor, floral summer dances or ceremonies where fresh-faced cadets were sworn in.

Anyone who found Baden a little crowded could walk to the Weilburg castle or the ruins on the other side of the Helenental, take the bone-shaking horse-drawn tram to Carl Sacher's luxury hotel, or make the pilgrimage to the *Jammerpepi* at *Felsentor*, a popular destination for a coffee or a snack even with members of the royal family. You could take the tram to Vöslau, the omnibus to *Krainerhütte*, or a fiaker from outside the station to the *Heurige* wine tavern at Leesdorf. Those down on their uppers could take a cab to the racecourse and hope that a few lucky bets would improve the cash flow again.

Walkers could bustle through the Harterberg's vineyards or keep an eye out for rare herbs and Aesculapian snakes in the surrounding woods. Stately villas were springing up on the Mitterberg making it an ideal place to watch Bohemian brickies at work.

Souvenir hunting was a very particular pleasure: a cherry-wood pipe for the lord and master, a packet of saffron from the market for rich aunt Mitzi; a little genuine Baden sulphur soap from the Weilburg



The venerable Bathhouse at Kaiser-Franz-Ring 1 has been home to the Congress Casino since 1968. Every evening, poker and blackjack are played in the palace, built in 1886, while onlookers are mesmerised by the ball rolling around the American roulette wheel. Even the German actor Harald Juhnke and Naomi Campbell have graced the green baize. It is only once a year, on Shrove Monday when the Casino Redoute ball marks the high point of the Carnival celebrations, that the casino becomes the exclusive property of local residents.







Baden's thermal lido at Helenenstraße 19–21 was built by the town after the First World War. It is partially fed by the warm water from the Marienquelle. The main building is 160 metres long and was built in 1926 in only eighty days. The sandy beach was a particular sensation and drew illustrious guests including the ex-Crown Prince Wilhelm of Prussia to the resort. The white building in the background is the former Sanatorium Esplanade.





Baden's harness races date back to 1892 when the Harness Racing Society [Trabrennverein] was founded. The first race was held on 16 July 1893, in front of 15,000 enthusiastic spectators. Within a few years, Baden had become a magnet for European champions. Even today, races are run every July and August amid the course's magnificent historic architecture. Baden's racecourse played a key role in the life of Adi Übleis, harness racing's legendary world champion who celebrated some spectacular victories here.

