

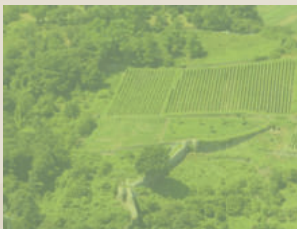


# BACHARACH

Founded by the Celts. Passed later into the possession of the Archbishops of Cologne. The latter granted the region of the four valleys of Bacharach together with Burg Stahleck to the Count Palatine Conrad of Hohenstaufen. After the marriage of Agnes of Hohenstaufen it passed into the hands of the Wells of Brunswick in 1194 and then to the Wittelsbachs as a result of another marriage in 1225. Until the treaty of Lunéville in 1801 it remained in the possession of the Prince-Electors and the Rhenish Counts Palatine. The well-preserved town fortifications dating from the 14th century (built 1322-1366) comprise the old walls with many towers encircling the old town. There is an interesting walk on the battlements along the Rhine..

**The Church of St. Peter.** Protestant parish church in the centre of the town. Built at various periods. Building began about 1100 and was completed with the church tower in the 14th century (Romanesque Gothic transition style). In contrast to the comparatively low choir, built by an earlier architect, the nave of the church rises to an impressive height. There are two side galleries and an organ-loft, Romanesque triforia, transept, continuing over the small side naves, medieval fresco paintings, half-columns on remarkable pedestals, decorative pendants on the keystones of the arches, a number of interesting tombs of medieval knights and noble families.

The Catholic parish church on the south-eastern corner of the town is a simple but impressive building erected by the Capuchin Order in the 17th century. The crenellated wall enclosing the presbytery garden forms a harmonic whole with the church. The inside of the church is simple and undecorated, in the Baroque style of the 18th century. Barrel vaulting and Baroque altars.



The ruins of the **Chapel of Werner** is the symbol of Bacharach. 100 steps lead up to the chapel. This was once the site of a St. Cunibert chapel. Construction work on the new church, which was named after a local boy called Werner, began in 1294. The chapel took 140 years to build, as the costs were met solely by donations given by pilgrims. The dead body of the boy Werner was found near Bacharach. Investigations undertaken by a professor of diocesan history, Pauly in Trier, concluded that the boy was probably sexually abused and then murdered. The Jews were accused of killing the boy and using his blood for their rituals. The people regarded Werner as a saint. The chapel built in his honour attracted huge numbers of pilgrims. The Catholic historian Iserloh of Münster disproved the legend, declaring it to be a fictitious, racially motivated accusation. Werner has since been removed from the Catholic Church's calendar of saints. The Chapel of St. Werner was destroyed in 1689 during the Palatine War of Succession with Bacharach. Since then it has been protected as an ancient monument. In the 18th century the northern wing was removed as it was threatening to collapse.

**The old Posthof** in the centre of the town, formerly the seat of the Knights Templars, founded in the 11th century, is a fine patrician house from the time of the Thurn and Taxis family. Richly decorated half-timbered gable and fine inner courtyard. In the courtyard, notice the newel of the winding staircase which is made all of one piece.

**Burg Stahleck** was formerly a Staufen fortress and since 1925 has been a youth hostel. The origins of this castle are unknown. It is first mentioned in old records in the year 1135. Politically Bacharach belonged at that time to the Electorate of Cologne and was given in feudal tenure. One of the most famous bailiffs of the castle was Hermann von Katzenelnbogen, who resided in the castle 1140. In 1155 after Hermann's death Conrad of Hohenstaufen held the castle and its bailiwick in fief. The betrothal of Agnes of Hohenstaufen with Henry the Welf, the son of Henry the Lion, in 1194, brought about a conciliation between the Welfs and the Hohenstaufen, who had been

living in feud. This episode has been described in the famous German poem "Das Wort der Frau" ["The Woman's Word"] by Heyden.

The **"Altes Haus"** in the market square is one of the Rhine's most famous medieval half-timbered buildings. Many Rhineland poets have sung its praises and the **"Old house"** has also provided a setting for several films. The well-known opera by Robert Stolz "Wenn die kleinen Veilchen blühen" ["When the Little Violets Blossom"] was performed in the "Alte Haus".

**Bacharach**, a town since the year 1356 in the reign of Emperor Charles IV, owes its fame to its vineyards and its wine trade. Vines were planted here in the time of the Romans. In the Middle Ages Bacharach was the main trading centre for the wines of the Middle Rhine, the Nahe and the Rheingau. Besides many wine taverns and cellars, Bacharach also has famous cellars for sparkling wines (Sekt). Every year Pope Pius II used to order a cart-load of Bacharach wine to be sent to Rome.

There is an old German drinking song of 1628 which goes something like this:

**At Bacharach on the Rhine,  
At Würzburg on the Stein,  
At Klingenberg on the Main,  
There, it is said,  
You will find the best of wine.**



Posthof and The Church of St. Peter



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