



LUXEMBOURG

The Grand Duchy in the centre of Europe is a small nation with a big history, including that of the thousand-year-old city of Luxembourg that today is an important centre of trade and finance. The capital beckons us from its wonderful location of the ancient fortress on a sandstone mountain high above the valley of the Alzette and the modern satellite city on the Kirchberg across the valley where the EU and major banks reside in futuristic palaces. The surrounding countryside's charms lie in great diversity on a small area. The scenic Luxembourg Ardennes, a plateau with deeply gouged valleys, tranquil villages, forests and old castles, is in the north. The wide valley of the Moselle is home to idyllic vineyards and winegrowing towns. The south is the "Red Land," which, with its iron ore and steel industry, was the engine of Luxembourg's economy until the mid-20th century. The Echternach dancing procession as well as many other festivities and established customs preserve ancient traditions at the interface between the German and French cultural regions.

Over 160 photographs reveal all the diversity of Luxembourg, while six special sections report on Luxembourg specialities, the country's castles and palaces, Luxembourg the financial metropolis and on the history of the grand ducal family.



Details of our programme
can be found at
www.verlagshaus.com

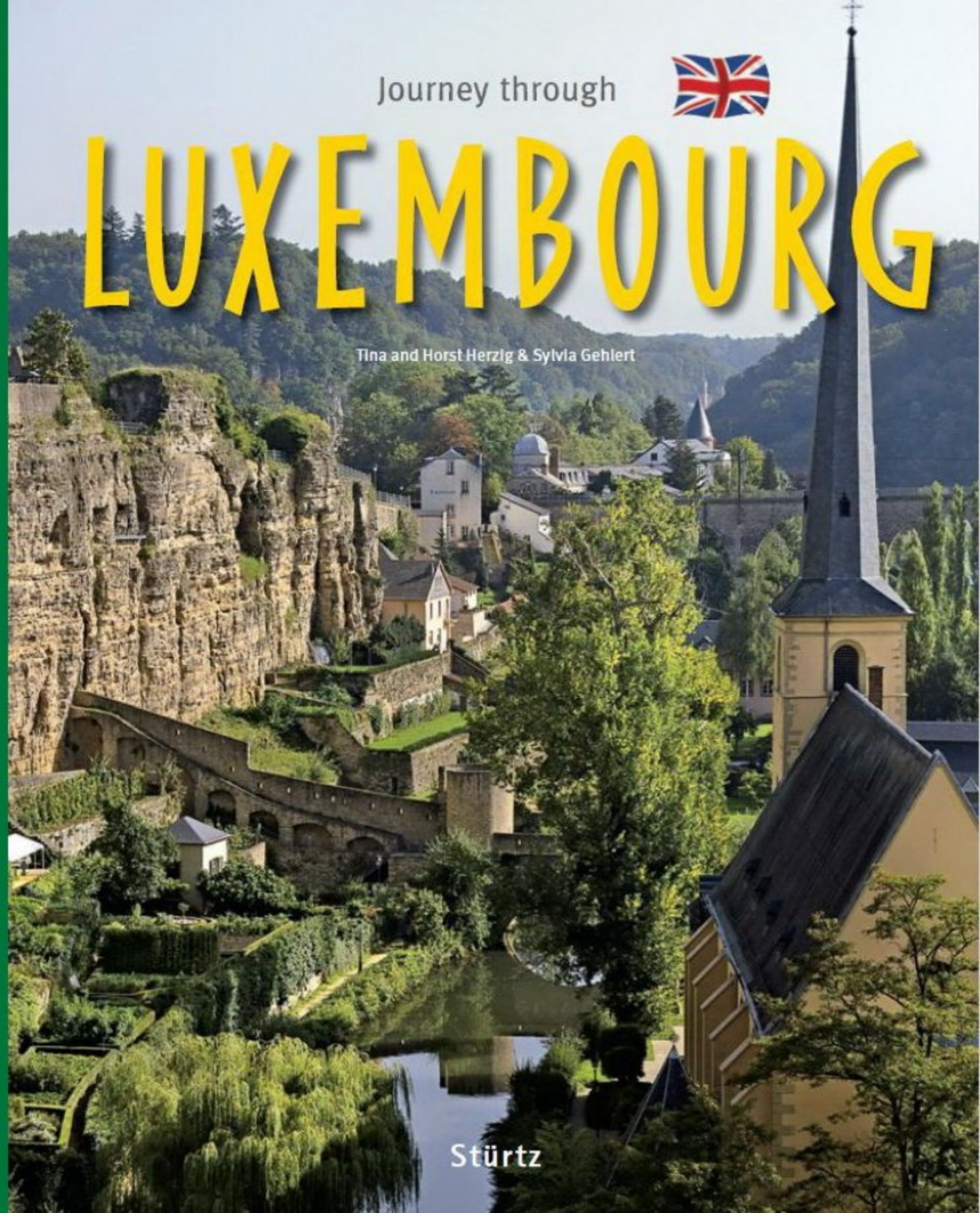


Journey through



LUXEMBOURG

Tina and Horst Herzig & Sylvia Gehlert



Stürtz

First page:
Since the late 13th century, Luxembourg's coat of arms has shown a crowned double-tailed lion before a background of silver and

blue stripes. The flag of the Grand Duchy takes up the colours of the coat of arms with its three horizontal bars of red, white and blue.

Previous page:
The silhouette of Luxembourg's Old Town emerges before the evening sky, with the three spires of the Cathédrale Notre-Dame.

In the middle ages, a settlement grew high above the river valleys of the Pétrusse and Alzette under the protection of the

fortress on the Bock Fiels. Soon thereafter, millers, tanners and wool carders set up house on the riverbanks below.

Below:
The Luxembourg people's motto adorns a bay window on the Fischmarkt in the centre of the Old Town: "We wish to remain what

we are." Their unbending will for stability and independence in spite of long centuries of foreign domination couldn't be put more shortly and sweetly.

Pages 10/11:
The Moselle by Wormeldange. While it laps leisurely at the shore, grapes mature upon the

slopes on both the Luxembourg and German sides, which the traditional winemaking arts transform into delicious wines. The

border between the two countries, which share its surveillance and administration, runs down the middle of the river.



Contents

12
Luxembourg –
a jewel set in green

26
Luxembourg City –
metropolis of contrasts
Page 44
Grand Ducal
family (hi)stories
Page 64
Well-guarded
investments

76
Luxembourg – up and
down the countryside
Page 90
"Food and drink hold
body and soul together"
Page 122
Straight from a fairy tale –
Luxembourg's castles

134 Index
135 Map
136 Credits



The large, tree-shaded rectangle of the Place des Armes is a popular meeting place. In olden days, Luxembourg's soldiers paraded on the plaza, today it is the site of peaceful multilingual banter, which the waiters in the colourful street cafés master competently.



Left-hand page:
The "Cercle Municipal" – as the Luxembourgers commonly call the city hall on the Place des Armes – is adorned by a façade frieze depicting the delivery of the charter of liberty to the citizens of the city by Countess Ermesinde in the year 1244. The administrative building, which contains a number of festival halls, served as the meeting place of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) from 1953 until 1969.



Whether for tender flirtations or tough business transactions, intimate gossip or a rest for tired feet after a stroll through town, the Place des Armes is always a good tip. Here you can spend quiet time alone or in the company of others and still enjoy the lively surroundings at a cool drink, a first rate espresso, an exquisite snack or a delicious meal.

GRAND DUCAL FAMILY (HI)STORIES

When William III of Nassau, King of the Netherlands and Grand Duke of Luxembourg passed away in 1890 without a male heir, the personal union that had existed between the Netherlands and Luxembourg also came to an end. His daughter Wilhelmina did inherit the Dutch throne, but Luxembourg, at that time, could only be ruled by a man. As a result, the Duchy went to the Nassau-Weilburg family line, in the person of the German Duke Adolphe, who, at the age of 73, became Grand Duke Adolphe and the founder of today's dynasty. Upon the death of his son William, who had been blessed with six daughters, Luxembourg was, once again, a man short. This time, without any ado, the law was changed to allow female offspring, for want of a male heir, to take the reins. It was thus that William's oldest daughter, Princess Marie-Adélaïde suddenly found herself on the Grand Ducal throne. The young lady, who possessed a mystical leaning and preferred the kingdom of heaven to the management of earthly affairs, abdicated in favour of her sister Charlotte in 1919 and entered an Italian Carmelite convent. With her wisdom and charisma, and with the blessings of her people by way of a popular referendum in the dynasty's favour, Princess Charlotte became an energetic sovereign. Her marriage to Prince Felix of Bourbon-Parma, which produced two sons and four daughters, was also quite popular with the Luxembourg people. For 45 years, the Grand Duchess oversaw her country – in good times as well as bad. When, in spite of the nation's neutrality, German troops entered and occupied Luxembourg in May 1940, she took her family and her government into exile, joining the Allies in London and supporting her people's resistance movement from there. Upon her return in April 1945, she was jubilantly received by the population, and acclaimed as a symbol of the nation's unity. In 1961, she proclaimed her eldest son, Prince Jean, regent before abdicating in his favour in 1964. She retired to Fischbach Castle, where she passed away on 9 July 1985.

Royal progeny

Following the example of his mother, Grand Duke Jean took care from the earliest days to prepare his son Henri (born in 1955) for his duties as head of state. Henri went to school in Luxembourg and France, and in 1980 obtained a degree in political science from the University of Geneva. This was followed by a time of prac-

tical training in a number of foreign lands, and in 1998, he was proclaimed regent by his father. While a student in Geneva, the young Hereditary Grand Duke had met and fallen in love with a fellow scholar. Maria Teresa Mestre was born in Cuba in 1956, emigrated to New York with her parents in 1959, and later moved to Switzerland. Their marriage in 1981 made her the Hereditary Princess of Luxembourg and then Grand Duchess upon Henri's accession to the throne on 7 October 2000. Today, Her Royal Highness dedicates much time as a special ambassador for UNESCO. She is, as well, the chair of both the foundation that she created with her husband, dedicated the social integration of disabled people, and of the Luxembourg Red Cross. All five of the ruling couple's children were born in the Grand Duchess Charlotte Obstetric Clinic. Three of them, Guillaume (born 1981), Félix (1984) and Louis (1986), have already left home for university, while Alexandra (1991) and Sébastien (1992) still attend school. All of them, of course, speak Luxembourgish, French, German and English plus a little Spanish they learned from their mother. They are very much like other young people their age, differing only in that their godparents are listed in the "Almanach de Gotha" and their portraits hang in many shop windows, the sight of which may make the Luxembourgers sigh: "My, haven't the children grown!" There is hardly any media hype surrounding this Royal Family. When a prince who is barely twenty years old endows his parents with a grandson, they take the happy news with a smile.



Left: Grand Duchess Charlotte (1896–1985) guided Luxembourg's fate from 1919 until 1964, when she abdicated in favour of her oldest son Jean, father of the present Grand Duke, and retired to Fischbach castle.

Above: The Palais grand-ducal (Grand Ducal Palace) was built in the second half of the 16th century in the Spanish Renaissance style. Until 1795, the building served as town hall. It was not renovated as the official residence of the Grand Duke until 1890.



Right, from top to bottom: The centre of the state coat of arms is formed by a shield in silver and blue with a red lion. Above it is the crown of the Grand Duke – merely a symbol, as Luxembourg's grand dukes do not wear a crown.

William II ruled as King of the Netherlands and Grand Duke of Luxembourg from 1840 until his death in 1849. This equestrian statue was made in 1844.

Grand Duchess Charlotte presided over her people for four and a half decades with prudence, courage and charisma. The Luxembourgers honoured her with a statue on the Place Clairefontaine.

The Palais grand-ducal, which was extensively renovated between 1992 and 1996, is the office of Grand Duke Henri, where the head of state exercises his official functions.



Pages 66/67:

The Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra, formed in 1996 from the orchestra of Radio Luxembourg, is among Europe's best. It moved into its new home on the Place de l'Europe in Kirchberg in June 2005. The layout of the white steel main building is the shape of an eye surrounded by slim columns, which lend it rhythm, light and airiness.



Behind the light-flooded lobby, the large concert hall named after Grand Duchess Charlotte forms the heart of the philharmonic.

The shell-shaped, radiantly white Salle de musique de chambre next to the main building is devoted to chamber music.

Right-hand page: In addition to the arts, finance and important European institutions, Kirchberg is also a commercial centre, with trendy shopping centres and supermarkets.



Pages 70/71: The Adolph Bridge (Pont Adolphe), which spans the Pétrusse valley at 42 metres (138 feet), was built between 1899 and 1903 during the reign of Grand Duke Adolphe after plans by the French engineer Paul Séjourné.





Left-hand page:
Sixteenth century arcades and the warm colours of the façades make a stroll through the old winegrowing village of Wellenstein a visual delight. Sturdy hikers will discover their pleasure while roaming through the vineyards.

Left:
Another asset: in addition to its well-kept winegrowers' houses, lively Wellenstein also is home to the country's largest cooperative wine cellar.

Far left:
Fountains, like this one in Wellenstein, ripple everywhere in the Grand Duchy. Whether simple or majestic, they emit joie de vivre and contemplativeness. Time trickles past; we remain as we are, they seem to be murmuring – based loosely on the national motto.

Left:
Small discoveries that are not necessarily listed in the travel guides are everywhere to be found on the roadsides. An ounce of curiosity, a friendly question and all of a sudden, you're involved in a conversation offering some surprising firsthand tidbits about the country and its people.

Echternach (Echternach) was granted its charter in 1236, but its documented history goes back far earlier. The Anglo-Saxon missionary Willibrord from Northumbria founded an abbey here in the year 698. The picturesque town lies on the Sûre (Sauer), which forms the border to Germany here, and is the gateway to Luxembourg's Little Switzerland.



Right-hand page: The Old High German word "Thing" means something like assembly. The Echternach Dingstuhl (Denzelt) of 1444, an especially beautiful example of secular Gothic architecture, was originally the seat of the lay assessor court; today it is the meeting place of the town council.



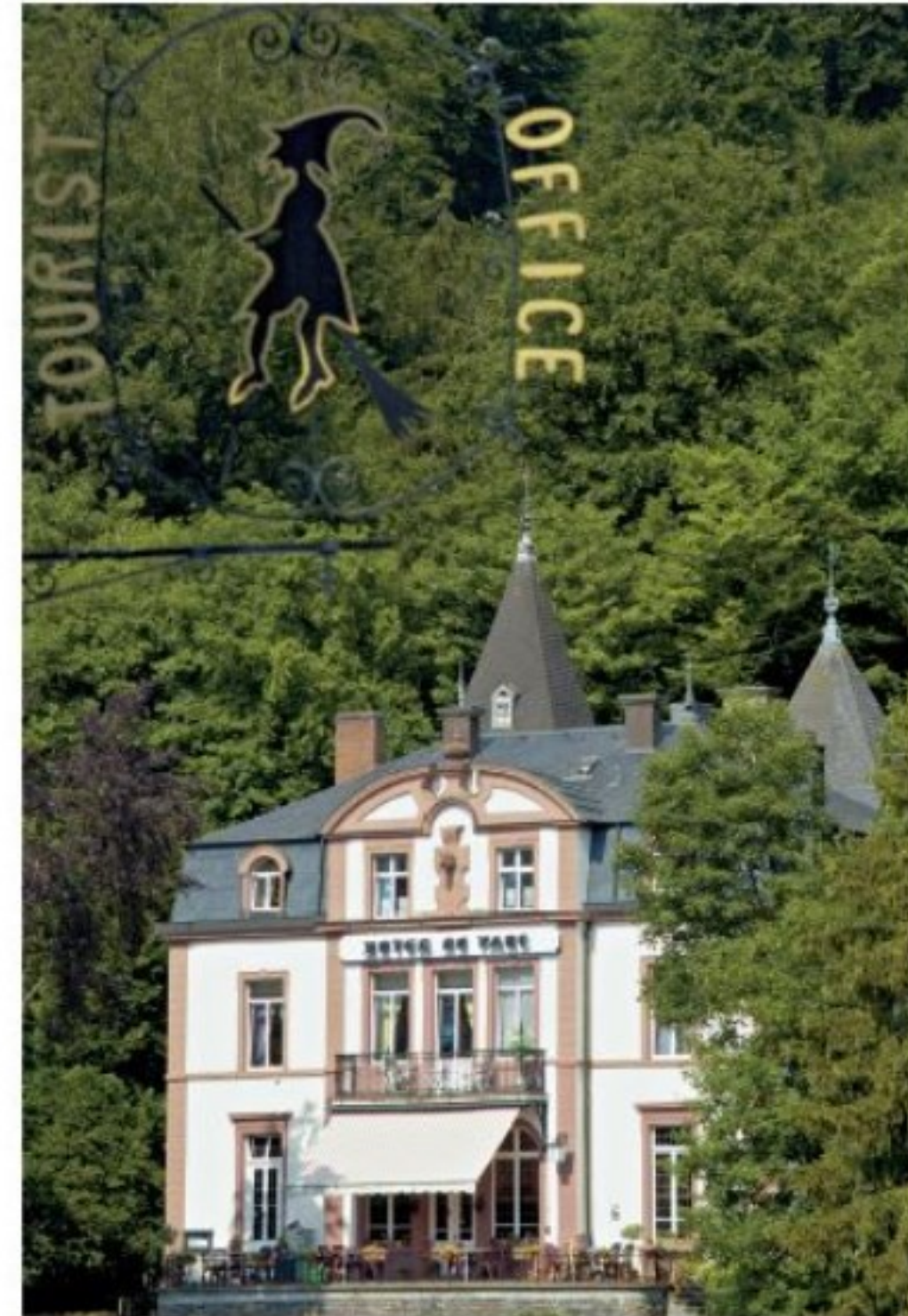
The abbey of Echternach became famous in the middle ages as a centre of outstanding manuscript illumination. Among the works of art created by the monks is the Golden Gospels of Echternach ("Codex Aureus Epternacensis") from the 11th century, which is kept in the German National Museum in Nuremberg.





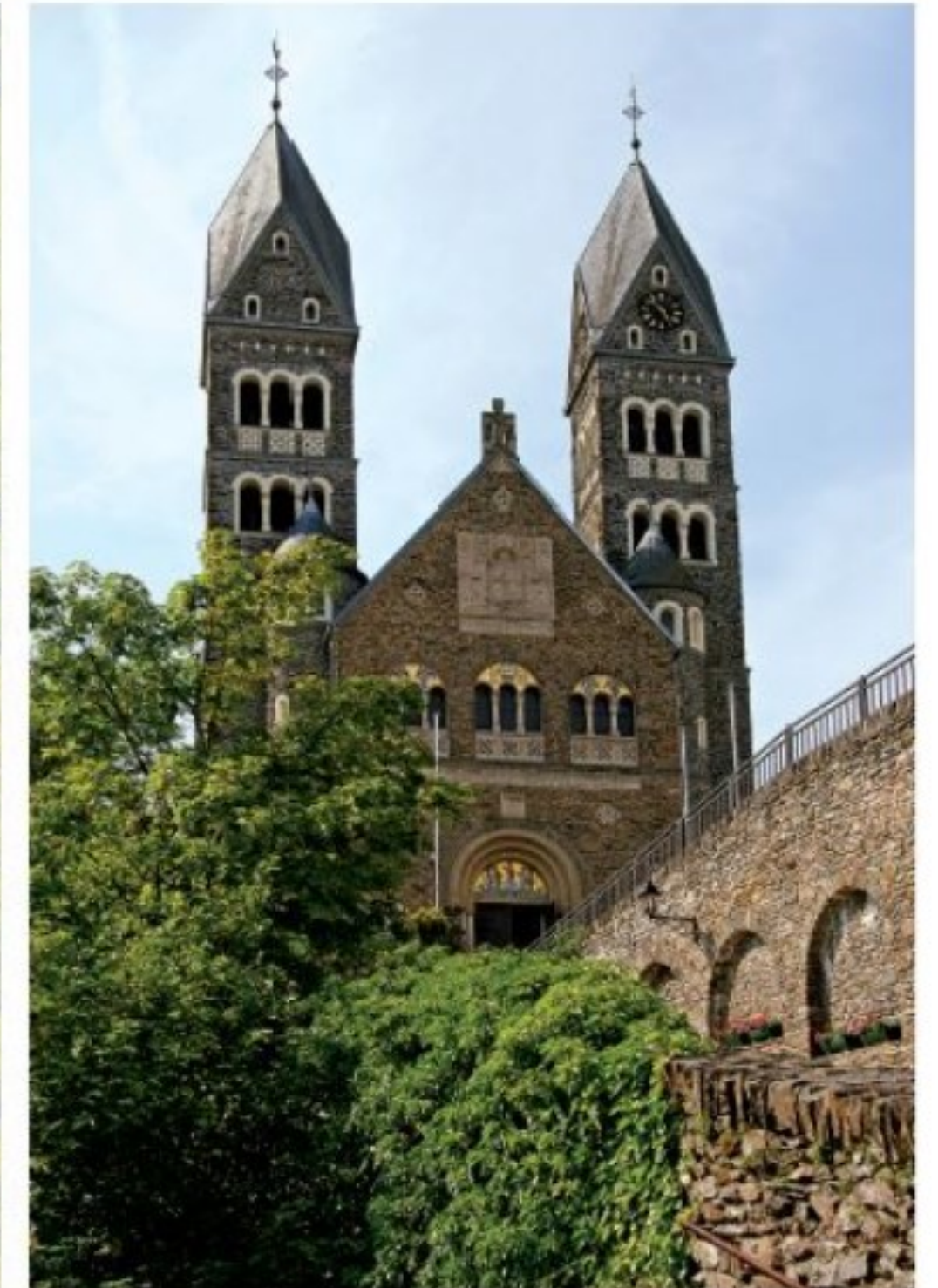
Left:
The Benedictine Abbey of St. Maurice and St. Maurus in Clervaux in the Ardennes was founded in the early 20th century. Visitors can enter the forecourt, the church, the crypt and view a small exhibition about monastery life.

Pages 110/111:
The little Ardennes city of Wanden is among Luxembourg's most visited places. It is located in the northeast on the border to the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate. Wanden was built on both shores of the border river Our. The town, and not the river, forms the border to Germany only here and for a few kilometres.



The castle of Clervaux is among the Grand Duchy's tourism highlights. Its walls also house a museum containing testimonies of the Ardennes offensive,

during which the castle was badly damaged, a collection of 22 models of Luxembourg castles and palaces and a toy museum.



The parish church of Clervaux was built between 1910 and 1912 on a rocky ridge close to the castle. It was modelled after the church of the Romanesque

monastery of Cluny in Burgundy. The chancel, altars and stations of the cross in the sanctuary are the works of the Aachen sculptor Lambert Pirdboüf.

STRAIGHT FROM A FAIRY TALE – LUXEMBOURG'S CASTLES

Luxembourg has no dearth of castles. They sit enthroned upon rocks and rise above river courses, proud and defiant as in a picture book. Castles were protection from enemies, housing the defenders and the local population during an attack. One imposing example of this was the mighty Lützelburg on Bock Fiels high above the rivers Alzette and Pétrusse, which gave the city and the nation their names. Over the centuries, successive sovereigns expanded it to become a massive over- and underground stronghold, bringing it fame as a "Gibraltar of the North." The many kilometres of casemates, worked into the stone in the 18th century by the Austrians under Empress Maria Theresa, accommodated soldiers, horses, munitions and representatives of trades that were crucial to survival (bakers, cooks, smiths ...). Long after the aboveground fortress had been razed, its inner recesses offered refuge to the population of the capital city during the battles of the Second World War.

The power of the counts of Vianden, whose influence in the Middle Ages ranged over great territories between the Rhine, Meuse and Moselle, is embodied in the castle built by them which dominates the Our river valley in the northeast of the country. In size alone, it is one of the most significant of its age. It was carefully restored with the aid of considerable government funding and has become one of Luxembourg's favourite tourist sights. In the summertime, Vianden Castle is a grand venue for cultural events. Every August, a weeklong medieval festival, complete with tournaments, banquets and music, demonstrates how the knights of old lived, dined and amused themselves. An excursion to the castle ruins of

Stolzembourg to the north of Vianden is also recommended. It is situated on a hill in the centre of the village of the same name, where there is also a copper mine museum offering underground trips with the mining railroad.

Art and culture within historic walls

The whitewashed walls of Clervaux Castle glow under a slate-blue roof. The original twelfth-century fortress burned down during the Battle of the Bulge. Since its reconstruction, it is home to three museums. One commemorates the famous Ardennes battle; another contains a collection of models of Luxembourgian castle architecture. But, Clervaux is most famous for a unique photography collection, "The Family of Man." Edward Steichen, a native Luxembourgier who emigrated to the USA in 1881 at the age of two with his parents and became a famous American fashion photographer, assembled it while curator of the photography collection of New York's Museum of Modern Art. It was there that his final selection of 500 photographs – by 270 photographers from approximately 70 countries, both amateurs and luminaries of the profession – was shown for the first time in 1955. Steichen's humanist aspiration was to promote our understanding of one another through the universal language of photography and thus prevent wars. In accordance with Steichen's wishes, the collection was later donated to his homeland. In every July since 1953, the Renaissance façade of Castle Wiltz in the Oesling has formed the magnificent backdrop for an open-air festival that brings magic moments to lovers of theatre and of all music genres. Premier acting ensembles, orchestras and soloists



Left: The ruins of Beaufort Castle are located in the limits of the town of Befort. It probably dates from the late 12th century.

Above: Graceful elegance in the centre of a generous park: the palace in Septfontaines.

Top right: The city of Vianden is overlooked by the massive castle fortifications. Much of it was renovated in the past centuries. The castle chapel, with its colourful sanctuary, was restored in the original colours of the Romanesque age.

Centre right: Portal of Bettendorf Palace on the border between the "Gutland" in the south and the northern "Oesling," the Luxembourg Ardennes.

Right: Bettendorf Palace: serene, playful to elaborate, year of construction 1728. Outside the town, a memorial trail commemorates the tragic events at the end of the last war.

guarantee a feast for both the ears and eyes. In the weeks around Pentecost, the surrounding countryside is spattered by bright broom blossoms, which is celebrated by the Wiltz Genzefest (broom festival) on Whit Monday. Northwest of the capital, the Eisch meanders through the Valley of the Seven Castles. They, too, are rich in history, like all that you will encounter on your journey through Luxembourg. And let's not neglect the imposing structures built in the centre of Esch-sur-Alzette, the Grand Duchy's second largest city, they are the "castles" with which Luxembourg's knights of the industrial age once commemorated themselves in the styles of Wilhelminian, Jugendstil and Art Deco architecture.



Pages 124/125:
Mondorf-les-Bains, a renowned spa resort in the southeast of Luxembourg on the border to France and Germany for nearly 150 years, is favoured by a mild microclimate.



Right:
The thermal baths experienced a formidable boom after their purchase by the Luxembourg government in the late 19th century.

Below:
A niece of Charlemagne named Muomina bestowed her possessions to the abbey in Echternach. They included a small village, which from then on was named "Muomendorph" – today's Mondorf-les-Bains.



In the 19th century, the Dutch regime levied salt imports from Holland with a tax, to the chagrin of their Luxembourg subjects. A Mondorf notary discovered that the water from a small brook in the town tasted similarly salty as the Aachen spring water that he had drunken during his regimens there. Drilling commenced and water was discovered at a depth of 415 metres (1,363 feet). The sulphurous liquid was watery gold for Mondorf. Today, the spa gardens are a favourite place for leisurely strolls.

Pages 128/129:
The Neo-Gothic parish church of St. Martin in Dudelange to east of Esch-sur-Alzette is the country's third-largest church. It was built in the late 19th century.

INDEX

	Text	Photo		Text	Photo
Alzette	15, 76, 122	26, 53-55, 60	National Natural History Museum		32
Ansembourg, castle and gardens	76	119	Palais grand-ducal		44-47
Beaufort Castle		122	Pétrusse/Pétrusse valley	15, 122	22, 23, 70-72
Bettembourg	76		Pfaffenthal		56, 57
Bettendorf Palace		123	Philharmonic	14, 15, 66-68	
Black Ernz		102, 103	Place Clairefontaine		34, 35, 45
Bourglinster	76	91, 104, 105	Place de l'Europe		14, 15, 68
Clervaux		123	Place de la Constitution		37
Clerve		123	Place de Metz		72
Copper mine museum (Stolzembourg)		122	Place des Armes		28, 29
Doennange		114	Place Emile Hamilius		32
Dudelange		128, 129	Place Guillaume		36-39, 90, 91
Echternach		96-101, 126	Plateau Bourbon		72
Ehnen		80, 88, 89	Luxembourg's Little Switzerland		96, 102, 103, 106, 107
Eifel	12, 18		Mamer valley		76
Eisch/Eisch valley		123	Mersch		76, 92, 93
Esch-sur-Alzette	19, 123	130-133	Mondorf-les-Bains		124-127
Esch-sur-Sûre		20, 21, 116, 117	Mosel	12, 13, 76, 122	10, 76-89, 94, 95
Ettelbrück		104	Müllerthal		76, 102, 103
Fischbach Castle		44, 45	Nospelt		76
Grevenmacher		83, 94, 95	Osling		13, 123
Gutfand		13, 76, 123	Our/Our valley		122
Hesperingen/Hesperange		53	Pétange/Pétange		14
Hollenfels, the keep		76	Remich		16, 17, 81-83
Koerich		76	Sauer/Sûre		13, 96, 102
Larochette		106, 107	Schengen		64, 90
Luxembourg City	19, 21, 26	26-75, 136	Schoenfels		76
Abbey of Neumünster		54, 55, 58, 59	Septfontaines/Simmern, castle		120-123
Adolph Bridge/Pont Adolphe		22, 23, 70, 71	Stolzembourg, castle ruins		123
Bock Fiels	15, 16, 26, 122	6, 7, 12, 13, 52-57	Cooper mine museum		122
Castle bridge/Pont du Château		52	Upper Sûre Nature Park		20, 21, 115
Cathédrale Notre-Dame		6, 7, 30, 31	Useldange		76, 93
Centre Européen		20	Vanden		18, 19, 109-111
Clausen		17	Vanden, castle	122, 123	24, 25, 108, 123
Dicks-Lentz-Monument		33	Wasserbillig		90, 87
Forum d'art contemporain		42	Wellenstein		78, 79
Grund		26, 27, 32, 54-61	Wiltz, castle		123, 114
Kirchberg		20	Wine museum (Ehnen)		90
Museum of Municipal History		33	Withe Ernz		106, 107
National Library		37	Wormeldange		10, 11, 76, 77, 84-86

