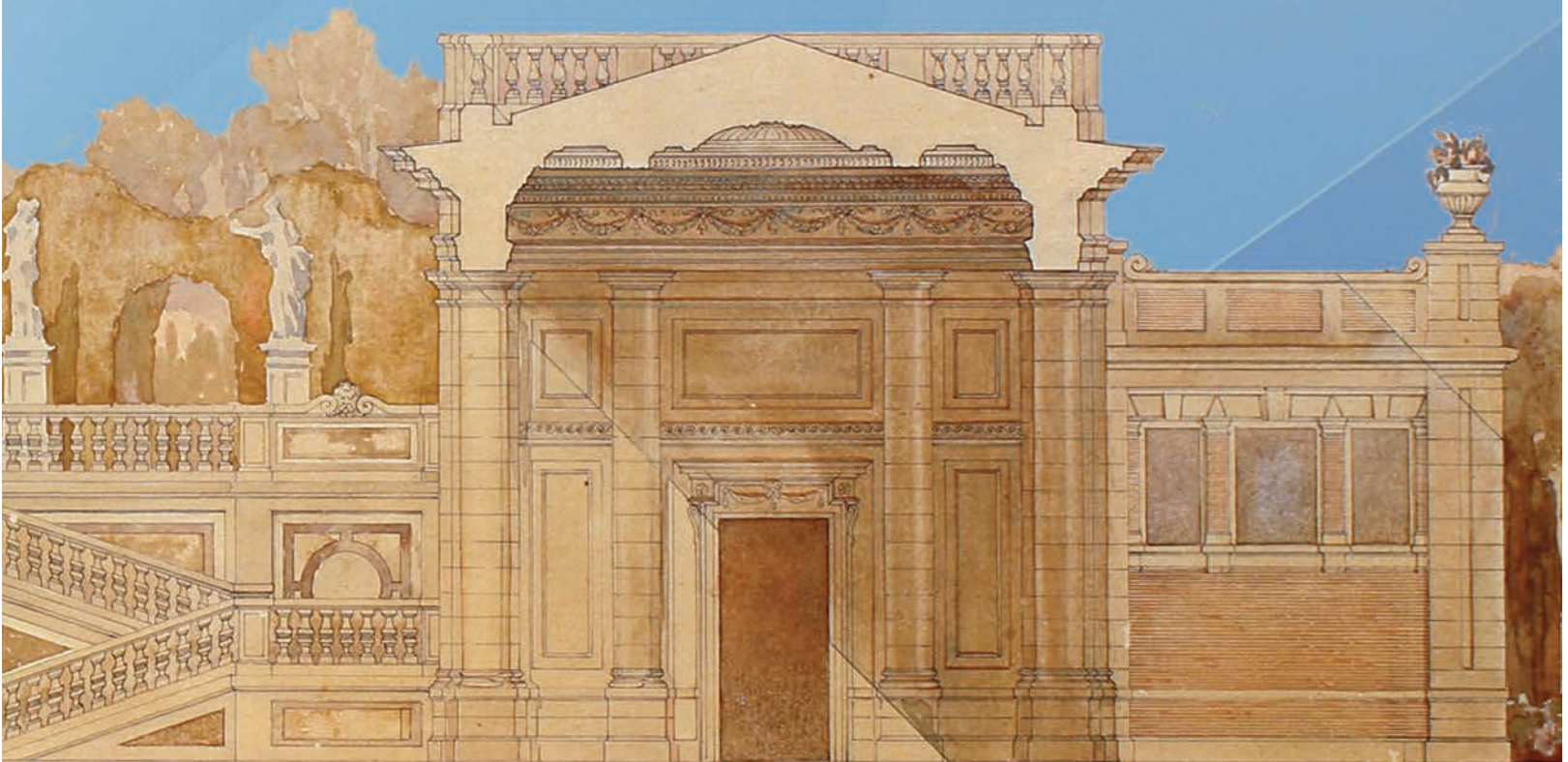




Comune di Montecatini Terme

# *The* GREAT SPAS *of Europe*



## Maps

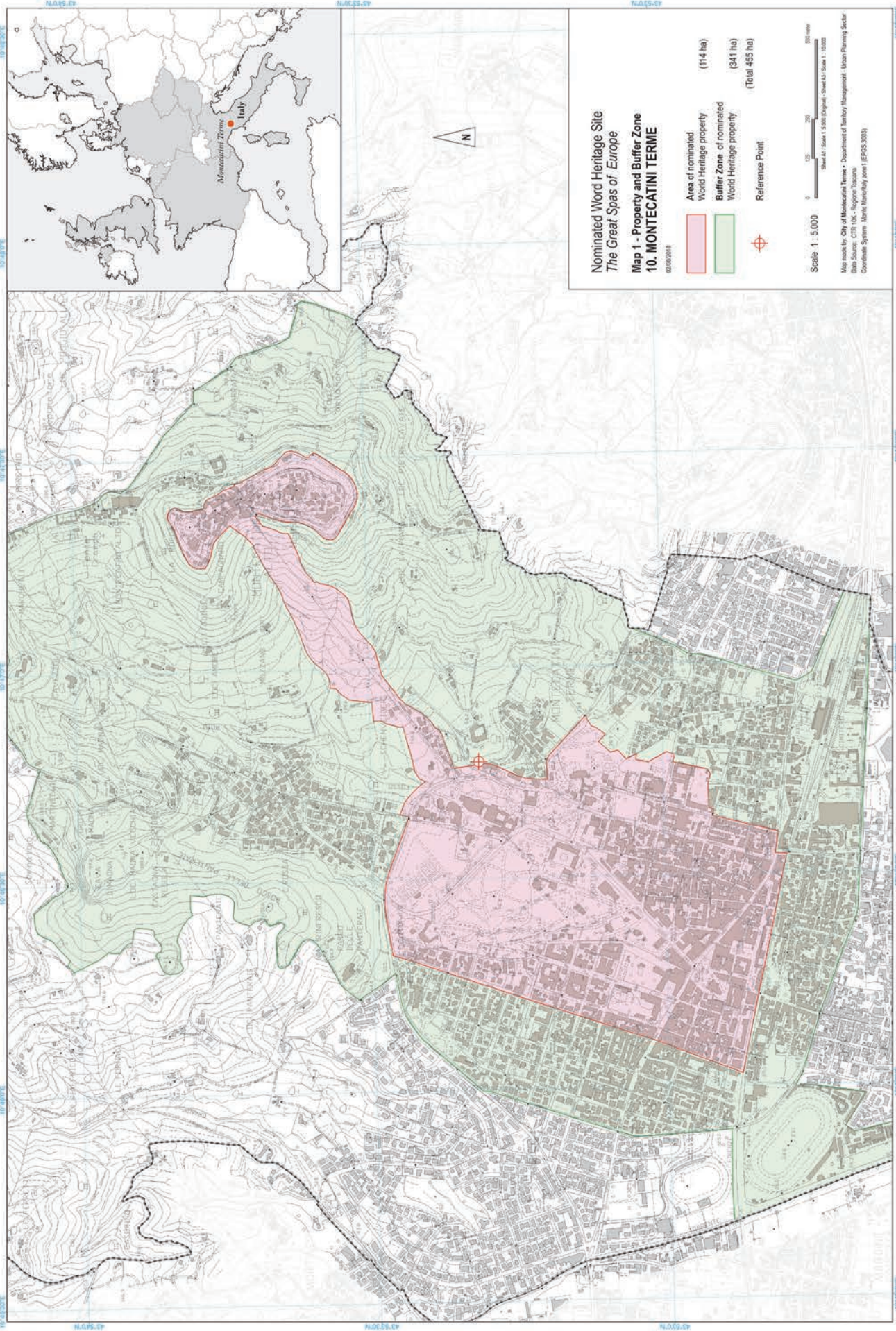
The nominated property The Great Spas of Europe is situated in seven European countries: **Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom.**



### *The Great Spas of Europe*

1. *Baden bei Wien*
2. *Spa*
3. *Františkovy Lázně*
4. *Karlovy Vary*
5. *Mariánské Lázně*
6. *Vichy*
7. *Bad Ems*
8. *Baden-Baden*
9. *Bad Kissingen*
10. *Montecatini Terme*
11. *City of Bath*

The following maps show the boundaries of all component parts and their buffer zones.



## Criteria under which property is nominated:

ii, iii, iv, vi

## Proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value.

### a. Brief synthesis

Water has long been a catalyst for the development of significant cultural practices that have generated both tangible and intangible cultural values. This includes the use of water in spas. Natural mineral water (thermal and cold) has universal significance, from the *thermae* of Ancient Rome to the onsen of Japan, but it is mainly in Europe that its use has been medicalised. The result is a unique urban typology, the European spa, the only example of urbanisation around a medical practice.

*The Great Spas of Europe* is a transnational serial property of eleven spa towns located in seven countries: *Baden bei Wien* (Austria); *Spa* (Belgium); the ‘Bohemian Spa Triangle’ of *Karlovy Vary*, *Františkovy Lázně* and *Mariánské Lázně* (Czech Republic); *Vichy* (France); *Bad Ems*, *Baden-Baden* and *Bad Kissingen* (Germany); *Montecatini Terme* (Italy); and *City of Bath* (United Kingdom).

The property provides exceptional testimony to the European spa phenomenon, a complex urban, social and cultural phenomenon that has its roots in antiquity but gained its highest expression from around 1700 to the 1930s. *The Great Spas of Europe* developed around natural water sources, which were the catalyst for an innovative model of spatial organisation dedicated to curative, therapeutic and social functions. These fashionable resorts of health, leisure and sociability originated architectural prototypes and an urban typology that has no earlier parallel. They were pioneers of nascent modern tourism, and the only European settlement type to be in cultural competition with the great metropolises.

Ensembles of spa buildings include baths, pump rooms, drinking halls, treatment facilities and colonnades designed to harness the resource and to allow its practical use for bathing and drinking. ‘Taking the cure’, externally and internally, was complemented by related visitor facilities such as assembly rooms, casinos, theatres, hotels and villas, and spa-specific support infrastructure. All are integrated into an overall urban context that includes a carefully managed recreational and therapeutic environment in a picturesque landscape.

*The Great Spas of Europe* mark the international developments in the traditional medical uses of springs by Enlightenment physicians across Europe, including major contributions to the evolution of diagnostic medicine. As elite places in terms of scientific, political, social and cultural achievements, it contributed to the transformation of European society through the reduction of the gap between the social elite and a growing middle class. They hosted major political events and their special creative atmosphere inspired works of high-art in music, literature and painting that are of outstanding universal significance.

Effective protection and management, together with economic and/or medical success, succeeded in controlling growth and maintaining an original purpose and enduring atmosphere. Their sustainable function as dependable curative venues for body, mind and spirit ensures their continued contribution to European culture, behaviour and customs.

## **b. Justification for criteria**

*The Great Spas of Europe* The Great Spas of Europe is testimony to the exchange of innovative ideas that influenced the development of modern European towns from the eighteenth century to the early twentieth century. This exchange included pioneering urban planning and architectural prototypes, together with an intimately associated development of medicine, arts and leisure activities. The ideas influenced the popularity and development of spa towns and balneology in other parts of the world, and are characterised by an almost continuous ease of flow across geographic boundaries, even in times of conflict. **Criterion (ii)**

*The Great Spas of Europe* became centres for experiment, contributing to the eighteenth century Enlightenment and introducing radical change to the then prevailing attitude towards science, medicine, nature and art. Developments within the nominated property influenced the early development of sea-bathing, climatic and gaming resorts throughout the world.

*The Great Spas of Europe* bears exceptional testimony to the conscious care for human health that developed around natural mineral springs. This tradition was born of a remarkable cultural and social phenomenon which flourished from the eighteenth century to the early twentieth century; and which continues to thrive today. The nominated property embodies a ‘culture-creating’ tradition as places for the origination, reception and transmission of transnational trends and new values of the Enlightenment. This commanded a fresh conception of relations between European citizens, between classes, and also between men and women. At the centre of spa culture is a philosophy of diagnoses and prescription, healthy diets and physical exercise that, together with exceptional hospitality, entertainment and leisure opportunities, combined as a prototype of a nascent European tradition of mass tourism. **Criterion (iii)**

*The Great Spas of Europe* is an outstanding example of a specific settlement type, a new urban typology centred on natural mineral springs and devoted to health and leisure that flourished from around 1700 to the 1930s. This developed to include architectural prototypes that are spatially arranged according to the distribution of springs and the regime of ‘taking the cure’. Unlike any other type of settlement from the eighteenth century, these towns combine architecture, innovative town planning and landscape design into the built environment both functionally, visually and economically. **Criterion (iv)**

The principal spa ensemble includes springs, pump rooms and drinking halls, bathing and treatment facilities, ‘kurhaus’, colonnades and galleries, hospitals and sanatoria, assembly rooms, casinos, theatre and concert houses, arcades of shops, hotels and villas, churches of various denominations, and support infrastructure which are set within a green environment of promenades, parks and gardens, pleasure grounds, rides and woodland walks.

The nominated property served as a model for similar spas, and spa architecture, in Europe and elsewhere in the world.

*The Great Spas of Europe* comprised politically neutral nodes in an international network of health and leisure. They became vectors of a transnational culture.

Elements of the nominated property are associated with, and directly linked to, social, political and cultural ideas that helped to shape European democratic traditions and ideals. As international meeting places the spas are distinguished as regular hosts to prominent figures in the arts and humanities, and also to European rulers, politicians and diplomats, national elites and international high society. The spas reflected the climate of the Enlightenment where the former barriers between class and gender were relaxed and religious freedom and equality prevailed. As preferred resorts of composers and musicians, writers and poets, painters and sculptors, they were sources of inspiration for artistic and literary works of universal significance. Here, many original works were conceived, performed or exhibited for the first time.

### c. Statement of Integrity

The eleven component parts that comprise *The Great Spas of Europe* contain, as a whole, all interrelated elements necessary to express proposed Outstanding Universal Value. The series broadly represents a group of the most exceptional examples of European spa towns that is essential for the complete contribution of the range of attributes that fully define the unique urban typology and distinctive characteristics of a “great” European spa. All component parts share a set of determining characteristics formed during the most significant “culture-creating” phase of their history and development, the heyday period from around 1700 to the 1930s, and each continues to function in the purpose for which it was originally designed.

The series illustrates the continental spread of the European spa phenomenon through time, and the entire development of its range of most significant tangible features and processes, capturing the most significant, successful and fashionable ‘hotspots’ of a living cultural tradition with long-standing and enduring origin. Each component part makes a specific and essential contribution to overall compositional integrity through variable and unique combinations of attributes. These encompass the diversity of mineral springs and their water qualities (the *raison d’être* of the spa, which maintained a profound influence on development), corresponding spatial arrangements of the spa town that functions around the spa quarter (designed to harness the resource and to allow its practical use for bathing and drinking), characteristic facilities complementary to ‘taking the cure’ and related visitor facilities (assembly rooms, casinos, theatres, hotels and villas), and spa-specific support infrastructure (from water piping systems and salts production to railways and funiculars); all integrated into an overall urban context that includes a carefully managed recreational and therapeutic environment in a picturesque landscape. The historical relationship between component parts is akin to an international network of resort towns patronised by an international clientele, often moving from one spa to another (from emperors and royalty, to composers, artists and poets), with each spa town sharing functional linkages that range from a dynamic interchange of ideas (for example architects and spa physicians moving

between the most innovative and successful spas) to special rail itineraries for spa tourism.

Boundaries are determined in a strategic manner: to be of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the significance of the nominated property, whilst also recognising the strength and specific contribution that each component part makes the compositional integrity of the series as a whole. Buffer zones are drawn not only for the direct protection of the nominated property, but also for the specific protection of spring catchments and of important setting.

All component parts and their constituent elements are generally in good condition. Elements requiring conservation either have works already planned or are awaiting alternative uses, with their current state of conservation maintained. None are threatened, and all are adequately protected and managed; key considerations in the selection of component parts during comparative analyses. There have been continued additions to the historic environment in all component parts (as with any living property), particularly in one where the contemporary function (sustainable, and enduringly consistent with its origins) is subject to modern health and other requirements and expectations.

#### **d. Statement of authenticity**

*The Great Spas of Europe* is a group of the most exceptional examples of a unique urban typology based on natural mineral springs. Together, the eleven component parts, in seven countries, contain the full range of attributes necessary to express proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

Such attributes are manifest in a range of highly authentic elements that combine to convey clarity of meaning and understanding: mineral springs, in great diversity, that maintain their natural physical qualities including substance, location and setting; the spa historic urban landscape with its distinctive designed form and highly legible spatial layout, together with a well-maintained location and setting that combine to retain an enduring spirit and feeling; spa architecture, in pioneering form and design, original material and substance, that remains authentic even though some buildings have experienced compatible change of use; the spa therapeutic landscape that retains its form, design and function and continues to be used for the purpose for which it was designed; spa infrastructure, much of which is either original or evolved on original principles and remains in use; continuing spa function where original use and function is sustained, and the consequent evolution of form, structures and technology is evident in successive phases that continue to be complemented by new facilities that not only meet today's standards but enable a continued contribution to the tradition of spa therapy and wellness and the many specific activities relating to the spa season. The nominated property - as a whole, and at the level of component parts and their constituent elements - meets the condition of authenticity that is necessary to qualify for inscription on the World Heritage List. The truthfulness and credible expression of attributes embodied in structures that date from around 1700 to the 1930s, the principal period of contribution to Outstanding Universal Value, is further evidenced during substantial and sustained conservation works that are informed by expansive archival collections of plans, documents, publications and photographs held at each component part.

# 1. Identification of the Property

## 1.a Country

The proposed transnational serial property is composed of eleven component parts located in seven European countries: **Austria**, **Belgium**, the **Czech Republic**, **France**, **Germany**, **Italy**, and the **United Kingdom**

## 1.b State, Province or Region

<b>Id-Nr.</b>	<b>Component part</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Province or Region</b>
1.	<i>Baden bei Wien</i>	Austria	Lower Austria
2.	<i>Spa</i>	Belgium	Liège province
3.	<i>Františkovy Lázně</i>	Czech Republic	Karlovy Vary Region
4.	<i>Karlovy Vary</i>	Czech Republic	Karlovy Vary Region
5.	<i>Mariánské Lázně</i>	Czech Republic	Karlovy Vary Region
6.	<i>Vichy</i>	France	Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, Allier Department
7.	<i>Bad Ems</i>	Germany	Rhineland-Palatinate
8.	<i>Baden-Baden</i>	Germany	Baden-Württemberg
9.	<i>Bad Kissingen</i>	Germany	Bavaria, Unterfranken Region
10.	<i>Montecatini Terme</i>	Italy	Tuscany, Pistoia Province
11.	<i>City of Bath</i>	United Kingdom	Bath and North East Somerset

## 1.c Name of Property

***The Great Spas of Europe***  
(in English)

***Les grandes villes d'eaux d'Europe***  
(in French)

## 2. Description

### 2.a.1 Description of Property

*The Great Spas of Europe* is a transnational serial property of eleven towns located in seven European countries: *Baden bei Wien* (Austria); *Spa* (Belgium); the ‘Bohemian Spa Triangle’ of *Karlovy Vary*, *Františkovy Lázně* and *Mariánské Lázně* (Czech Republic); *Vichy* (France); *Bad Ems*, *Baden-Baden* and *Bad Kissingen* (Germany); *Montecatini Terme* (Italy); and *City of Bath* (United Kingdom).

European spa towns are centred on natural ‘curative’ mineral water springs that act as nuclei for a specialised urban form and function designed for the combined medicinal, social and leisure use of mineral water. The spatial planning and architecture of this mono-functional urban typology facilitated such a combined use, and has no earlier parallel. The specialisation of each function, and its integration into specific buildings and spaces, is a defining characteristic. A ‘Great Spa’ is distinguished from any other spa town by its dimension, complexity and integrity of the various elements of the urban typology

*The Great Spas of Europe* epitomises the grandest and most international resorts of the many hundreds of towns that are testimony to the European spa phenomenon that

flourished from around 1700 to the 1930s. The network illustrates, as a whole, all of the attributes of proposed Outstanding Universal Value, including the representation of the geographical spread of the phenomenon, through time, and continued function as the embodiment of a living tradition. These are the most fashionable and successful ‘Great Spas’, those with a ‘culture-creating’ impact in terms of their contribution to science (medicine, geology and hydrology), high-art (especially music and literature), and a cultural tradition that lays at the foundation of modern tourism. Intangible values further differentiate them as a distinct and closely linked thematic group. They are also the most significant examples that survive with the highest levels of integrity and authenticity.

In their prime, the influence of ‘Great Spas’ in matters of European cultural and artistic life, medicine, science, humanities, politics and the development of polite society was beyond that of any other form of

*View north to the model  
spa 'new town' of  
Františkovy Lázně*



urban settlement, except the greatest of the European capitals. A distinctive range of physical elements, described in section 2.a.2, conveys these key attributes.

The eleven towns are each made up of a single component part. Each contributes in a specific way to the overall compositional integrity of the series. As a group they represent the pinnacle of the European spa phenomenon. Some possess both archaeological testimony to ancient origins, and modern interventions that facilitate a living spa tradition that continues into the twenty-first century. Their predominant heritage, however, relates to their collective heyday that spans the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The European spa evolved a new, unique, and widespread urban typology, which today we can consider in terms of a distinctive historic urban landscape.

The principal spa ensemble includes springs and their various styles of taps, fountains and pavilions, the pump rooms and drinking halls, bathing and treatment facilities, colonnades and galleries, hospitals and sanatoria, assembly rooms, casinos, theatre and concert houses, arcades of shops, hotels, lodging houses and villas, churches (characteristically a range of Established churches/various denominations), and support infrastructure such as salts extraction and funicular railways. This is set within a green environment of promenades and parades, parks and gardens, pleasure grounds, rides and woodland walks. It is these elements that convey the attributes that contribute to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

The Nominated Property, as a unit, is described in section 2.a.2. The approach uses the concept of the ‘anatomy of a spa’. It outlines the ensemble of essential and characteristic physical elements that convey attributes of potential Outstanding Universal Value, and references special contributions made by particular component parts. This highlights the compositional integrity of the series - the property as a whole - whereby it is the eleven selected component parts, in total, that includes all essential elements. Whilst reference is made to all component parts, each component part – or individual ‘Great Spa’ - is described separately in section 2.a.3.

*The Great Spas of Europe* illustrates a new typology of historic urban landscape - the European spa town. Each component part displays variations on a common structure that is characterised by functional zoning. This zoning is influenced by geographical and topographical constraints and historical geopolitical and socio-economic influences. It displays ensembles of exceptional buildings (including architectural prototypes) and spaces (particularly green spaces) that are functionally linked to meet the daily needs of spa guests.



*Colonnade of the Sadový (Park) Spring, a detail. Karlovy Vary*



*Detail. Brass tap, Source des Célestins. Vichy*



*Glauber Springs Hall. Františkovy Lázně*

# 10. Montecatini Terme (ITALIA)

## Introduction




*Montecatini Terme* (Italian *Terme* = spa), the great Italian (and Tuscan) spa at the foot of Montecatini Alto (mountain), illustrates a Golden Era that is defined by an ambitious spa regeneration project that represents the last major materialisation of any of *The Great Spas of Europe*.

*Montecatini Terme's* thermal springs were known to the Romans, and around them grew an eighteenth century spa. But it is the early twentieth century when the planned concept of the transformation from 'garden city' into 'landscape city' was implemented. Its monumental and glittering modern spa architecture – inspired by other *Great Spas of Europe* – is dotted jewel-like within a generous and respectful oasis of gardens, formal parkland and promenades. The image of greenery blends seamlessly with urban fabric and continues in the form of a swathe of pine trees and terraced olive groves that ascend the steep mountainside crowned by Montecatini Alto - the focal point of the Viale Verdi, the central boulevard and main axis of the modern spa. The climate is generally mild in winter and moderate in summer, with rainfall generally concentrated in autumn and spring.

The town has a population of around 20,000, of which just over 9,000 live within the nominated property.

*The principal spa quarter at the heart of a 'landscape city's*



-  Boundary of the component spa town
-  Urban fabric within the component spa town
-  Urban fabric outside the proposed boundary of the component spa town



