

## Bad Hönningen Gets Better And Better With Age

From its Roman beginnings, it took a long, long time for the town of Bad Hönningen to actually be “bad.”

The *Bad* designation isn’t an indication of how misbehaved the place is — nope, it’s a good (German) way of saying it’s a spa town.

Took long enough. The first spa opened here way back in 1895, and it took some 55 years for the place to officially get its *Bad* title.

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Well, that’s mineral water under the bridge at this point, isn’t it? Today you’ll be more than happy to just lounge around the town’s state-approved spa swimming, relaxing in the jacuzzi, getting a nice massage.

You know, if this was around when the Romans were here, they might not have ever left. They did stick around for quite a long time, as the area was once along the Limes, or Roman border. Bad Hönningen still celebrates its Roman beginnings, from its *Römerwelt* (a Roman Museum that’s quite interactive), to its Roman Weekends in May, and its Roman Watchtower.

Hmm, no wonder Bad Hönningen is found along the [German Limes Road](#).

That’s not the only route found here. For those traveling by car, the [German Avenues Route](#) lurches its way through town. And the *Rheinsteig*, a long distance hiking route, will bring you right on over.

And, while not technically a scenic route, Bad Hönningen's Wine Blossom Festival marks the official start of the Wine Festival season. I'd have to say the Roman Wine Weekend in October is a really good one to come to.

Bad Hönningen doesn't just limit itself to wine and Romans. The town celebrates with all sorts of other festivals, like the *Federweißfest* in November, its Sts. Peter & Paul Fair in June, and its Medieval Spectacle (with jousting no less) in May. They also host a Beer Festival, a Summer Night Festival, and a Nostalgic Christmas Market.

How does anyone get any work done around here? How am I supposed to get any work done around here? ;-)

A trip to Bad Hönningen doesn't end when the festivals are finished. You haven't seen its landmark yet, have you? You can't miss it — it's that big castle up on the hillside surrounded by those gorgeous vineyards. Schloss Arenfels' modern palace look is a far cry from its medieval days — but is still owned by a Baron. Burg Ariendorf, while not so lavish, is still another glorious castle to add to the things to see along the [Rhine](#) in Bad Hönningen.

Amazing what's become of Bad Hönningen when barely a dozen homes survived from the devastation of the [Thirty Years' War](#).

I think you'll just love how wonderful Bad Hönningen has become — and it only gets better with age. Just like a fine wine, come to think of it...