

# Chateaux garden

Object no. 04 | Teplice

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The chateaux garden originated in the 16<sup>th</sup> century together with the construction of the chateaux when stone-built castles went out of fashion and the nobility moved to more comfortable and representative residences. Jesuit Bohuslav Balbín knew of its Baroque appearance and considered it one of the most beautiful parks in the Bohemian kingdom. As fashions changed, the garden's design was also changed, according to the French model. Green mazes, artificial caves, fountains and carefully planted, geometrically perfect flower beds were added. Further changes were performed at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the new owner of the Teplice estate, Jan Nepomuk Clary-Aldringen, this time the garden changed into an English park; the flower beds were substituted by vast lawns, ponds and rare trees.

The garden spreads around the Upper and Lower Pond. In the middle of both ponds there are artificial islands, the one in the Upper Pond is called after the knight Elmond's wife, Elisa Alexandrina. In the past the island was accessible over a cast iron bridge with an ornamented gate carrying the sign "Elisalex Insel". The wooden gazebo, still in existence but quite damaged, served as a sheltered port for the knight's boats; the family held evening cruises on gondolas where musicians played pieces of music by Mozart.

The chateaux garden also conceals a Classical gazebo and a series of statues are concentrated here from the surroundings, Beethoven's bust, a plate indicating the legendary meeting of Goethe, Beethoven and the emperor's family, the closed municipal lido, the chateaux theatre where weddings take place and where Amor, situated in the theatre gable, holds the sun ring and a lyre, symbols of the Greek god of art, Apollo.

A spa guest in 1936 wrote in her notes about the garden: "Peace and quiet breathe out here, a man is protected from the troubles and pains of life, deep shadows of trees form a wall between our everyday life and a piece of a dream we indulge in. When will Goethe's figure appear on this path? Hasn't Beethoven just passed that bush with his head bent down? Wasn't that just Wagner's head looking out behind that thick stem"?

We are not sure if you can see the European greats in the park at present. But you can see and feed squirrels, swans, ducks and fat carp. The playground "At the monkeys" is a popular place for families with children; please, do not feed the monkeys.