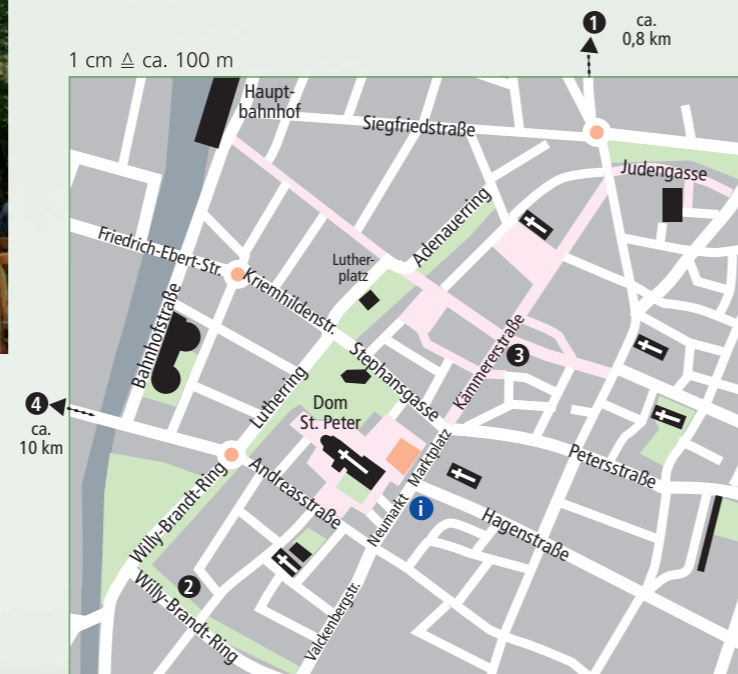




who made pilgrimages to the Church of Our Lady compared it with the milk of Our Lady. There is a legend that claims that the original vineyard came into being with the help of the devil, but the reasons for the quality of the wine can be easily explained biochemically. It is the particular minerals of the wetlands of the Rhine that are responsible for its taste.

In the Napoleonic period, when all church property was auctioned, the wine merchant Peter Joseph Valckenberg purchased the Liebfrauenmilch vineyards and helped the wines to achieve international fame. The "Madonna wine" is so well-known that it is even drunk by the British and Swedish royal families and enjoys a high level of popularity amongst the Australians and the Japanese. Today, there are four wine-growers who cultivate the top-quality products in the Liebfrauenmilch vineyards.



- 1 Church of Our Lady/Liebfrauenstift-Kirchenstück
 - 2 Historic vineyard "Luginsland"
 - 3 Vintners' fountain
 - 4 Pfeddersheim
- i** Tourist Information



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worms: city of wine



Wine culture



Worms is at the outskirts of the Rheinhessen highlands, surrounded by vineyards and impressive wine-growing communities. The vineyards extend to the city in many places, and the world famous Liebfrauenmilch even grows close to the centre, in the shade of the **Church of Our Lady (1)**. However, if you really want to feel the unique quality of this vineyard location on your tongue, you have to pay attention to the label and should only allow yourself to be poured wines with the label Liebfrauenstift Kirchenstück. Since 1971, this has been the protected name for the top products around the church.



Wine came to the region with the Romans. The fact that the monks of the Capuchin Monastery in Worms near to the beautiful Gothic Church of Our Lady knew all about wine-making is proven by the success story of Liebfrauenmilch. They produced such a good wine that the pilgrims



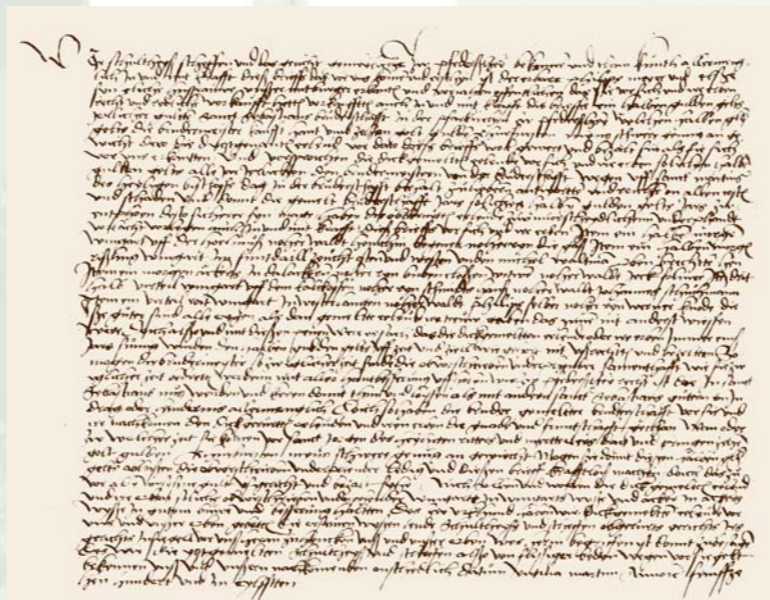
Viniculture in Worms is, of course, not restricted to the 18 hectares around the Church of Our Lady. Along the southern city wall, there is the historic "Luginsland" vineyard (2), which is managed by the "Liebfrauenstift" wine-growing estate and brings the issue into the city. But Worms is, primarily thanks to a number of prominent wine-making districts, such as Herrnsheim, Abenheim, Horchheim, Heppenheim or Pfeddersheim, one of the major wine-making cities of the Federal Republic of Germany.

In numerous events, from the Pfeddersheim vintners' fountain to the Herrnsheimer Weinsommer to the Backfishfest, in wine walks, wine tastings and vineyard cottage awards and, of course, at the parish fairs at the end of the year, wine is at the centre. It is completely compatible with tradition, brings out the local dialect, goes down well with classical music and jazz and brings distinction



to any reception. Poetry and songs are written in its honour, it is expertly and lovingly appreciated in all kinds of non-fiction books and presented by the most charming women, the numerous wine queens and wine princesses. A Backfishfest procession without all the lovely majesties is inconceivable. The largest district of Worms, Pfeddersheim (4) still has a special trump card to play. It has a document from 1511 that proves that Riesling was grown that early. Indeed, the former free imperial city was known for good wine even earlier, as numerous documents and passages of text verify. And from later times too, there are corresponding reports. Even Martin Luther was aware of the good Pfeddersheim wine. The fact that the local nursery was extended to become the central wine-growing station for Rheinhessen under the management of the prominent wine-grower Georg Scheu at the start of the last century also speaks in favour of the Pfeddersheim wine.

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JAHRE
RIESLING
URKUNDE
Pfeddersheim
1511-2011



The Worms wine-growers have immortalised their exquisite export goods in the so-called vintners' fountain (3), ingeniously conceived and excellently constructed by Gustav Nonnenmacher and located in the centre of the city. It portrays the cultural history of viniculture from Noah to the Greeks, demonstrates how much pleasure and joie de vivre can be provided by wine if it is consumed to the right degree, and illustrates the journey of the wine from the grape to the vat. How it turns out does not just depend on the expertise of the wine-grower. He only has to call on St. Urban, who is the patron saint of vines, or the Virgin Mary, whose milk has the sweetness of wine.

Anyone who visits Worms can enjoy local wine in restaurants and wine taverns, or taste it at wine tastings and wine festivals. The Worms Wine Fair, which takes place every year in November, provides a comprehensive overview. White wine lovers have the choice of Müller-Thurgau, Riesling, Silvaner, Kerner and Pinot gris, red wine fans can choose between Dornfelder, Portugieser, Pinot noir, Regent, St. Laurent and Merlot.



TIP
From April until October, the tourist information office offers a public guided tour on the subject of "Church of Our Lady - Gothic style in the vineyard" (every 4th Sunday of the month, 14:00, meeting at the Church of Our Lady).
Further information at www.weinstadt-worms.de