



# Bad Salzuflen

*...ich fühl' mich wohl.*

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## INFORMATION GRADIERWERK

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### Gradierwerke (Salt Works)

Salt works – often wrongly termed „salinas“ – derive from times when in Bad Salzuflen the formerly so highly esteemed “white gold” was extracted through salt works. This extraction of salt was, however, terminated in 1945. In former days the “Gradierwerke” were part of the Salinas, nowadays they are an outstanding tourist attraction.

The oldest salt works were erected by Freiherr (Count) von Beust in 1767 and had the purpose of “upgrading” the approximately 8% brine of the wells through a natural evaporation process, so that the resulting brine had a salt content of 24% after 8 times trickling over blackthorn walls. Thus it was possible to gain up to 24 kg salt from 100 litres of brine and no longer 8 kg. With less energy the effect was trebled. This meant that suddenly wood felling in the Salzuflen forest – up to then amounting to 52,000 solid metres/ p.a. – could be considerably reduced.

Today the 400 meter long salt works, the second largest of their kind in Germany, are not only lovable relics from older times, but create in the closer area a seaside-like climate which serves as an outdoor-inhalation centre particularly with diseases of the respiratory organs. 300,000 litres of brine daily trickle over a 7,000 square metres large evaporation area by the connected oxidation process. Gypsum and iron are separated from the mineral water. These are deposited on the blackthorn walls and are responsible for the brown colour of the walls which seem to be white during very hot summer days caused by gypsum deposits.

The sintering process has the effect that the salt works are gradually getting overgrown and have to be renewed in intervals between 8 and 12 years.