

SOUTHERN GARDENS

The southern side of the gardens comprises five terraces. This area was used for growing grapevines and also served as an orchard. Trellises (wooden supports affixed to the walls) also covered the ground floor of the castle. The grapes were processed in the castle's cider house and distillery. The southern terraces are not axially symmetrical; they are taller and narrower than those in the western garden. On the right is the refectory. The gardens are accessible from both the first and last terraces of the western garden via a series of staircases and gates. Regional literature from the last century reveals the presence of an orangery and heated greenhouses, where numerous exotic plants were cultivated. These were situated on the right side of this garden, beneath the aforementioned refectory. Period photographs from the turn of the 20th century also depict another structure, an orangery or greenhouse, which was architecturally connected to the first terrace below the castle. On the opposite side, to the left, there is another refectory, which again is accessible via brick steps.



Upper terrace of the Southern Gardens



Orangery and greenhouses in the Southern Gardens



THE CASTLE SURROUNDINGS – TRAILS THROUGH THE HOPS AND THE HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE

The landscape surrounding the castle grounds conceals two educational trails. Both begin at the local square, near a tourist sign informing visitors not only of the length and difficulty of the trails, but also what they offer visitors. Follow these trails to discover an area that has been home to hops for nearly 10,000 years. You will learn why this remarkable vine thrives specifically in the Žatec region and gain insights into its seemingly unremarkable life.

The historical tour will guide you around the surroundings of the castle, introducing you to its history, as well as that of the local community, including prominent local figures and landmarks. On this trail, you will find a chapel above a mineral spring, believed to possess healing – even miraculous – properties. It was established after 1766 above a spring discovered in 1750. The then-castle chaplain, a member of the Franciscan Order named Abundus Krempelsetzer, was responsible for this. The healing effects of the water were first described by a doctor with a suspiciously Irish-sounding name, Ó Réily, and its composition was thoroughly examined by physician Wolf, who wrote a learned treatise on it that was published in Prague in 1770. By the 1820s, the spring was no longer in use. Hopefully, this healing spring will be restored in the future. In the photograph to the right, the chapel is marked with a blue symbol.



The baroque granary from the second half of the 18th century, featuring baroque gables, dormers on the roof, and the coat of arms of the Kulháneks from Klaudenstein and Hohenembs (the family crest of Count Jan František Kulhánek of Klaudenstein's wife), marks the boundary of today's heritage conservation zone in the village. It was used for storing grain and later for processing hops.

