

The village of Hunawihr

Located on the Alsace Wine Route, Hunawihr is a typical Alsace village set against a background of vineyards. Overlooking the village, the church of St Jacques le Majeur (15th-16th centuries), surrounded with its walled cemetery, preserves an environment which remains intact and provides the perfect setting for this exceptional whole. The village consists of winegrower houses with their gable ends stretching out over the street. Most of these houses were built in the 16th to the 18th centuries (although there are a few dating back to the 15th century). In these houses, the stone-built ground floor served as a storeroom while the upper floor, usually timber-framed, was the dwelling. This landscape and architectural heritage makes Hunawihr one of the "Most Beautiful Villages in France" (Plus Beaux Villages de France).



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A little history...

As legend would have it, Hunawihr was founded in the 7th century by Hunon and his wife Hune to whom Hunawihr owes its name. Hunon left the village to the Saint-Dié monastery in the Vosges. During the 13th century, Hunawihr formed part of the lands of the Lord of Riquewihr, owned by the Bishops of Strasbourg who had granted it as a fiefdom to the lords of Horbourg.

In about 1324, the counts of Horbourg sold their assets to the Count Ulrich of Wurttemberg, their cousin.

In 1397, count Eberhard II of Wurttemberg, through his marriage to the heiress to the county of Montbéliard, enabled the powerful counts of Wurttemberg-Montbéliard to remain owners of the Riquewihr seigneurie up until the French Revolution. The County of Wurttemberg was elevated to the rank of Duchy in 1495.

On the 15th April 1520, the village church was designated as a pilgrim centre at the behest of Duke Ulrich VIII of Wurttemberg, responding to a request from his subjects who sought to show their devotion to Hune. Hune was raised to the rank of saint because of her work with the

poor (the legend tells us that Saint Hune would wash the clothes of the poor in the fountain that bears her name. She has also been attributed with miracles such as causing the fountain to spout wine during a bad grape harvest year). The church of Saint-Jacques-le-Majeur in Hunawihr became a pilgrimage centre focusing on the relics of Saint Hune which were then kept in the church's crypt.

In 1534, Georges of Wurttemberg introduced the Protestant religion into Hunawihr. Initially, the village followed the Zwingli (Swiss) inspired Reformation promoted by father Nicolas Koenig who had become a pastor (this pastor significantly helped propagate this movement to neighbouring villages). Georges of Wurttemberg's successor imposed the Lutheran religion in 1559.

In 1687, under Louis XIV, it again became possible to be a practicing Catholic in Hunawihr: the simultaneum was put in place and, to this day, the church is still in dual use by both the Protestant and Catholic communities.



ALSACEZ
-VOUS!

Hunawihr



The fortified church.



Fountain, rue de l'église.



Timber-framed houses.

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Office de Tourisme du



Ribeauvillé : 1 Grand'rue • Riquewihr : 2 rue de la 1^{ère} Armée

www.ribeauville-riquewihr.com

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To round off your visit:

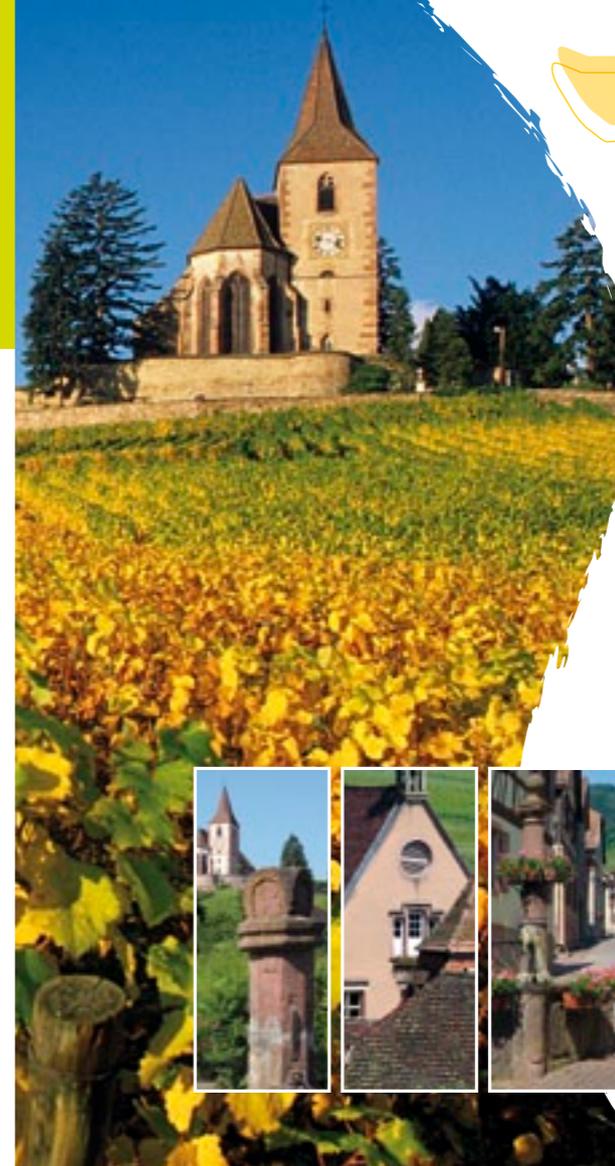
- **Take part in the guided tours:** ■ in July and August: guided tours* of the church and of the village of Hunawihr (tours offered by the Hunawihr Association of Friends of the Historic Church). ■ From mid July to mid September: a walk with commentary* along the Major Wines Trail, in the company of a wine grower, followed by a visit to a cellar and a wine-tasting (an unaccompanied walk is also possible throughout the year: guidebooks available from the Tourist Office).
- **Discover the animal nature reserves of Hunawihr:** the Stork and Otter re-introduction Centre and the Butterfly Garden.
- **Please ask the Tourist Office for the following brochures:**
 - "Hunawihr, a voyage into history*" (published by the Parc naturel régional des Ballons des Vosges),
 - "The fortified church of Hunawihr*" (published by Hunawihr Association of Friends of the Historic Church). (* Only in french).

Glossary (see items underlined on the itinerary).

- **The communal stove (Ratstube):** the Town Council house (ancestor of the Town Hall); the council was made up of one Provost Marshal and 3 to 5 councillors chosen from the village's notables, responsible for administrative and financial matters, civil and criminal cases as sworn members of the seigniorial court (see point 2 of the itinerary).
- **The tithe court:** the place where the tithe was lodged (tax remitted in kind, usually 1/10th of the annual cereal crop or wine produce, levied by the clergy). In Hunawihr, the tithe has always been paid to the Saint-Dié chapter in white wine only (see point 2 of the itinerary).
- **Dates, initials and emblems:** In Alsace, it was customary to carve, usually on door lintels or gate arches, trade emblems (which identified the function of the owner of the house in much the same way as shop signs do today), the date the house was built and the initials of the owners.
 - **The cooper's emblem:** a mallet and two crossed clamps used to hold the barrel staves together with a hoop. This frequently found emblem is indicative of the comfortable life enjoyed by coopers (see point 3 of the itinerary).
 - **The gourmet's emblem (star):** a sworn person acting as intermediary between the wine sellers or consumers on the one hand and the wine growing producers on the other, an appointment often granted to innkeepers (see points 6 15 of the itinerary).
 - **The butcher's emblem (chopper)** (see point 9 of the itinerary).
 - **The baker's emblem (pretzel)** (see point 7 of the itinerary).

Hunawihr

The church in the heart of the vineyards



Pays de
Ribeauvillé et Riquewihr

- AUBURE
- BEBLENHEIM
- BENNWIHR
- BERGHEIM
- GUEMAR
- HUNAWIHR**
- ILLHAEUSERN
- MITTELWIHR
- OSTHEIM
- RIBEAUVILLE
- RIQUEWIHR
- RODERN
- RORSCHWIHR
- SAINTE-HIPPOLYTE
- THANNENKIRCH
- ZELLENBERG

A village, its history, a voyage of discovery.



A voyage of discovery

1 House located 2 Grand'Rue

Dating back to 1566, this house has an asymmetrical Renaissance style window. Its lintel features sculptured reversed cockle shells, reminding us that the village of Hunawihr is situated on the St James of Compostela pilgrim's route.

2 The Renaissance house (5 Grand'Rue)

This house, entirely constructed of stone, was erected in 1610 by Heinrich Schickhardt (architect in the service of the Duke Frederick the 1st of Wurttemberg, who was a military engineer, a property developer and an inventor of machines) at the request of the Provost Marshal and his councillors, for the purpose of housing the communal stove.

From the courtyard in this house, we can see:

- on the door lintel, in the very centre of the arch over the access to the cellar, the Hunawihr coat of arms with the initials "HW" (Hunawihr) and the date of construction (1610).

- over the entrance door to the house, the great coat of arms of the Duchy of Wurttemberg-Montbéliard in the centre surrounded by the 4 coats of arms of the Provost Marshal Mathias Braun and of the magistrates assistants sitting in 1610.

In 1731, financial problems forced the village to sell this building to the cooper and to the tithe master Jean-Jacques Greiner, a wealthy burgher of Hunawihr. The building was then used as a tithe court until the French Revolution. Since then and up until now, it has been used as an inn trading under a variety of names.

3 House located 10 Grand'Rue

In 1572, Lazare Enderlin had his initials sculptured on the porch to his property, the cooper's emblem and a small cross, symbol of "the end" ("Das Ende" in German).

4 House located 12 Grand'Rue

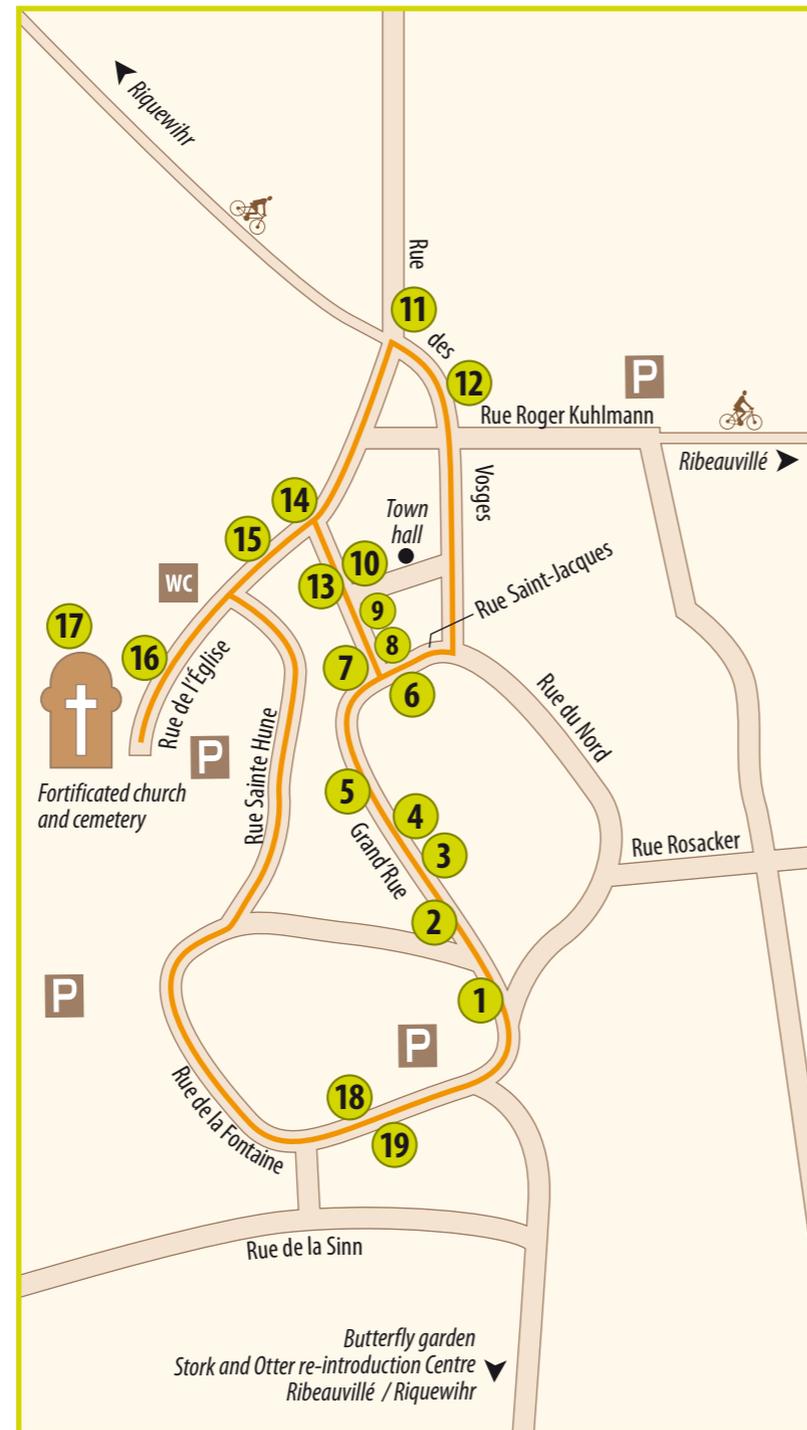
Many nails have been hammered into the timber frame of this imposing dwelling. The purpose of these nails was not to consolidate the timber frame structure but to provide a key for the rendering that was applied over the timber frame during the 17th century.

5 House located 13 Grand'Rue

Not to be overlooked on the house: the initials and the date (1733).

6 House located 2 rue Saint-Jacques

On the door lintel over the door that used to open out onto a garden can be seen the date 1730, the initials of Hans David Binder (HD. B.) and his coat of arms. The gourmet's emblem is represented by a star. Hans David Binder (1672-1750), pewter ware manufacturer from Riquewihr, took up the trade of gourmet when he set up home in Hunawihr in 1708.



7 House located 19 Grand'Rue. Not to be overlooked on the house: the baker's emblem, the initials and the date (1733).

8 Timber-framed houses (house located on the corner of the Grand'Rue with the rue St-Jacques)

This wine grower's house is undoubtedly the oldest of Hunawihr. It consists of a stone-built ground floor and timber-framed upper floors with slightly curved timbers, typical of the end of the 15th century.

Original features:

- a single arch porch added in 1566 decorated in the Gothic style (human heads),
- a cellar window looking out onto the Grand'Rue and closed by means of a sliding stone sculpted to provide 4 catches.

9 House located at 26 Grand'Rue. Not to be overlooked on the house: the butcher's emblem, the initials and the date (1756).

10 The old grain market (1 rue de la Mairie)

The building work, on this Renaissance style building, began in 1517. It housed the grain market on the ground floor and, over time, on the 1st floor:

- during the 16th century, the "Bürgerstube" or "Chambre des Bourgeois" [Burghers' Chamber] (a place where burghers used to meet),
- from 1728, the communal stove (the village no longer had the means to maintain the Renaissance house) (see point 2 of the itinerary).
- after the French Revolution, the town hall.

Above the door, in the form of a segmented arc, there is a sculptured panel dating back to 1517. It features the 4 coats of arms and helmets of the duchies and seigneuries that governed Hunawihr: the antlers (wood) of the deer of the Duchy of Wurttemberg, Duchy of Teck's rhombuses, the Montbéliard county fish and the banner of the Holy Roman Germanic Empire.

Original feature: the opening in the left side of the gate housed a mechanism that rang a bell located at the top of the building.

11 House located 6 rue des Vosges

On the lintel to the arched door to this house, there are carvings dating back to 1565 which could represent the emblem of a maker of ladies' hairpins.

12 The 5 small day labourer cottages (38 rue des Vosges)

Here, covering an area of a little more than 3 ares, there are still 4 of the 5 houses that were occupied by a linen weaver, a winegrower, a wine farm worker (a farm worker paid on a daily rate) and a rural policeman working for an owner or for the village community.

13 The Protestant presbytery (31 Grand'Rue)

In 1825, the village purchased this building, which dates back to 1750 and includes a courtyard and outbuildings, to house the Protestant presbytery. The building features the main architectural characteristics of the period: cornerstones and cross walls frame the rendered walls, windows with segmented arches, an entrance door with its pediment decorated with volutes, a roof with long sloping sections.

14 Hunawihr's most monumental fountain (in front of the 2 rue de l'Église)

This fountain comprises a column topped by a sphere, a sculptured main trough and 2 side basins (originally part of the Ste-Hune fountain) and goes back to the 17th century.

15 The 'key' inn called "Zum Schlüssel" (8 rue de l'Église)

The inn was located on a thoroughfare that was mainly frequented on Sundays and religious feast days. The porch's pink sandstone lintel features a date (1567), some initials and a coat of arms (a key, the emblem of the inn, surrounded by stars, emblems of the gourmets).

16 The Catholic presbytery (rue de l'Église)

This presbytery was built in 1750, at the same time as the Protestant presbytery. As in the case of its Protestant counterpart, the Catholic presbytery was not built in the timber-framed style because, at that time (1740-1760) the use of timber as a building material was banned in order to allow forests to recover. After 1965, this building ceased to be occupied by the village priest.

17 The church Saint-Jacques-le-Majeur and the fortified cemetery (rue de l'Église)

The Hunawihr church was built from the 15th to the 16th centuries, over the foundations of the first 11th century church. The present day church, dedicated to Saint-Jacques-le-Majeur, is surrounded by fortifications which also enclose the Catholic cemetery (its Protestant counterpart being located outside the fortification).

The inner walls of the bell tower are covered with paintings in the sub-Rhenish style representing: on the left, the life and miracles of saint Nicholas (in 14 paintings that can be dated to the end of the 15th century) and, on the right, the Virgin Mary being crowned by the Trinity. These wall paintings had been covered over during the Reformation. They were discovered in 1878 and restored in 1968.

The asymmetrical nave (2 sections of differing sizes) was built in 1537 during the Reformation and has a ceiling. This feature is typical of the architecture of that period.

The gallery houses the oldest "French organ" (1765), by the organ maker Callinet, to be found in Alsace.

Original feature: although unusual in its layout and undoubtedly unique in Alsace, access to the pulpit is by a rear stairway and a passage cut into the pillar.

THE SIMULTANEUM put in place in Hunawihr in 1687, refers to the practice of using the same church for worship by both the Catholic and Protestant religions (staggering worshipping days or times or one religion in the choir and another in the naves). Following on from the reported raised in 1674 by his minister Louvois (revealing the large number of churches in Alsace devoted to Protestantism), Louis XIV ordained that the choirs of churches should be returned to the Catholics when a village had at least seven Catholic families.

18 The Sainte-Hune fountain and the wash house (place de la Sinn / rue de la Fontaine)

The rue de la Fontaine was once known as "rue de la Sinn" ("place of gauging" in the Alsace dialect) because this was where the coopers, vat makers and pail makers (craftsmen producing these articles in wood) brought their barrels, vats and other recipients to check their capacity.

The Sainte-Hune fountain is mentioned since 1334; it can also be found on a 1752 map of Hunawihr. The wash house near the Sainte-Hune fountain dates back to the 19th and early 20th centuries. The wash house is covered over by a vast roof that offered washerwomen protection from sun, rain and snow.

19 The old weaving mill (3-5 rue de la Fontaine)

This group is currently used as housing and is part of the Eastern extension of Hunawihr carried out during the mid 19th century. It was here that the Weisgerber business from Ribeauvillé created a small weaving unit that increased the population of Hunawihr to 1186 inhabitants. After the beginning of the 20th century, the textile crisis saw textile activities decline and the factory was closed down.