

Euxinograd

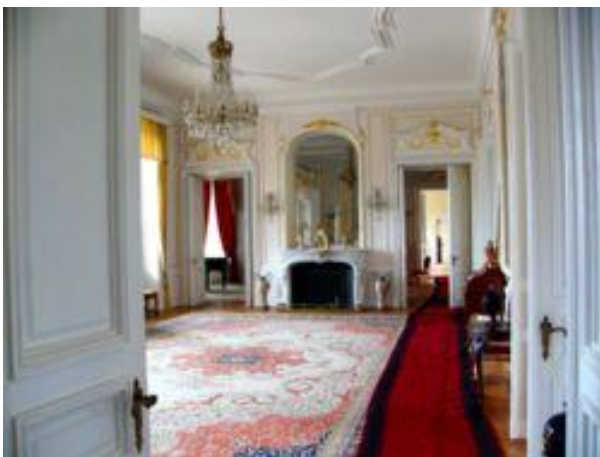


View of the Euxinograd palace

Euxinograd ([Bulgarian](#): Евксиноград [ɛf.'ksi.nu.grat], also transliterated as **Evksinograd** or **Euxinograde**) is a former late 19th-century [Bulgarian](#) royal summer palace and park on the [Black Sea](#) coast, 8 [km](#) north of the city of [Varna](#). It is currently a governmental and presidential residence.

History

The construction of the palace began soon after the land which it occupies was given to [Knyaz Alexander of Bulgaria](#) as a present by the [Greek bishopric](#) on [16 March 1882](#). There had previously been small monasteries called St Demetrius and St Constantine at that place, the buildings of which were subsequently converted into another small residence.



The interior

[Viennese architect Viktor Rumpelmayer](#) designed the palace, which was named *Sandrovo* in 1885 after the [Italian diminutive](#) of Alexander's name — Sandro. Later the knyaz extended the estate to its contemporary area of 80 [hectares](#). However, no palace was built at that time.

The palace was built by [Tsar]] [Ferdinand](#). The pediment and other materials of the right wing of *château Saint-Cloud* in France, one of the private residences of the House of Orleans, was brought to Bulgaria by king Ferdinand and integrated in Euxinograd palace. He invited the [Swiss](#) architect Hermann Mayer and Bulgarian architect Nikola Lazarov. The palace was renamed *Euxinograd* in 1893 on the insistence of Knyaginya [Marie Louise](#), Ferdinand's first wife. The name comes from the [Ancient Greek](#) term for the Black Sea, Ευξεινος Πόντος (*Euxeinos Pontos*, "hospitable sea") and the [South Slavic](#) suffix *-grad*, meaning "town" or, historically, "fortress".

Tsar Ferdinand's second wife, [Tsaritsa Eleonore](#), died in Euxinograd on [12 September 1917](#).

After the abolishment of the monarchy in Bulgaria through an illegal referendum held in the presence of the Soviet army in 1946, Euxinograd became a summer residence of the then-[Communist](#) authorities. The democratic changes in 1989 made the former royal palace a presidential and governmental residence and opened it for the public.

Buildings

Modelled after the [French Château de Saint-Cloud](#), Euxinograd is often considered to be one of the finest examples of post-[Liberation](#) architecture in Bulgaria. After the French chateau was destroyed in 1870, Ferdinand bought the [pediment](#) of its right-hand wing for the Euxinograd palace in 1890–1891. The palace was designed after the French 18th-century *château* style, with a high metal-edged French roof, figured brickwork and a [clock tower](#).



The statue of Neptune

Euxinograd has three storeys: the first housing the reception halls, the music hall and the dining room, the second being the place where the chambers of the royal family are located, and the third intended for the staff. The furniture is made of [mahogany](#) and [walnut](#) wood and the giant chandelier decorated with a royal crown and gold lilies is a gift from the [House of Bourbon](#). The doorhandles of the toilets bear the coat of arms of Tsar Ferdinand. The [sundial](#), a gift from [Queen Victoria](#), is another object of interest.

The palace's [wine cellar](#) was created in 1891 for the needs of the Bulgarian royal family and takes up two underground floors. It still produces high-quality white wine (12 varieties) and brandy (7 varieties). The wine produced in the palace nowadays is thought of as one of the best in Bulgaria. The Euxinograd cellar also preserves valuable 125-year-old French wines since the Liberation of Bulgaria. In addition, Euxinograd also has a former royal stable called *Shtala* (Щала; from [German Stall](#)).

Park

The Euxinograd park, the arrangement of which began in 1890 and took several decades, is home to over 310 plant varieties from [Asia](#), [South America](#), [North Africa](#) and [Southern France](#), said to be picked out by Ferdinand himself. It occupies an area of over 550 decares. The park is a combination of [English](#) and French styles and was finished by [Édouard André](#). It has two bridges, a metal one and a cement one, which imitates a felled tree. The area is surrounded by vineyards.

The tiny Kestrichka Bara River flows through the park. The park also features a small lake full of lilies, French-made bronze figures and a sculpture of [Neptune](#). More than 50,000 trees were purchased from [Marseille](#) and fertile soil was brought from the mouth of the [Kamchiya River](#).

