

# Colmar



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Class 3C

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**Colmar** is the capital of the department. Colmar is also the seat of the highest jurisdiction in Alsace, the [appellate court](#). It is situated along the [Alsatian Wine Route](#) and it is considered the "Capital of Alsatian Wine" (*capitale des vins d'Alsace*).



In 2006, the city of Colmar had a population of 65,713 and the [metropolitan area](#) of Colmar had a population of 120,367. Colmar is the centre of the [arrondissement of Colmar](#), which had 144,700 inhabitants in 2006

## History

Colmar was founded in the 9th century. This was the location where [Charles the Fat](#) held a [diet](#) in 884.



Colmar was granted the status of a free imperial city of the [Holy Roman Empire](#) in 1226. In 1575, the city adopted the [Protestant Reformation](#).

During the [Thirty Years' War](#), the city was taken by the armies of [Sweden](#) in 1632, who held it for two years. The city was conquered by France under [Louis XIV](#) in 1673. In 1679 ([Treaties of Nijmegen](#)) Colmar was ceded to France. With the rest of Alsace, Colmar was annexed by the newly formed German Empire in 1871 as a result of the [Franco-Prussian War](#).

It returned to France after [World War I](#), was annexed by Nazi Germany in 1940, and then reverted to French control after the battle of the "[Colmar Pocket](#)" in 1945.

Colmar has been continuously governed by conservative parties since 1947, the [Popular Republican Movement](#) (1947–1977), the [Union for French Democracy](#) (1977–1995) and the [Union for a Popular Movement](#) (since 1995), and has had only three mayors during that time.

## Geography

Colmar is 64 kilometres (40 mi) south-southwest of [Strasbourg](#), at 48.08°N, 7.36°E, on the [Lauch River](#), directly to the east of the [Vosges Mountains](#). It is connected to the [Rhine](#) by a [canal](#).



## Gastronomy

Colmar is the wine capital of Alsace, with its fabulous and gives us wonderful local vineyards and excellent wines and here we recall in particular the fresh Pinot Blanc, the slight Chasselas, the higher the royal Gewurztraminer and Muscat.

## Architectural landmarks

Colmar's secular and religious architectural landmarks reflect eight centuries of Germanic and French architecture and the adaptation of their respective stylistic language to the local customs and building materials (pink and yellow [Vosges sandstone](#), [timber framing](#)).



- **Monuments**

- In Colmar, there are several monuments such as Monument du Général Rapp - 1856 (first shown 1855 in [Paris](#). Statue by Bartholdi, his earliest major work)
- Monument Hirn - 1894 (Statue by Bartholdi)
- Statue "Les grands soutiens du monde" - 1902 (in the courtyard of the Bartholdi Museum)
- Statue of Liberty replica

## Little Venice

In use since antiquity, for example, the channel now known as Petit Venise (Little Venice) remains one of the most scenic locations in the city, typical Alsatian neighborhood with old houses,



the marina  
and the old  
town  
pedestrian  
emerge  
where many  
typical  
souvenir  
shops , toys  
and  
gourmet  
shops.