

At the turn of the century The Principality of Monaco was an absolute monarchy. The Emperor Albert Honoré Charles Grimaldi or Albert I. (1848-1922) in 1889 succeeded his father Charles III and continued to modernize Monaco. Soon the railway arrived to Monaco and the company Société des bains de mer was founded. The plan was to develop tourism and in several years the health spa, the casino, the theater and several hotels and restaurants were built. Albert I. turned the Principality from fishing and olive area into a modern tourist resort, which attracted primarily wealthy guests who have come to Monaco to enjoy life and to amuse themselves.

PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Not only the fresh sea air, lush vegetation in the landscaped parks and favorable temperature all year round, but also luxury hotels with hot water, steam baths, excellent cuisine and fine wines made guests feel that they are something special. The majority of buildings the guests were staying in or were visiting were built by high architecture standards and were repeatedly renovated according to the plans by famous architects of the time. Monaco was considered to be the place where the red carpet can easily bring ruin and shame, to the family whose son, father (and even grandfather) is driven by the desire to have fun there. Until 1911, when Albert I. was forced to give residents the constitution Monaco was city, county and state in one. It was then divided into three municipalities: Monaco-Ville, La Condamine and Monte Carlo. The presented exhibit is a kind of a walk through the three main parts of the principality.



General view, the Casino and the prince's castle.

Litography. Editor: Charles Glogau, Nica, C.K.Z. Dep. No. 441. Undevided back.

Sent on 29.1.1897 from Monaco to Bad Homburg (Germany).

The Plan:

1. **MONACO** – the most glamorous winter resort in Europe
2. **MONACO-VILLE** – the oldest, administrative district of Monaco
3. **LA CONDAMINE** – commercial district with the port
4. **MONTE CARLO** – the youngest, fashionable district of the Principality

Quite a few of exhibited postcards are of type TCV (Timbre sur côte vue), which means that the postage stamp has been affixed and postmarked on the picture of the postcard. They are not maximum cards but only the reflection of the habits of that time.