

Station 5 – Villa Benzino

The Benzino family – a merchant family who immigrated 1700 from north Italy – lived at first in Kusel. 1730 a part of the family who bought already considerable fortune comprising real estate at the beginning of the 19th century, settled itself in Landstuhl.

Joseph Johann Benzino, the probably most known member of the Benzino family, was as a party appointed representative of the national liberal into the Bavarian Landtag in Munich in 1863.

The representative villa in north Italian style was built in 1841 and back then they lovingly called it 'Schlösschen' (small castle).

Benzino was not only a business man and a politician; he was also an art enthusiast, collector and expert of contemporary art.

Therefore the small castle was extended in 1864 to house the meanwhile considerable collection of paintings, which later became the basis of the Pfalzgalerie Kaiserslautern.