

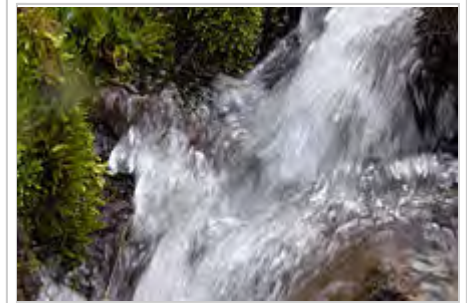
Mineral water

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Mineral water is water from a mineral spring that contains various minerals, such as salts and sulfur compounds. Mineral water may be effervescent or "sparkling" due to contained gases.

Traditionally, mineral waters were used or consumed at their spring sources, often referred to as "taking the waters" or "taking the cure," at places such as spas, baths, or wells. The term *spa* was used for a place where the water was consumed and bathed in; *bath* where the water was used primarily for bathing, therapeutics, or recreation; and *well* where the water was to be consumed.

Today, it is far more common for mineral water to be bottled at the source for distributed consumption. Travelling to the mineral water site for direct access to the water is now uncommon, and in many cases not possible because of exclusive commercial ownership rights. There are more than 3,000 brands of mineral water commercially available worldwide.^[1]



A mineral water spring at Sabalan Mountain, Iran.

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Locations

Active tourist centres have grown up around many mineral water sites since ancient times, such as Rogaška Slatina (Slovenia), Radenci (Slovenia), Rionero in Vulture (Italy), Piešťany (Slovakia), Hisarya (Bulgaria), Bílina (Czech Republic), Vichy (France), Birštonas (Lithuania), Jermuk (Armenia), Yessentuki (Russia), Kislovodsk (Russia), Spa (Belgium), Sodere (Ethiopia), Krynica-Zdrój (Poland), Sulphur Baths (Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia), Bath (England), Khorog (Tajikistan), or Karlovy Vary (Czech Republic). In Romania^{[2][3]} resorts developed since antiquity in places such as Băile Herculane, Geoagiu or Slănic. Tourist development resulted in spa towns and hydropathic hotels (often shortened to "hydros").

Composition

The more calcium and magnesium ions that are dissolved in water, the *harder* it is said to be; water with few dissolved calcium and magnesium ions is described as being *soft*.^[4]

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration classifies mineral water as water containing at least 250 parts per million total dissolved solids (TDS), originating from a geologically and physically protected underground water source. No minerals may be added to this water.^[5] In many places, however, the term "mineral water" is colloquially used to mean any bottled carbonated water or soda water, as opposed to tap water.



Mineral water.

In the European Union, bottled water may be called mineral water when it is bottled at the source and has undergone no or minimal treatment.^[6] Permitted is the removal of iron, manganese, sulfur and arsenic through decantation, filtration or treatment with ozone-enriched air, in so far as this treatment does

not alter the composition of the water as regards the essential constituents which give it its properties. No additions are permitted except for carbon dioxide, which may be added, removed or re-introduced by exclusively physical methods. No disinfection treatment is permitted, nor is the addition of any bacteriostatic agents.

See also

- Bottled water
- Drinking water
- Lithia water
- Mineral spa
- Water quality

References

1. Mineral Waters of the World, *Home page* (<http://www.mineralwaters.org/>)
2. București, stațiune balneară – o glumă bună? (<http://www.capital.ro/detalii-articole/stiri/bucuresti-statiune-balneara-o-gluma-buna-115796.html>) in Capital, 19 January 2009. Retrieved: 26 April 2011
3. Ruinele de la Baile Herculane si Borsec nu mai au nimic de oferit (<http://www.zf.ro/ziarul-de-duminica/reportajul-saptamanii-ruinele-de-la-baile-herculane-si-borsec-nu-mai-au-nimic-de-oferit-6092451>) in Ziarul Financiar, 5 May 2010. Retrieved: 26 April 2011
4. "Hard Water". USGS. 8 April 2014. Retrieved 16 May 2015.
5. FDA U.S. Food and Drug Administration, *Regulation of Bottled Water: Appendix: "Mineral Water"* (<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Testimony/ucm170932.htm>) Retrieved 28 March 2010
6. EU Directive 2009/54/EC (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32009L0054:EN:NOT>)

Bibliography

- LaMoreaux, Philip E.; Tanner, Judy T, eds. (2001), *Springs and bottled water of the world: Ancient history, source, occurrence, quality and use*, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer-Verlag, ISBN 3-540-61841-4, retrieved 13 July 2010

External links

- Bottled Water of the World: Worldwide Bottled Water Brands Listed by Country



Wikimedia Commons has media related to ***mineral waters***.



Look up ***mineral water*** in Wiktionary, the free dictionary.

(http://www.finewaters.com/Bottled_Water/index.asp)

- Eupedia: *List of European mineral water brands with mineral analysis* (http://www.eupedia.com/europe/european_mineral_waters.shtml)
- What is mineral water made of (<http://www.h2oo.in>)

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