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FELDSCHLÖSSCHEN BREWERY

Ron Smith



TITLE PICTURE: The old preserved Rheinfelden station opposite the current SBB version.

INSET: An old coach in a Feldschlösschen livery.

ABOVE & BELOW: Some of the company's freight wagons in a siding.

All photos: Ron Smith



Feldschlösschen brewery is one of the biggest in Switzerland and the company claims that one of the reasons for its success was its early adoption, in 1876, of rail for distribution throughout Switzerland, allowing it to gain economies of scale over the many local breweries that existed at that time. In 1889 it had its own siding put in at Rheinfelden, and when the SBB was created in 1902 Feldschlösschen was already an important client. In 2012 the brewery despatched 255,00t of its product - 60% of its output – a total of 12,360 wagonloads. It also received via the SBB some 20,000t of malt in 400 wagons. Every day Feldschlösschen deliver beers and mineral water to over 30,000 customers, and it is continuously improving distribution methods and aiming to lower its carbon footprint by using more rail where possible. The site at Rheinfelden is adjacent to the SBB station and well worth a visit. The old station is preserved by them, across the tracks from the attractive modern station, and visitors are made very welcome at the brewery, where you will also find a 137 year-old Krauss Maffei 0-6-0 tank “Tigerli”, preserved by them along with some vintage rolling stock. The old town of Rheinfelden with its many attractive ancient buildings and pedestrianized centre is also worth a visit. ☑