

Vienna, Intl.

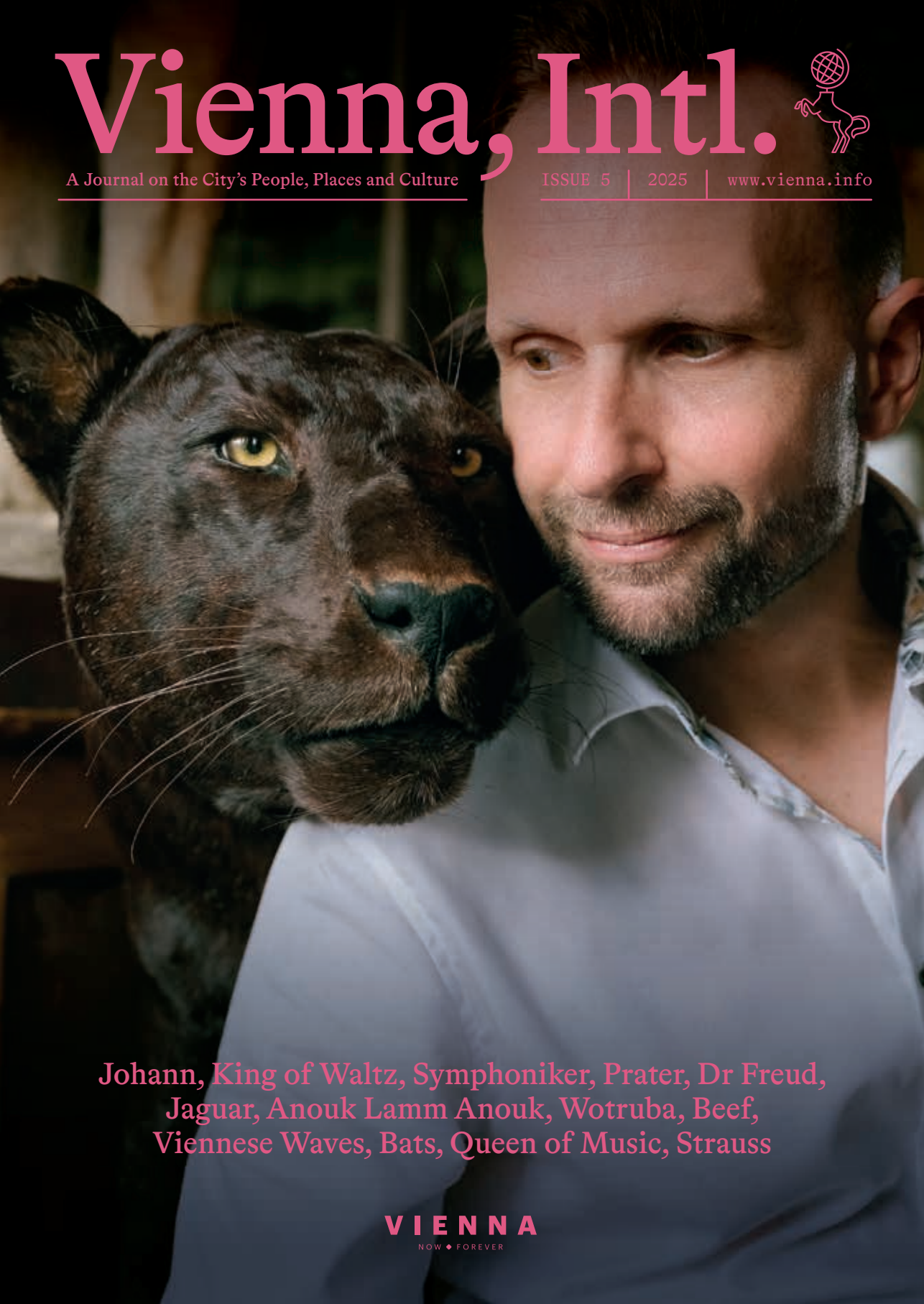


A Journal on the City's People, Places and Culture

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Johann, King of Waltz, Symphoniker, Prater, Dr Freud,
Jaguar, Anouk Lamm Anouk, Wotruba, Beef,
Viennese Waves, Bats, Queen of Music, Strauss

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Insider

KING of WALTZ QUEEN of MUSIC

200 YEARS OF
JOHANN STRAUSS
IN VIENNA



VIENNA

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Dear reader,

anyone who doesn't get goosebumps when they hear the first few notes of the Blue Danube waltz strike up at the annual New Year's Concert by the Vienna Philharmonic is in desperate need of a "refresher vacation" in Vienna. And there's no better time for it than 2025: the year that we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Johann Strauss II. Our theme, King of Waltz. Queen of Music, will not just be putting the Waltz King on a pedestal, it also celebrates his Queen: Vienna, City of Music. We've consciously taken the decision to pair up these two because it is only in Vienna that geniuses like Mozart, Beethoven, and Strauss could thrive and create such masterpieces. Each night, the capital's venues host around 10,000 concertgoers. Music is more popular here than soccer – and rightfully so, if you ask me.

Even so, anyone who knows Vienna will understand that 2025 won't just be one never-ending round of waltz nostalgia. Strauss was a pop star. I'd even go so far as to say he was the Taylor Swift of his time: like her, he turned the world on its head with his performances. Strauss moved the masses, hundreds of thousands flocked to his concerts. And not just in Vienna, but in Boston, London, and St. Petersburg, too. He made a lot of money, composing non-stop and selling the rights to his works to the highest bidder. The tabloids loved him, too: his three marriages provided plenty of material for the gossip columns. That's why we decided to add a pop-culture twist to the Strauss year key visual. You can see the result on the left. It was designed by young artist Julian Lee-Harather – you can read an interview with him on page 46. The image and typography are inspired by the bold and colorful concert posters used to advertise Strauss's performances at the time, as well as the elaborate sheet music designs of his day. And at the heart of it all, I probably don't need to say: the King and Queen. Alongside the Viennese waltz that Strauss perfected. In this edition of Vienna, Intl., you'll find everything you need to know about this superstar and his legendary music.

But that's not all: we explore various Viennese hotspots including the Wurstelprater amusement park and the New Danube, follow in the footsteps of Sigmund Freud, check in on Vienna's rising art star Anouk Lamm Anouk at home, and treat you to a generous serving of classic Viennese dish Tafelspitz. As you may have guessed, Vienna also loves commemorating the anniversaries of famous figures' deaths. Which explains why this issue in-



cludes a story on the sculptor Fritz Wotruba, who passed away 50 years ago. Not only did he live with a jackdaw named Hansi – he also created one of the most important examples of Viennese Brutalism: the Wotruba Church.

Sustainability and climate protection are subjects that are particularly close to our hearts. The city is implementing numerous initiatives in this area, such as a major project to revamp Vienna's sewer system and prevent pollution in the Wienfluss river (see page 42 for the inside story). The critical importance of Vienna's sewer network – which was originally laid out over a 100 years ago – was brought into sharp focus in mid-September 2024 during a sustained period of torrential rainfall: employees of public wastewater utility Wien Kanal worked tirelessly for four days and three nights to ensure that an astonishing 22 billion liters of rainwater were channeled safely out of the city. What an incredible achievement!

We can all see just how important climate protection is – which is why we are also using this edition of Vienna, Intl. to encourage our visitors to move around the city in the most environmentally conscious way possible. Something that's very straightforward in Vienna. That's why we've compiled ten tips for a sustainable stay in the city on page 112.

After all, it is through ideas like these that we want to ensure that Vienna remains the world's most livable city for a long time to come.

We're very much looking forward to your visit. Hopefully, you are too.

With best regards,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norbert Kettner'.

NORBERT KETTNER

Managing Director, Vienna Tourist Board



Music & Johann Strauss

A bouquet of music for the whole world,
because it's Johann's birthday.
200 divided by 125 equals 1.6,
which means absolutely nothing.

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Ten Questions for Eduard Strauss

Johann Strauss's great-grandnephew makes the case
for a kitsch-free approach to his ancestor's work.

10

King of Waltz & Queen of Music

Strauss was a pop star. He shaped Vienna's love affair with waltz.
And to mark the 200th anniversary of Strauss's birth,
we are celebrating not only him, but also his brilliant partner:
Vienna, Queen of Music.

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Following in Johann Strauss's Footsteps

Numerous locations in Vienna provide a reminder
of the musical genius. We show you various
Waltz King hotspots.

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Happy birthday! 125 Years of the Wiener Symphoniker

The orchestra of the city of Vienna celebrates its birthday.
We look back on a success story.



Ten Questions for *Eduard Strauss*

(Photo)
Paul BAUER

He is a true scion of the Strauss dynasty: Eduard Strauss, great-grandnephew of Johann Strauss II. A retired top judge, he is committed to ensuring that his family's history and music receive the careful, kitsch-free treatment they so richly deserve. Strauss has to be kept authentic, as Eduard explains in an interview given on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of his great-granduncle's birth.

Prof. Eduard Strauss
Great-grandnephew of
Johann Strauss II

President Emeritus of the Senate
of the Higher Regional Court, Vienna

Chairman of the Vienna Institute
for Strauss Research
www.johann-strauss.at

① **Are you proud of being a descendant of a superstar?**

No, I didn't have anything to do with it! But, that said, it is a big responsibility.

② **How are you protecting the family legacy?**

Through my work with the Vienna Institute for Strauss Research. We promote the authentic – and “historically informed” – performance of Strauss music.

③ **What do you admire your great-granduncle for?**

For his wonderful melodies. My favorite piece is the *Künstler-Leben* (“*Artist's Life*”), Op. 316 waltz.

④ **What should the world know about Johann Strauss II?**

He was a thoroughbred musician, and his music appealed to people from all walks of life.

⑤ **Why is Johann Strauss II still world-famous today?**

His music creates positive feelings. It goes straight to the heart and into the blood. Everyone understands it!

⑥ **His most impressive project?**

The creation of the Viennese operetta.

⑦ **What attitude to life is the Strauss dynasty synonymous with?**

Don't worry, be happy and dance.

⑧ **What is Vienna's most beautiful Strauss location in your eyes?**

The new *House of Strauss* at Casino Zögernitz.

⑨ **How would Johann Strauss live today?**

In a large, stunning villa in a flat area, with a pool table, surrounded by assistants from his “composing company”.

⑩ **How would you describe Vienna in five words?**

Livable, lovable, colorful, multi-layered. And – of course – musical, too. For me, Vienna is the world capital of music.

King of Waltz & Queen of Music



200 Years of Johann Strauss in Vienna

(Text)
Susanna BURGER

(Ball photos)
Paul BAUER



The world will be moving to the beat of the waltz in 2025 when the Waltz King and global superstar Johann Strauss II celebrates his 200th birthday alongside his Queen, Vienna – the world capital of music.



Johann Strauss II was nothing less than a pop star of his time, every inch as famous back then as Taylor Swift is today. And he is still as relevant as ever: his waltzes, which embody the joy and refinement of Viennese culture, continue to have us all dancing.

The Strauss Phenomenon

Neither continents nor the passing of the centuries proved to be barriers to success for Johann Strauss II. His melodies have the whole world in thrall. And to mark the 200th anniversary of his birth, Vienna is shining a light on Strauss, one of the city's brightest music stars of all. Johann Strauss (Oct 25, 1825 – Jun 3, 1899) is a true phenomenon: *Die Fledermaus* is the most famous operetta in the world, while his legendary Blue Danube waltz is the capital's (and Austria's) unofficial anthem. An essential element of the internationally celebrated and booming Viennese ball season, his waltzes never fail to fill the city's dance floors. They also feature prominently in the New Year's Concert by the Vienna Philharmonic, which draws TV audiences of some 50 million.

Queen of Music

The 2025 Strauss anniversary year will play out under „King of Waltz. Queen of Music“. Strauss was already revered as the *Walzerkönig* or Waltz King during his lifetime. And his Queen is Vienna, the world capital of music – and the only place where geniuses such as Mozart, Beethoven and Strauss were able to live up to their full creative potential. Just as Vienna provided a fertile breeding ground for Strauss in his day, cultural life continues to flourish to this day: Vienna's venues play host to some 10,000 visitors each night, the Danube Island Festival and the Film Festival on Rathausplatz draw in hundreds of thousands more each year, while the *ImPulsTanz* dance festival features shows of every stripe. And a host of Strauss events take center stage across the city. 2025 will see the King and Queen waltz together in perfect harmony: the superstar and the capital of music.

International Pop Star

Strauss combines everything that makes a star, even today: born in Vienna on October 25, 1825, Johann Strauss (Jr.) experienced a degree of popularity in his lifetime like no other. He had charisma, talent and a nose for business, and enjoyed international success with tours as far afield as the USA. Strauss was a true citizen of the world. At the 1872 World's Peace Jubilee and International Musical Festival in Boston, he conducted an orchestra of almost 1,000 musicians in front of an audience of 50,000.

And in Europe, his tours took him to numerous places in Germany and Italy, and he would repeat his summer engagements in Pavlovsk outside St. Petersburg eleven times. Johann Strauss gave 63 Promenade Concerts at the Covent Garden Theatre in London. He was also held in the highest regard in France, where his performances and the fashionable figure he cut at the 1867 World's Fair soon had the whole of Paris raving about him. Ultimately, he was made a Knight of the French Legion of Honor in 1877.

Celebrated Waltz King

Strauss shot to incredible fame. Also as a result of the competition between him and his father, Johann Strauss I. And his three marriages ensured that his name was on everyone's lips, too. Everyone loved the Waltz King – a title which was bestowed upon him during his lifetime. Strauss was hugely influential, and the popularity of his music was by no means confined to elite circles. His legacy: Johann Strauss perfected a popular music culture based on dance music and set up a sound family business in which everyone had a role to play – with his mother, wife, and his brothers Eduard and Josef all involved. Otherwise, he would never have been able to keep pace with the incredible scale of production work and performances that lay before him. Johann Strauss was synonymous with quality as well as quantity (500 dance pieces, 15 operettas), and his highly popular concerts and ball events were always well attended. His compositions, as perfect as they are timeless, went straight to the heart – and continue to do so among audiences today.



Johann Strauss II, Kapellmeister and composer, around 1885 Photo: © Wien Museum, photographer: Victor Angerer



The Blue Danube Waltz

It was destined to become the epitome of the Viennese waltz: Johann Strauss II composed The Blue Danube waltz in his fashionable apartment on Praterstrasse in 1866/67. Catalogued as Opus 314, it would elevate him to global fame. Today, it is the unofficial anthem of the province of Vienna – the only one of Austria’s nine Bundesländer without one to call its own.

Strauss’s masterpiece has already achieved cult status at the New Year’s Concert by the Vienna Philharmonic. Broadcast live from the Golden Hall of the Musikverein, its fifty million television viewers eagerly await the Blue Danube Waltz as an encore. A horn soloist sounds out the first few notes of this legendary piece, before – as tradition demands – they are interrupted for the members of the Vienna Philharmonic to emphatically wish everyone a Happy New Year with the words “Prosit Neujahr!”.



Photo: © Residenz Zögernitz

A Different Kind of Blue!

An enduring Strauss myth: the original lyrics to The Blue Danube waltz – which was actually written as a choral work – were meant ironically, as Strauss family scion Eduard Strauss explains in an interview about his great-granduncle (see page 8). In reality, the Danube was “blue” but for a very different reason following Austria’s catastrophic defeat against the Prussians in the Battle of Königgrätz in July 1866, after which the Empire was on its knees both militarily and in terms of morale. The lyrics were

rewritten 20 years later. An expression of unadulterated joie de vivre, today Strauss’s orchestral version is the much better known variant.

First Hit

The Blue Danube waltz was received to such rapturous acclaim at its February 17, 1867 premiere that newspaper Neues Fremden-Blatt reported: “The opening number of the second part was a decisive hit [Ger.: Schlager].” Marking the first use of the term “Schlager” in this musical sense. Strauss’s fellow composer Johannes Brahms also praised the composition – he is said to have jotted down the melody on the fan of a female ballgoer, adding the words: “Sadly, not by me.”

All the Way to Space

Even in Strauss’s lifetime The Blue Danube waltz became an anthem for the people, in the same vein as Joseph Haydn’s national anthem of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, “Gott erhalte”. When Austria proclaimed its independence in April 1945 it would be The Blue Danube that was played in front of the Parliament for want of a national anthem. It was also used by the Austrian soccer team after the Second World War.

And it was the music that was played when Austrian television first hit the airwaves in 1955. A variation of the melody can be heard to this day in the sound signature of Austrian national broadcaster ORF’s Zeit im Bild news show. Austrian Airlines uses the music, too, with passengers boarding to the beat of the waltz. The Blue Danube waltz also found its way into popular culture, for example as background melody in cartoons such as Tom & Jerry and The Simpsons.

It reached its culture apotheosis in Stanley Kubrick’s 1968 science fiction classic 2001: A Space Odyssey when it accompanied the seemingly weightless – and effortless – docking of a giant spaceship on a rotating space station. Precisely aligned to the length and rhythm of the waltz, the sequence pays homage to Strauss’s masterful composition.



Dancing the Waltz

Once somewhat disreputable, today it is synonymous with Vienna: the Viennese waltz, which was introduced to the world stage by Johann Strauss, the other members of his dynasty and various contemporaries. The Viennese love everything about the waltz – the music and the dance itself, which was once frowned on because of the physical contact between the partners.

Ball culture goes back more than 200 years, to the Congress of Vienna, which reshaped Europe in 1814/15. Efforts were made to make the negotiators' stay in the city more enjoyable by laying on various balls and other social events. "The congress dances", as the saying went. The insatiable public demand for dance music was met by a never-ending stream of new waltzes and polkas. Prolific composer-conductors like Joseph Lanner, Johann Strauss and his son Johann Strauss II delivered both quantity and quality. Johann Strauss Senior (1804–1849), composer of the Radetzky March, was the bitter rival of Johann Strauss the younger (1825–1899), whose successes would eventually eclipse those of his father and made him go down in history as the Waltz King.

Partying, Viennese Style

There are many different sides to celebrating in Vienna, but all have one thing in common: a laid-back approach to life. People go for lavish dinners, relax in coffeehouses and heuriger wine taverns (often for hours on end) and party in the evening. And nowhere else is the art of celebrating held aloft as high as it is at a Viennese ball – a centuries-old tradition that is upheld to this day in booming ball seasons. In 2023/24, around 560,000 ballgoers enjoyed some 2,000 hours of dancing at more than 450 balls.

The Magic of the Ball

Ceremony is still the key to today's ball events: the dress codes are strict, with the grandest balls stipulating floor-length gowns for the ladies and tailcoats for the gentlemen. The latter providing the ideal opportunity to show off orders, honors and golden pocket watches on chains. At the other balls, a tuxedo or fine black suit with bow tie is the absolute minimum. What's really surprising is the number of young people who are more than happy to fall into line with these strict requirements.



On arrival, female guests receive a token gift known as a “Damenspende”. At the opening ceremony, debutantes dressed all in white pair up with young men to “dance in” the ball. Traditionally, the ladies wait to be asked to dance, with the exception of the “Damenwahl” when it’s their turn to invite the men to join them on the parquet. Protocol dictates that gentlemen take their partners on their arm and lead them onto the dance floor. A live orchestra is a must, and some balls opt for a number of ensembles, often including a jazz band. A good mix of standard ballroom dances makes for variety, and the program runs the gamut from the foxtrot to the slowfox, quickstep, tango, samba, rumba, cha-cha-cha, paso doble and jive, as well as the Viennese waltz and slow waltz.

Midnight brings musical performance and show elements followed by the quadrille: open to all comers, this dance has been around since the 19th century. Thanks to its catchy melody, the Fledermaus quadrille by Johann Strauss is a firm favorite. And if Lady Luck is smiling there’s also a chance to win a prize in the raffle. At three or four in the morning, the lights go down and the musicians start the final

dance, Joseph Drechsler’s melancholic slow waltz featuring the evocative lyric “Brüderlein fein, musst gar nicht so traurig sein”. Johann Strauss is rumored to have hummed its melody shortly before his death in 1899. And the final item on the ballnight schedule for many Viennese is a trip to a sausage stand.

GLIDING WEIGHTLESSLY

The Viennese waltz is a dance made up of just six steps – but mastering them at speed can be a challenge. More accomplished dancers like to alternate between the traditional waltz to the right and the much trickier version that goes in the opposite direction. Anyone who finds themselves a little giddy after all that swirling around can catch their breath with a few well-timed steps on the spot.

PRO TIP

Always look in the “direction of travel” and avoid looking down at the ground. But there’s nothing for less-well-versed dancers to worry about: lots of Vienna’s dance schools such as old-hand Elmayer offer crash courses and private lessons to help prepare for the ball ahead.





Dancing 12 waltzes in a single evening is the equivalent of doing around an hour of exercise. Dancers perform around 2,500 turns, complete 5,000 sets of steps and cover a total distance of around five kilometers!

Vienna State Opera is broadcast on TV to audiences running into the millions. It is history in motion: in December 1877, the newly constructed opera venue on the Ringstrasse boulevard hosted its first ball as a “court opera soiree”, with Johann Strauss II as conductor. On March 2, 1878 the first “Redoute” dance event followed, which one editor referred to as the “first Vienna Opera Ball”.

Other traditional ball events take place at the imperial Hofburg (Lawyers’ Ball, Coffeehouse Owners’ Ball), the Musikverein (Vienna Philharmonic Ball) and City Hall (Flower Ball). In early summer, City Hall hosts the elegant Concordia Ball, which has been a highlight of the Vienna high society calendar since 1863. Waltz King Johann Strauss often conducted at the venue and dedicated a number of compositions to the Concordia Press Club.

Viennese Balls

The Viennese ball season gets underway at the start of carnival season on November 11, when various dance schools lead enthusiastic local waltzers a merry dance along Graben in the city center. Though Ash Wednesday once marked its end, things are not so hard and fast these days.

Anyone looking to pick up tickets should make sure that they do so months ahead of time. Ballgoers can choose between comfortable table seats, or just admission tickets without seating. Strolling through the ball rooms between dances, or enjoying refreshments at the buffet or cocktail bar are all part of the appeal. Some events even feature wine taverns with traditional Schrammelmusik.

Opera Ball – A Perennial Highlight

The world’s most famous ball, the Opera Ball, is in a class of its own. This society get-together at the

Under the Rainbow

The LGBTIQ+ community celebrates carnival season at the end of January at the Rainbow Ball. This charity event takes place in the historic setting of Parkhotel Schönbrunn. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer ballgoers put on formal evening wear, and celebrate the traditional entry of the “committee” as well as the popular midnight quadrille. And it goes without saying that their heterosexual friends are invited too! The venue has a strong Strauss connection: it was once home to Casino Dommayer where the young Johann Strauss II made his highly successful debut as a composer and conductor on October 15, 1844. Backed by his own ensemble, which he put together in defiance of the wishes of his father (and competitor). The entire press, including the humorist Franz Wiest, reported: “Good Night Lanner! Good Evening Strauss Senior! Good Morning Strauss Junior!”



For more fascinating content related to the anniversary year, visit
→ [*strauss.vienna.info*](https://strauss.vienna.info)



Following in Johann Strauss's Footsteps

Vienna's aura is its music, and Johann Strauss has shaped it like no other. So let's meet the Waltz King in his 200th anniversary year at selected Strauss spots in the city.

Johann Strauss Memorial

Surrounded by greenery in the middle of Vienna's Stadtpark, Edmund Hellmer's gilded Strauss monument is the capital's most popular photo op. A marble arch decorated with floating reliefs frames the statue. The monument was unveiled in 1921 (22 years after the composer's death) to the sounds of the Blue Danube waltz performed by the Vienna Philharmonic.

- Stadtpark, 1010 Vienna

House of Strauss

This major Strauss center opened its doors at the newly refurbished Casino Zögernitz – an original Strauss venue – in 2023. It hosts a museum that tells the true story behind the Strauss dynasty, and also features dramatized concert performances and a multimedia show. The Casino Kulinarium café restaurant provides refreshments. A Strauss location that is off the beaten track and steeped in authenticity.

- Döblinger Hauptstrasse 76, 1190 Vienna
→ www.houseofstrauss.at



House of Strauss:
a 2,000m² multi-sensory experience
Photo: © Vienna Tourist Board/Gregor Hofbauer

Johann Strauss Apartment

Johann Strauss II composed the waltz "The Blue Danube" in his fashionable apartment on Praterstrasse. The museum has a selection of documents and portraits on display as well as a Bösendorfer concert grand and an Amati violin from Strauss's estate.

- Praterstrasse 54, 1020 Vienna
→ www.wienmuseum.at

House of Music

Vienna's interactive sound museum is all about an unconventional approach to exploring the world of music – with a strong emphasis on innovation. And it goes without saying that Johann Strauss is part of the picture here, too. The highlight is the virtual conductor which gives visitors of all ages the chance to lead the Vienna Philharmonic through a rendition of Strauss's The Blue Danube. A word of warning: anyone that gets too far out of time can expect some pushback from the orchestra!

- Seilerstätte 30, 1010 Vienna
→ www.hdm.at

Johann Strauss – New Dimensions

Spread across 900m², a new experience in the first district brings the life and work of the Waltz King into sharp focus with a multidimensional permanent show. Designed as a silent exhibition, visitors walk through seven different themed rooms, or acts, wearing geo-tracking headphones. Sounds and info stations merge into a single, immersive and interactive experience.

- Kleines Haus der Kunst
Friedrichstrasse 7, 1010 Vienna
→ www.johannstraussmuseum.at

Central Cemetery

Johann Strauss was laid to rest at Vienna's Central Cemetery (Zentralfriedhof), in the company of numerous other composers and artists. The musicians' Graves of Honor are a genuine place of pilgrimage. And Europe's second-largest cemetery has plenty more to offer: a beautiful Jugendstil (art nouveau) church, jogging routes, flora and fauna, an e-shuttle bus and even a coffeehouse!

- Simmeringer Hauptstrasse 234, 1110 Vienna
→ www.friedhofewien.at



TIP

The new Johann Strauss audio walk in the ivie Vienna app takes in around a dozen Strauss locations. Full of surprising details and unknown stories, it also features Strauss's enchanting music.

Visit strauss.vienna.info to find out more. See page 116 for a list of Strauss-related events in 2025.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: 125 Years of the (Text) Andrea ORTMAYER Wiener Symphoniker

Making music at the highest level accessible to everyone: the *raison d'être* from 1900 that the Wiener Symphoniker (aka the Vienna Symphonic Orchestra) continues to live by to this day. As the city's orchestra, they can be found at venues throughout the capital: in the Musikverein, Wiener Konzerthaus and MusikTheater an der Wien. As well as in schools, out on sports fields and even in neighborhood bars!

With a history brimming with tradition and a passion for discovering new musical horizons, the Wiener Symphoniker is the beating heart of the capital of classical music. For 125 years now, the orchestra has shaped the city's unique sound culture.

When the Wiener Symphoniker was founded in 1900 under the name "Wiener Concertverein", the sails of this new, visionary orchestra were billowing with the fresh winds of Viennese modernism. And within a very short time, the profile of the Wiener Symphoniker had risen to such an extent that it ranked among Europe's leading world-premiere orchestras. Milestone pieces from the annals of music history, including Anton Bruckner's Ninth Symphony and Arnold Schoenberg's *Gurre-Lieder*, were performed by the ensemble for the first time: concerts that opened the door to completely new worlds of sound, and made them accessible to the public at large. To this day, the Wiener Symphoniker continues to set great store by collaborations with modern-day composers and conductors, and is one of the most

significant driving forces in contemporary music. In Vienna and internationally.

The Wiener Symphoniker has always been known for its closeness to the audience. And thanks to the "volkstümliche Concerte" (popular concerts) in Vienna's Volksgarten and the legendary workers' symphony concerts, it ensured from the outset that classical music was no longer the preserve of a small elite. Nowadays, the orchestra can be found giving performances at unusual venues in all of Vienna's districts as part of the Grätzl concerts. Accessible to everyone, various open-air concerts in the city, including the Festival of Joy (held every year on the anniversary of the surrender of the German Wehrmacht) and the Prater Picnic have long since become firm fixtures in the orchestra's annual calendar.

In the 2024/25 jubilee season, the Wiener Symphoniker under new Chief Conductor Petr Popelka will be serving up a heady mix of program highlights.

Visit www.wienersymphoniker.at for all the details.



Urban Life

Life's a merry-go-round in the "Canale Grande", while the trees are in bloom in the Prater once again as important topics fill the air in the city.

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Ten Questions for Perrine Schober

The founder of Shades Tours talks about her city tours, which center on divisive topics such as poverty and homelessness.

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Once Prater, Always Prater

Vienna's Wurstelprater is a unique amusement park. We took a look behind the scenes at some of the rides and spoke to their legendary operators.

36

The City of Dr Freud

Sigmund Freud was the founder of psychoanalysis. A new audio guide in the ivie app follows in the footsteps of this superstar of Viennese Modernism.

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Canale Grande

A mega-project to protect the environment in the world's most livable city: a nine-kilometer-long tunnel in Vienna's sewer system to keep the Wienfluss river clean.



Ten Questions for *Perrine Schober*

(Photo)
Paul BAUER

Shades Tours organizes moving tours and activities on social topics that can divide society. What's special is that they are led by the people affected by them and provide an authentic glimpse of what's going on behind the scenes in the city. An interview with founder Perrine Schober.

www.shades-tours.com

① **What exactly is it that Shades Tours does?**

We offer city tours centering on poverty and homelessness, as well as addiction and drugs. The guides are people, such as unhoused individuals, who are directly affected by these issues.

② **What are you trying to accomplish?**

It is partly about conveying information and bringing about a change of perspective, and then there is the labor market reintegration side of things for the guides themselves.

③ **What can trigger a shift in perspective?**

Listening, asking questions, engaging with a different reality or perception leads to understanding and empathy. These are important values that are essential for us all to live together in society.

④ **How do the guides benefit?**

The job gives them structure and a salary that they can plan their lives around. In turn, this provides a source of drive and hope for a better future.

⑤ **Which places do the tours take in?**

Shades Tours is not about the places visited per se, it's more about the symbolism behind them. A pharmacy, for example, represents the topics of drug addiction and substitution.

⑥ **What is the professional background behind it?**

I studied tourism management and then went on to specialize in strategic development aid through tourism. I really wanted to find a job that combined both.

⑦ **How did Shades Tours come about?**

While I was looking for a job, I came across the concept of tours led by people experiencing homelessness in a number of European cities. It was something that didn't exist in Vienna.

⑧ **Who is the target audience?**

Mainly schools, universities, companies, associations and anyone who is curious about the topics covered by the tours.

⑨ **What's the best feedback you have ever received?**

I still get goosebumps when I think about something a schoolgirl once did: after the tour, she thanked the unhoused guide, and in front of the whole class she said "Now I understand my father's situation better".

⑩ **Let's turn to the sunnier side of the city. What are your favorite places in Vienna?**

Going for a stroll in Schönbrunn or having a drink at the trendy water ski lift bar on the Danube.



ONCE Prater, ALWAYS Prater

(Photos)
Julie BRASS

(Text)
Maria SCHALLER

Vienna's unique Wurstelprater amusement park has been shaping the city's identity for centuries. For the people of Vienna and its visitors, it's a place to get away from it all and dream. But for the Prater families, it's not just a workplace; it's their lifeblood and home.

When people in Vienna talk about the Prater, they usually mean the famous Wurstelprater, which occupies a spot in the northwestern corner of this vast area. This popular amusement park accounts for a 250,000-square-meter section of the six-square-kilometer Prater site. The first official mention of the present-day amusement park – known as Volksprater – came 200 years ago, in 1825. Because that particular version of the name never quite caught on, it was officially renamed Wurstelprater in 2024, a nod to Hanswurst, a forerunner of the popular Kasperl puppet character. Sometimes, people refer to it as the oldest amusement park in the world. But that particular title belongs to the slightly older Dyrehavsbakken, which is located just outside Copenhagen. Still, this does nothing to diminish the myth and uniqueness of the Wurstelprater.

People have flocked to the Prater in search of relaxation and entertainment for generations. After Emperor Joseph II opened up the imperial hunting grounds to the public in 1766, various theaters and the like migrated here from the city center. And thrived. In the mid-19th century, the Waltz King Johann Strauss threw epic events here that attracted hundreds of thousands of onlookers. The Prater was also exposed to a broader public in its role as a film set, featuring in various classics including *The Third Man*, *The Living Daylights*, *Before Sunrise*, and *Wilde Maus*. To this day, the Wurstelprater remains one of only a handful of amusement parks worldwide that does not cost anything to get into. There's no admission fee or dress code, and tickets for the rides are purchased from the individual attractions, which include carousels and merry-go-rounds, scenic roller coasters, mirror mazes, ghost trains, fairytale rides and plenty of other weird and wonderful options. Today, the Prater boasts about 250 attractions which are in the hands of around 80 operators – many of whom are old dynasties that have extremely long-standing ties to the Wurstelprater. These family structures can be complex, with some intertwined through marriages and mergers.

“The Prater just never goes out of style.”

Hubert Pichler,
Zwergerlbahn owner

The Prater has always been full of stories. But there are far too many to tell them all. We visited a few legendary ride operators who personify the Wurstelprater's unique ecosystem. Their stories show why this place is so exceptional.

Of Garden Gnomes and Prater Cats

The Prater's most famous attractions are known far beyond the city's borders, and nowhere does this apply more than to the Riesenrad, or Giant Ferris Wheel, which was built in 1897. An impressive 111 years of age, there's also the Toboggan, which is the world's oldest wooden slide. Another highlight is the 117-meter-high Praterturn – once the world's tallest chain carousel. New attractions are added each year: recent arrivals include the Magic World Vienna theater and the spectacular Wiener Looping roller coaster, both of which opened in 2024. But it's not just the latest and greatest rides that make the Prater so fascinating. It's the way that old and new attractions continue to thrive side by side. A typically Viennese blend, you could say. Next to the Schweizerhaus – one of the Prater's best-known restaurants thanks to its huge beer garden and popular Stelze (roast pork knuckle) – is the world's oldest original scenic roller coaster. Opened in 1950, it celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2025. Thanks to the garden gnomes that line the route, it is known affectionately among the locals as the “Zwergerlbahn”, or gnome train. Once ratcheted up to its highest point, this ride continues on its merry way using only its own momentum. Even so, there's always someone in the last car who operates the brake.

Hubert Pichler has been running this Prater institution since 1971. “I went to boarding school nearby. We used to cut classes and go go-karting instead,” says the 75-year-old businessman, who bought the ride from its previous owners and turned it into a family business. “As we like to say: once Prater, always Prater. There are lots of these old Prater adages. I never used to get what people meant by them. But I do now – the Prater's the elixir of life for most of us here.” Hardly anyone actually retires; there are plenty of people aged 80





or 85 who still work at the Prater. Pichler takes things a little easier these days: “Once a year, I still climb aboard just to see if I’ve still got it in me.” Some of his regulars are far more committed. One 90-year-old man from Vienna shows up every year at the start of the season, buys a pack of ten tickets, and uses them all up instantly. Couples who shared their first kiss on the Zwergerlbahn come back decades later to celebrate their anniversary. Sometimes, four generations of a family go for a ride at the same time. “The Prater just never goes out of style,” says Pichler, who also runs the large bike and rickshaw rental service, as he explains every detail beneath his picturesque oak-framed ride. Somewhere in here, a pair of Prater cats have set up home. The employees feed them all through the winter. High season at the Prater runs from mid-March to the end of October, with most businesses using the quieter winter months for repairs and maintenance. Even so, there are some rides that operate year-round, and the site itself is always open.

At Home in the Prater

While Mr. Pichler enjoys his view of the seemingly endless, leafy Hauptallee boulevard from the edge of the Wurstelprater (“This is the best spot, it’s too loud for me inside”), we move on. The Sittler-Schaaf family live and work right in the heart of the amusement park on Calafatipplatz, which is named after the nine-meter-tall Calafati statue. Victoria and Thomas, both from Prater dynasties, run various rides, shooting galleries, a mirror maze, and the 45-meter-high Magic Rotor ride. They also operate a virtual reality ghost train called The Clown, which, despite being generally well-lit, turns into something truly eerie once VR goggles are added to the mix. And of course, they manage the famous Tagada – “our top attraction for more than 30 years now,” says Victoria. Her family, the Schaafs, alongside the Steindls, is the oldest dynasty of showmen and women in the Prater.

Generations of Viennese have pitted themselves against the Tagada, a spinning disco carousel that gives riders a good shaking for their money.

“Everyone’s equal at the Prater.”

Silvia Lang,
Head of the Prater Association

The idea is to try and get as close to the center while standing, although the operators officially take a dim view of such tomfoolery. The attraction is as popular as ever. “We can’t quite explain it either. Maybe it’s got something to do with the boys and girls showing off to everyone watching from below,” says Thomas Sittler-Schaaf, who is busy hyping up the riders from the ticket booth when we visit. He lives just a few meters behind the Tagada with his wife, son and dachshund – putting them among the 25 or so people who still live on-site at the Wurstelprater. “We live and work in the most beautiful place in the world – the Prater is our life,” beams Victoria Sittler-Schaaf.

In Female Hands

She is one of many women who run businesses in the Prater. “The Prater is feminine. Women have always been in charge here. They run businesses, manage the ticket booths, and much more,” says Silvia Lang. The great-great-granddaughter of Nikolai Kobelkoff, the famous limbless Russian showman, on one side and August Schaaf on the other, is the head of the Prater Association, which has represented the interests of the showmen and women since 1909. Most of the people here are members, and there is a strong sense of solidarity in the air. Everyone helps everyone else, is always on hand with a word of advice, and they all visit each other’s rides. Lang adds, “Everyone’s equal at the Prater.” But there are still discussions. “The family businesses ensure that we don’t become just another run-of-the-mill amusement park,” says the president, proudly revealing that the Prater breached the seven-million-visitor mark in 2023. With two-thirds of the visitors coming from Austria, it should be noted.

For many, a trip to the Prater just wouldn’t be complete without a ride on a ghost train. The world’s first ghost train is said to have opened here in the Wurstelprater in 1933. Now in its fourth generation, Patrick Jenko operates the “Geisterbahn

zum roten Adler” alongside four other attractions. Flashlight in hand, he leads us along the path taken by this historic ghost train, steadfast in his determination to preserve its charm. Since there are virtually no regulations to dictate what form rides should take, and each plot is managed independently, the team is constantly coming up with new ideas. Creativity is definitely the order of the day given that sourcing parts for such a ghost train isn’t easy. Mr. Jenko, too, relies on his staff for help. In fact, around 2,700 people are hard at work to keep the Wurstelprater running. The Prater has always been a place for all kinds of strange things, as shown here at the ghost train. Jenko: “There’s always a few high-spirited individuals who get out, blunder through the ride, and generally put themselves in danger. Recently, four people actually managed to end up in our dungeon. And on the odd occasion our spiders get their legs ripped off ...”

Nature Rail

After all that excitement, and before the day draws to a close, we hop aboard the Liliputbahn. Another Prater institution, these narrow-gauge trains have been chugging along the 3.9-kilometer track since 1928. It takes 20 minutes to complete the circuit which takes us from the Wurstelprater all the way

out into the leafy “Grüner Prater”. For many it is like a mini holiday. Today, the fleet comprises two historic steam locomotives, four diesel engines, and even a hydrogen locomotive. There are plans to add an electric model in the future. A few years ago, Anna Kleindienst-Jilly took over the management of this family business. She shows us the historic workshop near the Liliputbahn terminus by the Giant Ferris Wheel, where one of the original steam engines from the year it opened is currently parked. Most parts of the Wurstelprater were struck by bombs shortly before the end of the war. “But this shed survived World War II,” Kleindienst-Jilly says.

The Wurstelprater is full of stories like this, many of which are told in the new Prater Museum. A satellite of the Wien Museum, it opened in a new timber building in the heart of the Wurstelprater in spring 2024. Spanning three levels, it showcases countless original items, carousel characters and puppet figures, arcade machines, blueprints, models, photos, tickets, posters, and more. One area is devoted to the Prater families themselves. A huge painting in the foyer features 700 famous and lesser-known Viennese people who have shaped the Prater, illustrating why it has always been a place for everyone.

- Scenic roller coaster (gnome train)
Prater 113, Eduard-Lang-Weg, near Schweizerhaus
→ www.radverleih-hochschaubahn.com/Hochschaubahn
- Tagada
Prater 24, Calafatiplatz
→ www.pratertageskarte.com/tagada
- Geisterbahn zum Roten Adler (ghost train)
Prater 71A, Jantschweg/Nikolai-Kobelkoff-Weg

- Liliputbahn
Prater 97 (terminus by the Giant Ferris Wheel)
→ www.liliswelt.at
 - Prater Museum
Prater 92, Strasse des Ersten Mai
→ www.wienmuseum.at/pratermuseum
- More information on all of the Prater's attractions:*
→ www.praterwien.com





The CITY of DR FREUD

The father of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud revolutionized the field of psychology like no one else before him. A Viennese visionary and a global cultural icon, Freud has left an indelible mark on both science and pop culture. Come with us on a journey through Vienna, which is also available as an audio guide in the ivie City Guide app.

Photo: © Sigmund Freud Museum/Max Halberstadt

Sigmund Schlomo Freud (1856–1939), to use his full birth name, is one of the most famous Viennese figures of all time. Beginning around 1900, his pioneering work on the human psyche laid the foundations for modern *Tiefenpsychologie*, or “depth psychology”. A real game changer, as we would say today. After all, it was Freud’s belief that the driving forces of our psyche were rooted in things that we were not actually conscious of. And above all, Freud identified sexuality as one of the most powerful motivators of human behavior. This notion was radical at a time when sexuality was a major taboo, and it provoked a backlash. During his lifetime, the man and his ideas proved to be highly divisive time and again. Some people thought he was a genius, while his theories left others shaking their heads in disbelief. But even so, Freud is considered to be one of the most influential thinkers of the 20th century. Scarcely any other scientist has been quoted as often as he has – though many of his theories have been refuted over the course of time. Even so, Freud’s innovative ideas triggered an avalanche of thought.

Vienna, the Deeply Intellectual Capital

The therapeutic methods that we now take for granted were truly revolutionary in Freud’s time. Freud did one thing above all else: he listened to his patients. They lay on the couch and told him about their dreams and fears. Confiding in him their innermost fantasies and – sometimes confused – thoughts. Freud knew that many a mental knot could be unpicked through in-depth conversation. He called the method he developed to look into the depths of

(Text)
Johannes LUXNER

the human soul “psychoanalysis”. One remarkable outcome of this innovative approach: Sigmund Freud’s couch, which his patients once reclined on, was transformed into a truly iconic item of furniture. Concepts such as “Freudian slip,” “castration anxiety,” “repression” and “defense mechanisms” have long since entered everyday parlance. Freud’s work significantly contributed to Vienna’s reputation as a deep and intellectual city.

The Cradle of the Modern World

But it wasn’t just Freud whose pioneering work went on to conquer the world from Vienna, as a recent bestseller shows. In his book “Vienna – How the City of Ideas Created the Modern World”, Richard Cockett, a renowned historian, journalist (The Economist) and author dedicates 400 pages to the most influential innovations from the Austrian capital. His hypothesis: the western world would look completely different today without the ideas that came to light in Vienna between 1900 and the outbreak of the Second World War. Vienna, he contends, is a major cradle of modern society, producing figures such as the neoliberal pioneer Friedrich von Hayek and the brilliant mathematician Kurt Gödel. The Red Vienna era, which advanced social housing, the work of architect Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky with her Frankfurt

Kitchen, and Victor Gruen, who is considered the father of modern shopping malls and pedestrian zones, are all part of this rich history. So, let’s dive into the Vienna of Sigmund Freud and explore six key locations in the city with ties to his life and work.

RECOMMENDED READING:
Richard Cockett
Vienna – How the City
of Ideas Created the
Modern World
Yale University Press,
New Haven & London 2023

Sigmund Freud Museum

It all began at Berggasse 19, where Freud lived and worked for almost 50 years. It was from this address that concepts such as the Oedipus complex, the unconscious and the superego would go around the world. The evolution of contemporary depth psychology is inextricably linked to this apartment building in Vienna. Freud's famous couch, the symbol of psychoanalysis, once had pride of place here. Today, Freud's former office and apartment is home to the Sigmund Freud Museum, which is brimming with fascinating insights into his life and work. Including original items of furniture once used by Freud himself. Its rooms emanate a very special aura. Freud's daughter, Anna, who became a prominent psychoanalyst herself, lived and worked here at Berggasse 19 as well. But the famous couch is nowhere to be seen. Freud took it with him to London in 1938 when he was forced to flee the Nazis.

- Berggasse 19
1090 Vienna
www.freud-museum.at



The waiting room in Sigmund Freud's former practice.

Photo: © Vienna Tourist Board/Paul Bauer



The young doctor Sigmund Freud worked and lived at the Old General Hospital.

Photo: © Vienna Tourist Board/Hermann Höger

Old General Hospital

The Old General Hospital, or Altes AKH, is a huge complex arranged around numerous spacious courtyards. Today, it's an important part of the University of Vienna. But in Freud's day, it was a renowned center of medicine. He worked here as a young doctor and even lived here in the 1880s. This was the time when a particularly controversial chapter of Freud's career unfolded: his experiments with cocaine. At the time, cocaine was seen as a promising medication and was even used to treat depression. Freud experimented with cocaine himself over an extended period, and would also prescribe it to his patients. He believed that the substance could be useful as a painkiller and anesthetic. Freud was intrigued. In his 1884 paper "On Coca", he detailed the positive and negative effects of cocaine. And he quickly came to appreciate just how dangerous and addictive it was. As a result, he put a stop to his pharmaceutical experiments, doubling down on his psychoanalytical theories instead.

- Spitalgasse 2
1090 Vienna
campus.univie.ac.at



The Freud family relocated from Freiburg in Moravia to Vienna's Karmeliterviertel district in 1860.

Photo: © Vienna Tourist Board/Erli Grünzweil

Karmeliterviertel

It was in the Karmeliterviertel – a typical late 19th-century Viennese neighborhood located in the second district – that Freud spent his formative years. Unsurprisingly really, given that the Karmeliterviertel has always been the center of Jewish life in Vienna. The Freud family moved here in 1860. The Freuds originally came from Freiberg in Moravia, which is now part of the Czech Republic. Freud's high school was at Taborstrasse 24, close to the Karmeliterkirche church. The school itself is long gone, though. And its successor, now named Sigmund Freud Gymnasium, is a few kilometers up the road in the Stuwerviertel. The Freud family's time in the Karmeliterviertel was marked by several changes of address – they lived on Pfeffergasse, Pillersdorfsgasse, and Glockengasse. Even though there is nothing here that commemorates the founder of psychoanalysis, this part of town is definitely worth a visit. The Karmelitermarkt, one of Vienna's most charming local markets, is among the highlights.

- Karmeliterplatz 1
1020 Vienna

Huber & Lerner

Sigmund Freud's written correspondence with a broad circle of famous figures are among the most impressive documents to shed light on his work. He corresponded with Nobel Prize winner Albert Einstein as well as the writer Stefan Zweig. But it was the letters he exchanged with his professional peers such as Carl Gustav Jung, Lou Andreas-Salomé and Marie Bonaparte that offer a particularly deep insight into Freud's thinking. It was from stationers Huber & Lerner that

Sigmund Freud bought the stationery for much of his correspondence. And it is still trading today – with Freud's letter paper available from its store on Weihburggasse, a small side street off Kärntner Strasse. Well, strictly speaking, it's a set of correspondence cards and envelopes based on the originals, as well as an authentic reproduction of Sigmund Freud's notepad. The perfect tools for putting big ideas down on paper.

- Weihburggasse 4
1010 Vienna
www.huber-lerner.at



Sigmund Freud bought the letter paper for much of his correspondence from Huber & Lerner.

Photo: © Vienna Tourist Board/Hermann Höger



Freud's theory of dream interpretation came to him at the Bellevuewiese meadow, high above Vienna.

Photo: © Vienna Tourist Board/Hermann Höger

Bellevuewiese

Want to survey the city from an elevated vantage point? There's nowhere better than the Bellevuewiese meadow, which is nestled amongst the capital's vineyards. But there is more to this meadow than just a popular location for a picnic and taking in the views – it's the very spot where the story behind modern depth psychology started. It was here in July 1895 that Sigmund Freud was struck by the idea behind his theory of the interpretation of dreams, a breakthrough that truly launched his career. A commemorative plaque in the middle of Bellevuewiese pays tribute to this seismic occasion. Anyone planning a visit should make sure that they set aside enough time. The meadow is served by the 38A bus route, which departs from the Heiligenstadt subway station – the terminus of the U4 line. The bus ride from there to the Cobenzl Parkplatz stop takes 17 minutes, and it's a further 15-minute walk from there. But it's well worth the effort.

● Himmelstrasse 115
1190 Vienna

Vienna Police HQ

It was on this site on Schottenring where the understated building containing Vienna's police headquarters now stands that almost 400 poor souls met a tragic end in 1881. The Ringtheater fire was one of the worst disasters in European theater history. In response, Emperor Franz Joseph ordered the construction of the Sühnhaus (House of Atonement) on the same site, which he financed out of his own pocket. And who was among the first

tenants to move into the Sühnhaus in 1886? Bingo: a young doctor by the name of Sigmund Freud. Recently married, he had his own consultation rooms here. But the location brought him no luck. Freud's patient Pauline Silberstein fell to her death in the stairwell in 1891. And a few months before, the apartment building's famous architect Friedrich von Schmidt died at the address. A truly cursed location, some might say. The Freuds moved to Berggasse 19 later that same year. But there were further tribulations ahead: the Sühnhaus burned down just before the end of the Second World War. The wreckage was torn down and the modern-day HQ of the province of Vienna's police service put up in its place.

● Schottenring 7–9
1010 Vienna



A cursed location – Freud lived here, where the Vienna police headquarters now stands, until 1891.

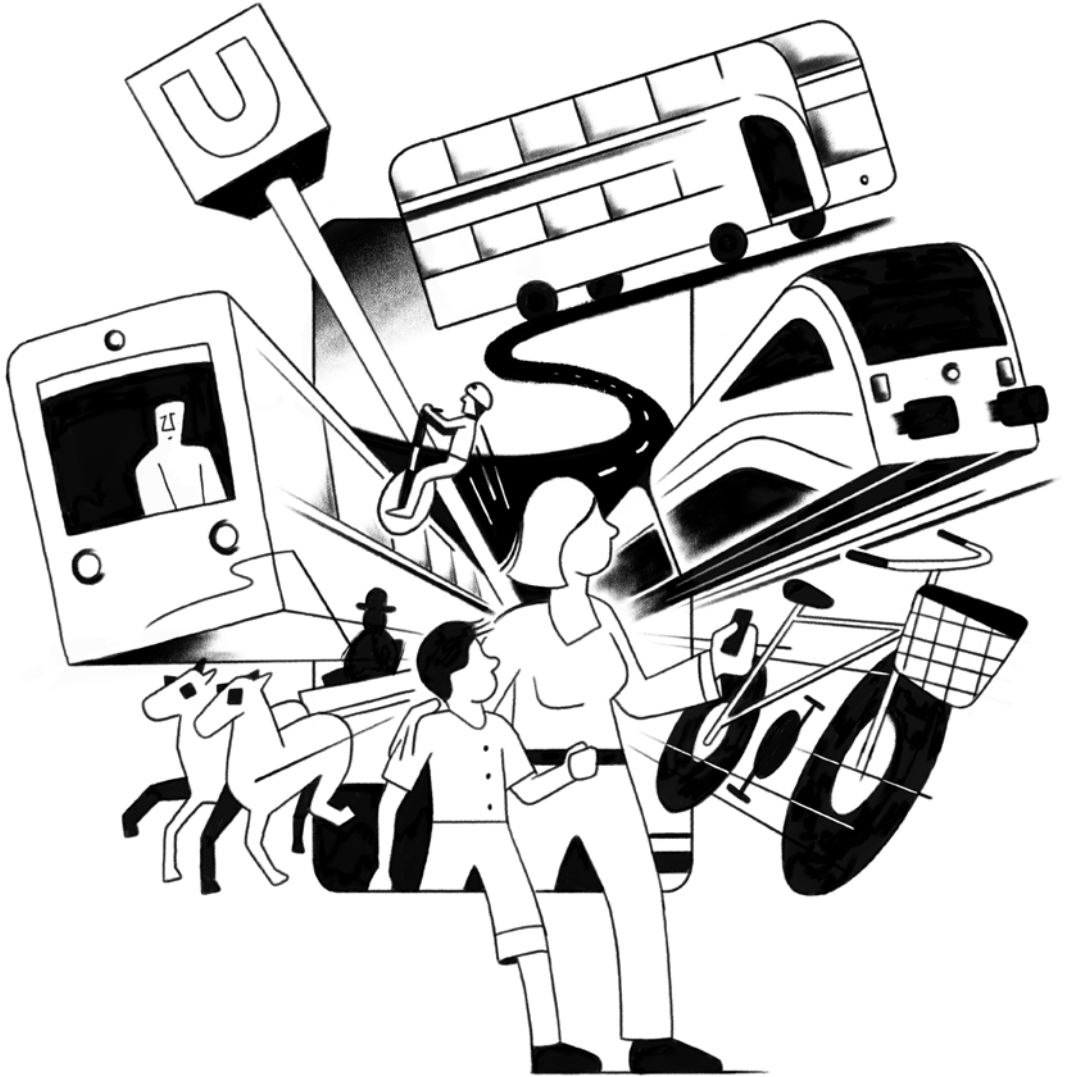
Photo: © Vienna Tourist Board/Hermann Höger



TIP:

You can explore Freud's Vienna using the audio guide in ivie, the city guide app for Vienna. Simply scan the QR code and start your free journey.

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Canale GRANDE

(Text)
Robert SEYDEL

(Photo)
WIEN KANAL



Vienna's sewer system found global fame thanks to the film *The Third Man*. But there's much more to the city beneath the city than a movie location: its subterranean wastewater network is not just responsible for making sure that the world's most livable city stays clean. It also makes a huge contribution to protecting the environment.

Vienna's sewer system is 2,500 kilometers long. Day in day out, the half a billion liters of wastewater generated by the two million people living in the city is transported safely to the sewage treatment plant in Vienna's eleventh district without harming the environment. And now a further nine kilometers are being added to the network – it is the largest sewer construction project in water utility Wien Kanal's history.

Nine kilometers that have a huge impact: the new extension will improve the water quality of the city-center Wienfluss, a watercourse that is increasingly exposed to significant pollution in heavy rainfall. Effluent from twelve districts flows through the sewers beneath the Wiental valley – around a fifth of the entire city's wastewater. And now the new section will take some of the pressure off the existing network, meaning that wastewater diluted by heavy rain will then no longer have to be discharged into the Wienfluss. 270 million euros are being invested.

135-Meter-Long Tunnel Boring Machine

But how does a mega-project like this work in practice? A 150-square-meter, 15-meter-deep shaft with two entry pipes on the Gaudenzdorfer Gürtel section of Vienna's outer ring road will set the ball rolling on the border of the fifth, sixth, twelfth and fifteenth districts. In spring 2025, a 135-meter-long tunnel boring machine will be lowered into position. That's the equivalent of four blue whales nose to tail.

The giant drill will then start working its way towards the west of Vienna. Once it arrives at its destination (scheduled for summer 2026), the machine will be taken apart again and returned to where it all started. Then, it will head in the opposite direction on its way to the connection with the existing Wiental sewer line in the fifth

district. Consisting of 42,800 tunnel blocks, the new pipeline will have an outer diameter of four meters. Around 140,000 cubic meters of earth will have to be excavated. Climate remediation will take precedence wherever excavation work is carried out on the surface. And in 2028, the nine-kilometer section is scheduled to go online.

Habitat for Animals

The project became a necessity due to climate change and an increase in heavy rainfall events as a result. Vienna's sewer system was put to the test only recently during a protracted storm in the middle of September 2024: at its peak, 230 liters of rain per square meter fell at the Vienna State Opera over the course of one weekend. An incredible 22 billion liters of rainwater had to be channeled out of the city – a feat achieved with consummate success.

Another factor is that the Wienfluss is a popular local recreation area, especially for the west of the city, as well as an important habitat for animals. It is home to several species of fish, over 60 species of insects, snails and even crayfish. And they will be just as happy about the cleaner water as local residents and tourists. When it opens in 2028, this new section will provide a total of around 171 million liters of storage capacity for water protection on the Wienfluss.

Anyone interested in taking a closer look at the mega-project, can do so at the entry shaft on Gaudenzdorfer Gürtel. A special exhibition, which opened in November 2024, provides regular updates on construction progress, as well as information on the history of Vienna's sewer system and its importance for adapting to the impacts of climate change.

● www.wienkanal.at



Art & Culture

No one's keeping quiet here when artists
look at art through different eyes.

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Ten Questions for Julian Lee-Harather

The photographer and digital artist explored the theme
of Johann Strauss for us. But how does the young artist
go about his work?

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Through Different Eyes

Six employees of Viennese museums who watch over
valuable art treasures every day share
their personal favorites with us.

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The Quiet Rising Star

Anouk Lamm Anouk is in the ascendancy
on the contemporary art market.
We paid them a visit.



Ten Questions for *Julian Lee-Harather*

The photographer and digital artist Julian Lee-Harather was born in the USA in 1998 and grew up without the internet in a small town. Today he lives in Vienna and is shaking up the capital's art scene with his colorful collages and highly-charged compositions.

(Photo)
Rea DJUROVIC

@juleeharather

- ① **You designed the key visual for the 2025 Strauss anniversary year (see page 4). How did you approach it?**

The first point of reference was the golden statue of him in Stadtpark. And everything grew organically from there. The imagery comes from things like old Viennese post-cards.

- ② **How would you describe your own style?**
I work with visual media and visual languages that I grew up with. A colorfully crafted universe, inspired by painting and video games.

- ③ **Do you already have a clear picture of the end result when you start?**
Usually, I have something in my head from the outset. And this then develops, especially when I'm collaborating with other artists.

- ④ **You combine analog and digital elements. Why?**
Before taking up photography, I did a lot of drawing. I also often approach projects with sketches, where many elements have already been determined. I then transfer them into the digital realm.

- ⑤ **Are you looking to convey a particular message through your art?**
I just enjoy being able to create my images as I see it.

- ⑥ **You founded the design collective soju.studio with four friends. What is it all about?**

We want to work interdisciplinarily, but independently, too, and implement our artistic perspectives freely.

- ⑦ **Where do you find inspiration in Vienna?**
In the city itself. In the streets and buildings in the styles of Art Nouveau and Historicism.

- ⑧ **Do you also go to museums for inspiration?**
The classical museums are a major source of inspiration, especially the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna and the Secession.

- ⑨ **Do you have a favorite place in Vienna?**
One of my favorite places is the Cha No Ma teahouse in the Freihaus quarter. The owners are old friends of mine and serve the best matcha.

- ⑩ **Is Vienna a city of art? Is Vienna good to its artists?**
The young creative scene is really flourishing in Vienna right now. The city offers a lot of financial support, which lets lots of artists live up to their full potential.

Through Different EYES

(Text)
Johannes LUXNER

(Photos)
Mafalda RAKOŠ

No one knows the fantastic artworks in Vienna's museums better than the people who are there to keep a watchful eye on these cultural gems day in day out. So which works have struck a chord with the city's museum staff? Six employees from six of the capital's biggest institutions share their favorite pieces.

Without them, the museum experience as we know it would be impossible: often dressed in black, the staff are not just responsible for ensuring that precious exhibits are not damaged and that everyone sticks to the museum rules. In lots of the bigger institutions, their duties extend far beyond their classic supervisory roles in exhibition halls. Tasks such as ticket control, staffing museum shops, managing cash registers and running cloakrooms are all part and parcel of the modern-day job description. Which is why the term "steward" is hardly used anymore in the capital's top museums.

After all, hardly anyone spends more time with the artworks than they do! All of which makes them a great resource when it comes to quick questions about the collections. Continuous professional development measures ensure that they are always up to speed: lots of museums are part of the Echocast (European Cultural and Heritage Organizations Customer Awareness Staff Training) consortium, which is dedicated to developing and staging extensive training programs for cultural sector employees working at leading major museums in Germany and Austria.

Providing an Engaging Experience

These days, big-name museums such as the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna (KHM), the Naturhistorisches Museum Vienna (NHM), the MAK – Museum of Applied Arts, and the Wien Museum tend to refer to their people as visitor or guest service staff, or visitor attendants, to reflect the wide range of responsibilities that they now have. After all, the ultimate goal is to ensure that museumgoers enjoy their time and come away having had a genuinely engaging experience. But what is perhaps less well known is that many of these staff members are themselves extremely well versed in art history and have an understanding of the collections that borders on the encyclopedic.

People From All Over the World

One thing that sets this profession apart is just how many different countries are represented: the 200 visitor attendants that the KHM employs come from all corners of the globe and dozens of different nations. The 90 or so people working in visitor services at the Wien Museum speak 17 languages between them. And the Albertina has staff members from 32 countries. In terms of their backgrounds, the museum staff are every bit as diverse as the visitors. And how deeply they can identify with the works on show is borne out by another interesting factor: there are lots of active artists among their ranks, too. But now it's time to open up the floor to the art experts themselves.

Naturhistorisches Museum Vienna (NHM)



Wilhelm Lubenik has worked at the Natural History Museum for many years. A native of Vienna, he's been fascinated by the animal kingdom ever since he was a little boy: "Dinosaurs have had a special hold over me from an early age, and I'm a huge cat fan, too." His favorite exhibit? "The black jaguar in Hall 38 is my absolute favorite. These big cats are beautiful creatures that radiate grace and incredible power. Jaguars can even bite through tortoise shells." Lubenik's fascination with jaguars runs so deep that he has one with him at all times: "I have a tattoo of a jaguar on my left upper arm." His five-year-old daughter Sarah shares his love of cats: "We go to Schönbrunn Zoo regularly so that we can see the big cats for real. And her favorite plushie is a little jaguar she calls Jagi." The taxidermy jaguar on show at the NHM also came from Schönbrunn Zoo, where it died of natural causes.

NATURHISTORISCHES MUSEUM VIENNA (NHM)
Maria-Theresien-Platz
1010 Vienna
→ www.nhm.at

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna (KHM)



Originally from Italy, Nora Todaro Calloni has been working in visitor services at the KHM for a year and a half. She could scarcely be better suited for the role, having studied painting and art history at the Urbino Academy of Fine Arts in Italy. She came to Vienna to work on her master's thesis and to get some professional experience: "Working at the KHM was a dream come true because it's one of the most important and diverse art museums around." Her favorite artwork? "Saint Mary Magdalene by Antiveduto della Grammatica because it says a great deal about the processes behind art history research." Painted in 1615, the piece had long puzzled scholars, who initially attributed it to the female artist Artemisia Gentileschi. "But it turned out to be an art history error and a rare case where a work was mistakenly credited to a woman. Usually, it's the other way around. That was something completely new to me."

KUNSTHISTORISCHES MUSEUM VIENNA (KHM)
Maria-Theresien-Platz
1010 Vienna
→ www.khm.at

Wien Museum



Daniel Enevoldsen from the Wien Museum is particularly fond of the sculpture „Witch Doing Her Toilette on Walpurgis Night“ from 1895: “It wasn’t just the unusual depiction of the witch that people found provocative, but also the fact that it was created by a woman who had ventured into the male-dominated field of sculpture.” The unusual sculpture was created by Teresa Feodorovna Ries (1866–1956), who slipped into obscurity due to a highly male-centric view of art history. “It’s wonderful to see that this artwork is attracting a lot of interest again, especially among children, teenagers, and women in particular,” says Enevoldsen, who perfectly illustrates the international diversity of Vienna’s museums. He grew up in Denmark and Italy, and studied philosophy in Aarhus and musicology in Cremona and Vienna. “That’s why I particularly enjoy working in one of the Wien Museum’s composer residences, such as Franz Schubert’s and Joseph Haydn’s apartments.”

WIEN MUSEUM
Karlsplatz 8
1040 Vienna
→ www.wienmuseum.at

MAK – Museum of Applied Arts



Zuzanna Dimagiba, who works in visitor services at the MAK – Museum of Applied Arts, has a favorite artwork that's pretty hard to miss: an oversized sofa by the renowned Austrian artist collective Gelatin, which is on show right in the heart of the museum in its impressive columned hall. In fact, visitors are encouraged to give this unusual piece of furniture a whirl: "Our visitors are naturally drawn to the sofa and just love it. And that creates a positive atmosphere which spreads throughout the museum and envelops me, too," explains the native of Krakow, Poland, who has worked at the MAK for 13 years. And the sofa is much more than a piece of furniture to sit on. It serves as a homage to the famous Viennese artist Franz West (1947–2012), corresponding with West's installation *12 Divans*, also located in the Säulenhalle hall. But that's not all: the artwork also references Sigmund Freud and psychoanalysis, which he pioneered in Vienna.

MAK – MUSEUM OF APPLIED ARTS
Stubenring 5
1010 Vienna
→ www.mak.at

Belvedere



Mathias Beck has art in his veins: “My father is an antiques and art dealer, so I’ve been around museums and exhibitions since I was a child.” So it comes as no surprise to learn that Beck is currently studying art history in Vienna. From the northeastern Waldviertel region of Lower Austria, he has been working at the Belvedere for nearly three years. Beck: “I’m a big Klimt fan, but my favorite artwork at the Belvedere is actually Franz von Stuck’s *Lost*.” Why this particular piece from 1891? “Because I am a real fan of the Symbolism movement. And this painting is an outstanding example of the style.” Franz von Stuck’s work depicts a mythical creature, wandering lost through a snowy landscape. “It’s intriguing and raises lots of questions. I often find myself standing in front of this artwork. When you look at it, it just pulls you into this magical and mysterious world. That fascinates me.”

BELVEDERE
Prinz-Eugen-Strasse 27
1030 Vienna
→ www.belvedere.at

Albertina



“My favorite object is *The Avenger*, a sculpture by the German artist Ernst Barlach,” says Dominik Messner, who keeps a watchful eye on the Albertina’s exhibition rooms. But what is it about this particular work? “It addresses a very topical theme, as Ernst Barlach experienced the horrors of the First World War and considered them from an artistic viewpoint. He reflected on the events very deeply.” Messner is especially taken by the emotional depth of the sculpture: “The way Barlach conveys suffering through his art is incomparable. This portrayal of the depths of human emotion moves me.” The Albertina staff member, who grew up in Carinthia, is also active as an artist himself, having studied painting and printmaking at the Vienna Art School. He regularly exhibits his work in the capital’s galleries. What does he appreciate about the Albertina? “The broad artistic spectrum, from modern art to the great masters like Michelangelo and Rubens. I love taking my time and looking at the artworks when the museum is closed.”

ALBERTINA
Albertinaplatz 1
1010 Vienna
→ www.albertina.at

KUNST
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WIEN

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WWW.KHM.AT



(Text)
Maria SCHALLER

(Photos)
Paul BAUER

The Quiet *Rising Star*

A visit to the studio of Anouk Lamm Anouk: the hottest stock on Vienna's contemporary art market is refreshingly unique: incredibly talented, shy, autistic, non-binary – and that's only part of the picture.



Anouk Lamm Anouk (not a stage name) lives and works in a magnificent old apartment in the heart of Vienna, a short distance from the Parliament building. A refuge that Anouk created with wife Marleen, and where they live with their dog and cat. Viennese born and bred, Anouk is in their early 30s, non-binary and goes by they/them in English. (So far, there's no equivalent for this in German.) In their studio, surrounded by countless works, the softly-spoken artist talks openly about their autism and the highly-sought-after art that is everywhere you look. Yorkshire terrier Sirius Grace, lap dog and assistant all in one, is always at their side.

As quiet as Anouk is on a personal level, their message could scarcely be any louder. "No age, no gender, no origin" is their manifesto. Activist elements are an unmissable feature of Anouk's message. "My work is highly conceptual and very political. So to a certain extent I am an activist." Their celebrated series *Lesbian Jazz* brings under-represented Lesbian art to the fore in fine art. Anouk recalls something that they struggled to understand as a child: "I think that normalcy can only stem from visibility. When I was little there just wasn't a term for non-binary individuals, there were few openly lesbian people and autism was not

visible. So things are definitely moving along – but there's a long way to go."

From New York to Hong Kong

When other young people were out partying, Anouk was busy developing their own signature as an artist. "I had to create everything that I am and have today myself. There was no alternative to art for me, but it was also a risk as I don't have any networks or other forms of security." As a child Anouk always put pencil to paper, with canvas coming along some time later. Today, the artist creates sculptural pieces, adding acrylics to huge Belgian canvasses, while not using the primed front side but the reverse one, with its light beige base color that always shines through. Beholders will find lots of abstract bodies, as well as circles and lines. Animal motifs also feature – especially horses and lambs, which symbolize strength and purity. Anouk's style is pared down, yet monumental. Full of tenderness, light and elegance.

This unmistakable painting method, which they honed at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and the Berlin University of the Arts, quickly sent the Viennese artist's stock soaring. Demand for their work continues to ride high. Buyers of their acrylic



works on canvas pay anywhere from low four figure sums to tens of thousands of euros for larger pieces. Anouk's work first went on show in 2014 at Vienna's Belvedere 21, and their career trajectory reached a new level in the wake of a STRABAG Artaward International win in 2021. This year, activities center on solo shows in Venice and Bonn. Other ports of call include New York, Chicago, Seoul, Beijing and Hong Kong. Anouk: "I wanted to take it a little easier in 2024, but there were so many things that came up that I didn't want to turn down. I am grateful for the visibility."



Silence Reigns Supreme

Anouk Lamm Anouk works a lot, on many projects in parallel, and sets great store by discipline and attentiveness: "I can't afford to make any mistakes, I can't just paint over things." No sketches are made. Sometimes works are ready after a week, sometimes they take six months to complete. One of the trademarks of Anouk's pieces is the use of an earthy, pastel foundation color. There are no overly strong colors to be found. Black and white and beige dominate: "Too much color makes me nervous, it would be an overload for me. I like art that grounds you and sets good feelings in motion."

The hype surrounding Anouk continues unabated, although the attention took some getting used to at first: "The biggest complement for me is the interest in my art. I want to reach people. But that is my job, that's not how I am as a private individual. I am shy and introverted and I draw my energy from quiet." And that is precisely what Anouk finds in Vienna: "In spite of its status as a major capital, in my eyes the city has always exuded a sense of calm. Beyond that, I just love Vienna's beauty." A perfect symbiosis.

● anouklammanouk.com



Fashion, Arts & Crafts, Architecture

The scent of a waltz and disco sounds merge with light gowns and heavy blocks in perfect balance.

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Ten Questions for Wolfgang Lederhaas

The cosmetics manufacturer and perfumier
in an interview about the scent of Vienna.

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Balancing Heavy Masses

Fritz Wotruba was one of Austria's most influential sculptors.
To mark the 50th anniversary of his death,
we take a look at his creative process.

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Natty Dresser

Johann Strauss attached great importance to his appearance.
Fashion also plays an important role at Viennese balls.
We present statement ball gowns.

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Disco with History

Johann Strauss used to play in what is now the Volksgarten Club Disco.
To this day, people still dance inside Oswald Haerdtl's architectural gem.
Insights into a legendary disco with an illustrious history.



Ten Questions for *Wolfgang Lederhaas*

Wolfgang Lederhaas has made a name for himself with the natural cosmetics brand that he founded in 2011 – and not just in Vienna. The cosmetics manufacturer and perfumier switched from the humanities to natural sciences. Nature is his teacher, and that is precisely what high-quality brand Lederhaas Cosmetics is all about.

(Photo)
Theo BARTENBERGER

Lederhaas Cosmetics
www.lederhaas-cosmetics.com

Available from the online store and at:
Saint Charles Cosmothecary,
Gumpendorfer Strasse 33, 1060 Vienna
Kussmund Schönheitsspezialitäten,
Habsburgergasse 14, 1010 Vienna

- ① **You actually did a degree in philosophy, psychology and German studies. How did you get into cosmetics?**
At some point, friends just wanted to buy my cosmetic products, and I ended up doing them – and myself and others – the favor. For me, focusing on the skin is not just some superficial business, it's about going into depth. So, in that respect it really is related to my studies. For me, the skin is part of the body and the soul.
- ② **Fragrances are your profession. What smell do you associate with Vienna?**
Coffee and yeast dough.
- ③ **Where in Vienna does it smell worst and where does it smell best?**
A stink is a stink. But a concentration of bad perfumes in closed rooms is particularly nasty. I'm always told that it smells nice in my car and on the way from the main door to the company to the entrance: "It smells like Lederhaas!"
- ④ **What is it that you love about Vienna?**
That the natural environment is very close and there's still a lot of interest in culture.
- ⑤ **What annoys you about Vienna?**
The increasing neglect and decline in manners.
- ⑥ **What is your favorite part of town?**
I like the eighth district because the disadvantages of a big city are less noticeable there.
- ⑦ **You are also a classically trained vocalist. Do you sing while you work? And if so, what?**
Not a day goes by without music and singing! Schubert, Bach, and old folk songs.
- ⑧ **What was your biggest mishap in the lab?**
I once invented an apricot scent by mixing various essential oils together. And lost the recipe.
- ⑨ **You also work with Viennese hotels. What's the key to that?**
Quality and a certain human element in the way you work together.
- ⑩ **Your cosmetics are created using organic raw ingredients. What is important about that to you?**
Organic raw materials are precious and delicate. For me, their ephemeral nature is among their special qualities.

He was one of the most influential Austrian sculptors of the 20th century. His expressive figures remain classics of modern sculpture to this day, while the design for the church Zur Heiligsten Dreifaltigkeit (Church of the Most Holy Trinity) stands as a monumental legacy to the artist himself. To mark the 50th anniversary of his death, the Belvedere 21 is mounting a temporary exhibition dedicated to the life and work of the artist Fritz Wotruba.

(Text)
Andrea ORTMAYER

Balancing Heavy Masses

Fritz Wotruba at work on the Skulptur (Sculpture)
Veselje Unito limestone, in his studio, around 1968
Photo: © Belvedere, Wien, Nachlass Fritz Wotruba

After returning from exile to a destroyed Vienna, in 1946 Fritz Wotruba created one of his groundbreaking works, which was hewn from a stone block taken from Vienna's bombed-out St. Stephen's Cathedral: Weibliche Kathedrale (Female Cathedral) or Stehende (Standing Figure). Reduced to its essential forms with clear, pure outlines, this female figure was carved out of the stone.

Throughout Wotruba's life, stone would remain his material of choice, representing as it did through its hardness, rigidity, and resistance the ultimate challenge for him as a sculptor. In his words it "still concealed a thousand worlds of design".

The Human at the Heart

The central theme of Wotruba's art was the human being, and the human body in particular. He created nude figures, some monumental and larger than life, which he sculpted straight from blocks of stone using his own pencil or pen sketches for reference. The four basic human postures – standing, walking, sitting, and lying down – were of fundamental importance in his work. Wotruba deconstructed the

human form, reducing it to its basic structures before reassembling these elements to create a new whole and setting new standards for the concept of physical harmony in the process. The outcome was block-like figures comprising cubes, cuboids, and cylinders, which ceded to column- and pillar-shaped figures in the late 1950s. His depictions of the human figure increasingly shifted away from the strictly anatomical body, as he moved towards a stricter, more architectural conception. In the 1960s, Wotruba's work began to focus on plate-like individual elements, which added a more dynamic expression to his figures.

The "Wotruba School"

Immediately after the end of the Second World War, Wotruba – with the help of his friend, the painter Herbert Boeckl – took over the sculpture master class at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna at the age of 39. Not a traditional academic, he taught directly on stone in his studio on Böcklinstrasse where he urged his students to formulate their own means of artistic expression. Wotruba exercised great care when it came to selecting the students he worked



with, maintained friendships with some of them and provided additional support for the most talented among them. Many significant artists emerged from his master class. Known as the Wotruba School, it nurtured talents including Alfred Hrdlička, Wander Berton, Heinz Leinfellner, Josef Pillhofer, Roland Göschl, Andreas Urteil, Annemarie and Joannis Avramidis, Oskar Höfinger, and Oskar Bottoli. Wotruba's studio on Böcklinstrasse, near the Prater park in the second district, always functioned as a place where his students could meet and exchange ideas, thanks to the fact that they were able to interact with so many of the artists, musicians, and writers from Wotruba's circle there.

In addition to his professorship and extensive participation in international exhibitions, Wotruba took over at the helm of the renowned Würthle Gallery in Vienna's historic first district in 1953. The gallery was owned by his friend, the Swiss art collector Fritz Kamm. Alongside Kamm, Wotruba positioned the gallery as a center for Austrian contemporary art, as well as Viennese and international Modernism. The two men had formed an enduring friendship during Wotruba and his wife's period of exile in Switzerland between 1938 and 1945. With Kamm's support, Wotruba was able to continue working as a sculptor while in exile and exhibited his work in various Swiss museums. For his part,



Fritz Wotruba with his jackdaw Hansi in his studio on Böcklinstrasse, working on the original model for the church for the Carmelite convent in Steinbach near Vienna, later the model for the Church of the Most Holy Trinity in the Viennese suburb of Mauer, 1967

Photo: © Belvedere, Wien, Nachlass Fritz Wotruba



Church of the Most Holy Trinity on the Georgenberg hill in Mauer

Photo: © Vienna Tourist Board/Paul Bauer

Wotruba supported Robert Musil, a writer who he greatly admired, during this difficult time. Throughout his life, Wotruba maintained friendships with numerous fellow artists, including Elias Canetti, Hermann Broch, Alban Berg, Herbert Boeckl, and Gottfried von Einem.

A Museum of Modern Art for Vienna

Always a combative and contrary individual, Fritz Wotruba was an uncomfortable contemporary for some. After the Second World War, he was a strong advocate for the cultural reconstruction of his hometown, Vienna. And in 1962, his long-standing demands for a museum of modern art in Vienna were finally answered. Created by Karl Schwanzer for the 1958 World's Fair in Brussels, the Austrian pavilion was brought to Vienna and adapted to turn it into a museum. It opened to the public as the Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts (Museum of the 20th Century, now the Belvedere 21).

Pure Brutalism – Wotruba Church

A milestone of Austrian architectural art can be found in the south of Vienna. City Hiking Trail No. 6 leads to the Georgenberg hill and the church Zur Heiligsten Dreifaltigkeit. The Church of the Most

Holy Trinity, to give it its English name, is one of the most striking – and unusual – sacred buildings in Vienna. This place of worship would be Fritz Wotruba's last major project. To this day, it remains one of the most important Brutalist works in Austria. Stacked irregularly, 135 cubic blocks of cast concrete weighing some 4,000 tons tower skywards like a sculpture, forming a unique church building. Wotruba was intensely involved in the planning of this church from the mid-1960s, and any and all opposition to the realization of its controversial design was met with vehement resistance. Construction, which was based on the blueprints drawn up by Wotruba and architect Fritz Gerhard Mayr, did not begin until 1974 as a result. Ultimately, Wotruba would not witness his finished late architectural work when it was completed in 1976. He passed away suddenly from a heart attack on August 28, 1975.

*"In my dreams,
there is a vision
of the power of the
beautiful and the strength
of ugliness, of the lightness
of the floating and the
balance of heavy masses."*

Fritz Wotruba



Fritz Wotruba: Grosse Figur (Big Statue),
Monument to Richard Wagner, 1969. Plaster
Photo: © Belvedere, Wien, Nachlass Fritz Wotruba

Wotruba at Belvedere 21

Fritz Wotruba's extensive estate of artistic and documentary effects was entrusted to the Belvedere in 2011, with a special Wotruba repository later set up at the Belvedere 21. It comprises 500 stone and bronze sculptures, plaster models, and 2,500 drawings as well as 1,500 graphic works, the artist's written estate, and an extensive photo archive.

To mark the 50th anniversary of Wotruba's death, the Belvedere 21 is staging an exhibition called Wotruba international from July 17 to November 16, 2025. The temporary show is curated by Verena Gamper and art historian Gabriele Stöger-Spevak, who manages the sculptor's estate. Special guided tours of the Wotruba repository are also planned for the anniversary year.

For more information visit

→ www.belvedere.at

● Belvedere 21
Arsenalstrasse 1, 1030 Vienna
Tue–Sun 11:00–18:00,
Thu 11:00–21:00

For information on the exhibition and tours
of the Wotruba repository, visit
→ www.belvedere.at



In his day, Johann Strauss was a fashionable fellow who always paid attention to his clothes and appearance. Musically, he shaped Viennese ball tradition like no one else. Fashion also had a major role to play at Vienna's ball events. And it is still the case today. We take a look at a pair of fantastic ball gowns from two Viennese fashion labels.

Natty Dresser

(Text)
Susanne KAPELLER

(Photos)
Paul BAUER

Dressed in a gown from Viennese designer duo Elfenkleid, it's time for the Opera Ball, the highlight of the Viennese ball season. → www.elfenkleid.com

Page 68-71: dress ELFENKLEID, location VIENNA STATE OPERA







Viennese fashion designer Eva Poleschinski's ball gown turns heads at the Coffeehouse Owners' Ball in the Hofburg (photo right). Styling and a pre-event celebration took place at The Guesthouse Vienna hotel (photo above). → www.evapoleschinski.at

Dress EVA POLESCHINSKI, locations HOFBURG VIENNA and THE GUESTHOUSE VIENNA



Disco with History

(Text)
Susanne KAPELLER

(Photos)
Paul BAUER

Today, people still dance where Johann Strauss once performed. The area around the Volksgarten Club Disco has an illustrious history, and Oswald Haerdtl's architecture makes it definitely worth a look.

The Winter Garden feat. an edged palm bed and original 1950s Oswald Haerdtl design is still going strong at the Volksgarten Club Disco.



When people in Vienna say they're "going to Volksgarten," they usually don't mean the park (the Volksgarten), but a club (the Volksgarten Club Disco). Nestled in the beautiful Volksgarten park, this nightspot has been a staple of party life in Vienna for decades. But in actual fact, the history behind the Volksgarten as a venue goes all the

way back to 1822. In his capacity as a member of the imperial architecture council, the Swiss-born architect Pietro Nobile created a number of seminal works around the Volksgarten park: the monumental Burgtor city gate (1821), the Theseus Temple (1820–1823), and the Corti Café (1822/23). Still part of the Volksgarten Club Disco today, the latter

was named after its original operator Peter Corti. The semi-circular café in the style of a grand classical hall of columns quickly became a popular spot for the nobility and chattering classes to go dancing. All the big names of the time performed here: Joseph Lanner, Johann Strauss Senior, and of course, Johann Strauss Junior – aka the Waltz King. And in 1868, it was at the Corti Café that Johann Strauss Junior premiered his newest waltz: *Tales from the Vienna Woods*. On March 10, 1867, he even conducted the first orchestral performance of his famous *Blue Danube* waltz here.

Dancing in an Architectural Gem

After the Second World War, the architect Oswald Haerdtl (1899–1959) transformed the heavily bomb-damaged Corti Café into a popular Tanzcafé or dance café – and it looks largely the same to this day. Haerdtl, a former student of Josef Hoffmann, is renowned above all for his inimitable 1950s architecture. He also designed Café Prückel on Vienna's Ringstrasse boulevard. Today, what was once the Corti Café is now part of the Volksgarten Club Disco. The building comprises three elements, each with its own character: the typical 1950s design is particularly well-preserved in the Winter Garden. With its edged



The former Corti Café with its hall of columns now forms part of the Volksgarten Club Disco.

palm bed, original 50s furniture, and old chandeliers, it's the perfect spot for anyone looking to take a break from the dance floor. Visually, the Winter Garden provides an interesting contrast to the illuminated perforated metal sheeting found in the disco and entrance area – elements that were added during a more recent renovation. The third area is the former Corti Café, the hall of columns mentioned above. This part was once dubbed The Banana by locals due to its semicircular lines. Haerdtl also designed the gardens that went with it. Though new, it is clear that the perforated metal pattern in the entrance area references the 1950s table lamps in the outdoor seating area. For decades, the hall of columns hosted ballroom dancing events before eventually evolving into a separate night club. TV chef Alexander Kumptner operates a pizzeria here by day, with the space only segueing into a club venue later at night.

The Volksgarten Club Disco still hosts wild party nights, which spill out into the open air in the summer. One highlight is the club's retractable roof, which can be opened to let in fresh air on particularly warm nights. Most of the building is heritage-listed.



50s-Style Pavilion

Volksgarten Pavilion is right next to it. The pavilion and the terraced garden (complete with its own little stream) that surrounds it were also designed by Oswald Haerdtl. Built in 1951, it originally operated as a “milk pavilion” during the day. With the exception of the bar, most of the original 1950s features have been preserved: the chairs, tables with iconic table lamps, and retro lettering at the entrance make the location something of a paradise for fans of authentic mid-century design. The pavilion also hosts events in the evenings, but only during the summer months. One legendary fixture



The garden was also designed by Oswald Haerdtl.

is the Techno Café, which has taken place at the venue every Tuesday night since 1996. Even Mick Jagger was spotted here once. During the daytime, the Volksgarten Pavilion provides a relaxing summertime oasis in the heart of the city.

- Volksgarten Club Disco & Pavilion
 Burgring/Heldenplatz
 1010 Vienna
www.volksgarten.at
www.volksgarten-pavillon.at
pizza-senza-danza.at



The 1950s-style Volksgarten Pavilion is a popular summer hangout.

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Food & Drink

Beef dishes beg for bread and look forward
to the fizz that follows.

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Ten Questions for Aurore Jeudy

Born in France, Schlumberger's Chief Winemaker
talks about the perfect sparkling wine and the latest trends.

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Cult of Beef

Vienna and boiled beef are like two peas in a pod.

The most famous variant of all is Tafelspitz.

We share some rare insights into Viennese cuisine.

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In Crust We Trust

Bread is now a lifestyle product. Modern Viennese bakeries
are taking the art of bread baking to a whole new level.

And are all about sustainable practices.



Ten Questions for *Aurore Jeudy*

(Photo)
Paul BAUER

Schlumberger is Austria's longest-standing producer of Sekt sparkling wine. In 2022, French-born Aurore Jeudy became the first woman to be appointed Chief Winemaker in the company's history. Jeudy learned her trade in Champagne, where she worked for a number of respected houses including Perrier Jouët.

Schlumberger Sparkling Wine Cellar
Heiligenstädter Strasse 39
1190 Vienna
www.schlumberger.at

① **Aurore, what brought you to Vienna?**

There was a palpable spark between Schlumberger and me early on. I started advising Schlumberger 16 years ago. When they asked me if I wanted to become their cellar master, I didn't have to think twice.

② **What exactly is it that a chief winemaker does?**

My work starts with the grapes in our partner winegrowers' vineyards and ends once the cork goes into the bottle. Every day is different.

③ **How would you describe the Schlumberger style?**

Fresh, elegant and "fine pearled".

④ **Which grapes are used to make Schlumberger sparkling wine?**

Schlumberger is all about local grapes. From typical Austrian varieties such as Grüner Veltliner and Zweigelt to Chardonnay and Pinot Noir – all of which show great potential on Austrian soil.

⑤ **What distinguishes real champagne from Schlumberger Sekt?**

There are virtually no differences whatsoever in the production methods we use. Like champagne, Schlumberger sparkling wine is bottle fermented. But champagne can only be produced in France.

⑥ **How is climate change affecting your work?**

We're noticing it in the form of earlier harvests. Warmer temperatures speed up the ripening process, which means that the grapes sweeten more quickly. Unstable weather conditions also make planning more difficult.

⑦ **What makes a Sekt a good Sekt?**

If you open a second bottle.

⑧ **What is the big trend at the moment?**

Rosé is big right now, and is also growing in popularity in Austria. But overall, demand for sparkling wines with lower residual sugar is also on the rise.

⑨ **The Schlumberger experience is also open to visitors ...**

In our cellars, visitors get to experience the full journey from grape to bottle. And all this in the same location where it all began over 180 years ago.

⑩ **What is it that you love about Vienna?**

I love exploring Vienna's countless small markets, and spending time surrounded by nature, especially along the Danube.



(Text)
Susanne KAPELLER

(Photos)
Erli GRÜNZWEIL

Cult of Beef

Boiled beef holds a very special place in Viennese cuisine. Its preparation has been refined and perfected like no other dish. Emperor Franz Joseph's favorite, Tafelspitz is the pinnacle of the Viennese tradition of gently simmered beef.

At Meissl & Schadn, boiled beef is served in specially partitioned dishes.



Celeriac and bay leaves give the broth its special flavor.

“Boiled beef is the soul of Viennese cuisine,” the essayist and journalist Joseph Wechsberg (1907–1983) once wrote. And he was right. While much of Viennese cuisine has its roots in the former Crown Lands in the multinational Habsburg Empire, boiled beef is a truly Viennese specialty. The most famous and popular of these gently sim-

mered beef dishes is undoubtedly Tafelspitz. While the whole world is familiar with Wiener Schnitzel, visitors often need a little prompting when it comes to boiled beef. In most countries, beef is roasted – so the idea of boiled beef can come as a surprise.

The Emperor's Favorite Dish

A passion for beef – and boiled beef in particular – emerged in Vienna, which found itself at the heart of a true culinary cult. Boiled beef and the accompanying soup culture had its heyday in the 19th century, when Viennese cuisine had begun to define itself as a culinary school in its own right. Its popularity was also in no small measure due to Emperor Franz Joseph. Famously, Tafelspitz was his favorite dish. Known to enjoy simple meals, the Emperor had fairly grounded tastes: he enjoyed beef broth with semolina dumplings, veal butter schnitzel, or game. He preferred to eat his boiled (actually gently simmered) Tafelspitz cut of beef with seasonal sautéed vegetables. His wife, Empress Elisabeth, by contrast, veered between periods of extreme fasting and indulging her penchant for candied treats. To help retain her slim figure, she would even drink the juice pressed from raw beef. And when she did eat, she too had a distinct preference for beef with vegetables. And so it was that boiled beef became popular among the nobility and upper echelons of society, who always followed the trends set by the imperial court.

“Bat in the Pot”

Various cuts of beef can be used for boiled beef. Vienna is also famous for how the meat is actually butchered. The “Viennese method” is a special technique that produces as many different cuts with varying textures as possible. Nowhere else is beef divided into so many parts as it is in Vienna. The method is still known and revered today, and mastering it requires great skill. Each individual cut has a unique name – from Kavalierspitz to Fledermaus (bat), from Tafelspitz to Schulterscherzl. Up to 24 different specialty beef dishes were served by some aficionados back in the day, with Meissl & Schadn in the vanguard.

The significance of beef-based cuisine in Vienna is clearly indicated by the St. Marx cattle market, which was built in the early 1880s. Up to 6,000 head of cattle would be corralled in this huge, heritage-listed industrial building ahead of auction. The chefs of the nobility, hotels, and the city's other eateries bid on livestock directly, and would butcher the animals themselves. Back then, a cook was also a butcher. Still in use as a cattle market until 1997, the “Rindermarkthalle” in St. Marx is now an event hall.

Hungry Officers

Legend has it that boiled beef really took off as the result of a strict rule imposed at the imperial court. The Emperor was always served first at the table. And no one was allowed to continue eating once he put down his cutlery. Emperor Franz Joseph was a notoriously fast eater, meaning that in many cases army officers left the table hungry. They would then stop by the Hotel Sacher, where a pot of boiled beef had been simmering for hours.

Perfect Preparation

After the Second World War, various beef dishes disappeared from Viennese cuisine altogether. Today, it is usually the classic Tafelspitz cut – a fine-grained and well-aged piece of beef – that is served boiled. It remains highly succulent even when simmered for a very long time. Though a simple dish, it actually takes a great deal of skill to get Tafelspitz right. The piece of meat is usually added whole into already-boiling water, though there are some kitchens that prefer to start the cooking process with cold water. Tafelspitz is simmered over low



Besides Wiener Schnitzel, Vienna has developed a cult-like devotion to boiled beef



The vegetables are cooked alongside the beef, which is garnished with chopped chives when it is served.

heat – only smaller bubbles should sporadically rise to the surface – in water seasoned with peppercorns and sometimes bay leaves. Root vegetables, onions, leeks, and lovage are added at a later stage. Sometimes, the water is started off with beef bones to infuse it with a more intense flavor. One special preparation method involves beef marrow bones, which are actually served as part of the dish alongside the boiled beef. Salt is only added at the end because it could otherwise cause the meat to discolor.

To serve, the Tafelspitz is cut into slices (important: always cut across the grain!) and immediately covered with hot broth to ensure that it stays juicy, before being sprinkled with a garnish of chopped chives. Traditional sides include chive sauce, creamed spinach, apple horseradish, bread sauce with horseradish, root vegetables, and pan fried potatoes. And during the cooking process, a flavorful beef broth is created – another core component of Viennese cuisine, with its variety of soup garnishes from strips of pancake to semolina dumplings, liver dumplings, and lung strudel.

Tafelspitz Today

Nowadays, boiled beef features on the menu in virtually every self-respecting restaurant and Gasthaus that serves Viennese cuisine. Whether it's a down-to-earth neighborhood eatery, or the elegant Hotel Sacher, where military officers once stopped by for boiled beef. There are two places in the capital today that are especially well known for their beef specialties. The first, Meissl & Schadn (est. 1896), which was once a renowned hotel with an equally legendary restaurant at Neuer Markt, was known primarily for its beef dishes – and

the 24 varieties mentioned above. It was struck in bombing raids at the end of the Second World War and destroyed. But a restaurant of the same name now exists at the Hotel Grand Ferdinand on Vienna's Ringstrasse as a tribute to the legendary original establishment. And an unmissable treat at the present-day Meissl & Schadn is boiled beef, served from a cart where guests can choose between Tafelspitz, Schulterschierzl, brisket, and tongue, with grilled marrow bones also available on request. The beef is served on special plates,



Root vegetables, leeks, and peppercorns are essential when preparing boiled beef.

which were faithfully reproduced according to Philipp Aigner designs dating back to 1896. Aigner even patented his special Garnierschüssel serving dishes worldwide. Its raised divisions create different compartments to prevent the various foods from flowing into one another. The boiled beef is placed in the center, with the side dishes in the indentations around it.

Kaiser". And his restaurants are bastions of the high art of beef cuisine. Besides Tafelspitz they also offer some of the cuts of beef that are less well-known: Kruspelspitz, weisses Scherzl, Hüferschwanzl, and many more. And anyone looking for a different take on Tafelspitz will be pleased to know that it is available in aspic or as a salad. And Trzesniewski even has it as a sandwich spread.

*"Boiled meat is not boring.
At least not in Vienna."*

German Michelin-star-winning chef
and author Vincent Klink,
published in the Stuttgarter Zeitung

When the word Tafelspitz comes up in Vienna, people invariably think of Plachutta. The Plachutta family is considered the Tafelspitz dynasty. Restaurant founder Ewald Plachutta, the doyen of Viennese cuisine, is the capital's unofficial "Beef

ADDRESSES

● Meissl & Schadn
Schubertring 10–12
1010 Vienna
→ meisslundschn.at

● Plachutta
Original Restaurant in Hietzing
Auhofstrasse 1
1130 Vienna

● Plachutta First District
Wollzeile 38
1010 Vienna

For more locations visit:
→ www.plachutta.at

In Crust *We Trust*

(Text)
Tobias SCHREIBER

Bread – just another boring staple, right? Once upon a time, maybe. But in Vienna, bread has risen to “lifestyle product” status. Contemporary bakeries are taking this time-honored craft to new levels – without losing sight of sustainability. We follow the trail from the fields on the city’s outskirts to social enterprise bakeries, neighborhood vending machines – and even into beer glasses!

Vienna is rightly proud of its highly diverse bread culture. In most other parts of Europe, the number of bakeries is slowly declining. Not so in Vienna, though – here, new ones are popping up all the time. Which is mainly down to resourceful entrepreneurs who are constantly breathing new life into the trade. One of the oldest breadmaking methods, sourdough is staging a comeback. Besides traditional wheat creations, more and more grain varieties, including rye, spelt and gluten-free buckwheat are finding their way into ovens across the city. Bread is also being swept along by the organic wave. New business models and ideas aimed at cutting food waste are really hitting the mark – after all, customers want quality while also keeping a clear conscience. And as with so many other things in Vienna, bread is a labor of love.

Truly Local

Sustainable breadmaking starts a ways away from the bakery – out in the fields. Under the Stadtland-wirtschaft Wien banner, Vienna’s urban agriculture businesses cultivate a combined total of 4,700 hectares of arable land, including 2,000 hectares that

are farmed organically. And all inside the city limits. Besides grapes for Vienna’s distinctive wines – as well as more than enough fresh vegetables – several different types of grain are also grown. This means that wheat, rye and other varieties don’t have far to go before they get to where they are needed, which includes some of the city’s bakeries.

Social Conscience

The ingredients are worked when they reach the bakeries – the question is: by whom? Social sustainability often plays second fiddle to its ecological counterpart. But one Viennese bakery in particular lives by some very important ingredients: solidarity, fairness and equal opportunities. The owner of four other businesses, Helmut Gragger has teamed up with former Vienna City Councilor Christoph Chorherr to set up a wood-fired bakery that they run as a social enterprise. Aimed at using business approaches to solve a social problem, the company employs refugees, unemployed people and others who face difficulties on the labor market. As they put it: “Good bread that does good”. All profits are channeled into education projects, including



Paul Thomann bakes every single loaf himself – all alone, in the back room of his store.

Photo: © Georg Schmidgruber

schools in Africa. And it's worth mentioning that thanks to Gragger's years of experience, the bread tastes fantastic, too. Definitely one to try!

Baker Paul Thomann is breaking new ground. A newcomer to the trade, he skipped the apprenticeship stage and passed his master baker's exam at the ripe old age of 32! When it came to setting the opening hours for his small shop next to the Danube Canal, Thomann decided to take a radically different tack. "Das Tho" only sells its organic loaves in the afternoons and evenings, not first thing in the morning as you would expect. A strategy tailored to the changing daily routines of his customers, it also means Thomann doesn't have to work at night. But there's a deeply personal motive at play here, too. This unconventional approach also has upsides for production, because it means the dough has more time to rise. It's what the experts call a "long prove". It also makes the bread easier to digest, and it doesn't go stale so quickly – so hopefully, people throw less in the trash. And any leftover loaves are sold the next day at knockdown prices. You could call it a win-win-win situation. Customers who are planning a relaxing evening at home can also buy regional wines and snacks at the store. The range extends from cheese and salami

to jams and marmalades – and Thomann works closely with almost all of the producers whose produce he sells.

Recycled

Talking of reducing food waste: Viennese bakery chains Felzl and Ströck are leading the way when it comes to cutting the amount of bread that gets binned. Both go one step further than other retailers.

Take Pierre Reboul, a development baker at Ströck – after a lengthy experimentation phase, he discovered a way of using leftover bread to bake fresh products. Organic rye bread that remained on the shelf the day before goes into the company's "recycled" *Wiederbrot* loaves, *Wiederbaguette* and *Wiederweckerl* rolls. The "old" bread is sliced, then toasted in the oven, ground into breadcrumbs and added to the fresh dough along with water. Which makes the crust especially crunchy. Reboul has also come up with a sweet treat: the *Wieder-Schoko-Brot*, a loaf with added fair trade chocolate and apricots. Any bread still left over is mainly used to produce animal feed, which in turn cuts

the amount of arable land required – by an area equivalent to 630 football fields. And to limit the build-up of unsold bread, a software program calculates how much needs to be baked depending on the day of the week, time of year, and even the weather.

Felzl also mixes crumbs made from the previous day's leftovers into the dough for its newly baked goods. Any surplus croissants are transformed overnight into sweet, marzipan-flavored almond croissants. Unsold bread containing nuts, pumpkin seeds or sunflower seeds is sliced wafer-thin and baked using residual heat



The list of ingredients for Ströck's "Wiederbrot" includes leftover bread from the day before.

Photo: © Lukas Lorenz

to make shelf-stable snacks. Seed-free loaves are turned into breadcrumbs the following day and added to fresh sourdough. Besides its six branches, the family business also operates three bread vending machines. Yes, you read that right! When the bakery closes for the day, any unsold products aren't thrown away; they end up in the vending machine instead. The cut-price leftovers go on sale until the following morning. Perfect for satisfying the night-time snack attack – or for breakfast if you're planning ahead.

Bread in a Glass

And if any precious bread is still left sitting on the shelves in spite of all these bright recycling ideas, there's only one thing for it: beer! In Atzgersdorf on the city's outskirts, microbrewery 100 Blumen uses unsold products from bakery chain Szihn to make its Brotbier brew. Mixed into the mash, the breadcrumbs from leftover loaves produce a unique taste with subtle caramel notes. Every 1,000 liters of beer contains about 20 kilos of old dark bread. The brewery offers tastings of the amber-colored drink – alongside other craft beer highlights – from Thursdays to Saturdays, while bottled Brotbier is also on sale at branches of Szihn. So alcohol also has a part to play in the fight against food waste! Meanwhile, Vienna's largest and oldest brewery Ottakringer mainly uses malting barley from Viennese farms to make its Wiener Original beer. Which just goes to show that a refreshing glass of beer can be good for the environment, too.



Just a few button presses away:
bread from Felzl

Photo: © What 1f.

- Stadtlandwirtschaft Wien agriculture association
→ stadtlandwirtschaft.wien

- Gragger & Chorherr Holzofenbäckerei
Schweidlasse 25, 1020 Vienna
→ gragger-chorherr.at

- Das Tho – bakery and store
Ferdinandstrasse 2, 1020 Vienna
→ das-tho.at

- Felzl bread vending machines
Bernardgasse 9, 1070 Vienna
Kaiserstrasse 51, 1070 Vienna
Währinger Strasse 54, 1090 Vienna
→ felzl.at

- Ströck
Over 75 branches in Vienna and the surrounding area
→ stroeck.at

- 100 Blumen
Endresstrasse 18, 1230 Vienna
→ 100blumen.at



Urban Idyll

Bees dance with bats on the banks
of the beautiful blue Danube.

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Ten Questions for Adriana Traunmüller

The Viennese beekeeper gets stung between three and ten times a day, but she's still passionate about her job.

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Viennese Waves

The New Danube in Vienna awaits sun-seekers with numerous beaches, clear water, no end of leisure options and a huge choice of bars and restaurants. We take a closer look.

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Dance of the Bats

Die Fledermaus (The Bat) is Johann Strauss's best-known operetta.

So, it's fitting that Vienna is one of Europe's top cities for bats.

We reveal these shy creatures' secrets.



Ten Questions for *Adriana Traunmüller*

Adriana Traunmüller's true passion in life is beekeeping. In 2017, she became the first beekeeping apprentice in Vienna in decades, finding her life's calling in the process. Now a teacher at the Vienna Beekeeping School, she guides bee colonies and students through the annual beekeeping cycle.

(Photo)
Paul BAUER

Wiener Bezirksimkerei
wiener-bezirksimkerei.at

Vienna provincial beekeeping
association with beekeeping school
imkerschule-wien.at

① **How did you get into beekeeping?**

By chance. After graduating, I wanted to focus on something more practical and fell in love with bees.

② **Is your job dangerous?**

Not really, as long as you don't develop an allergy.

③ **How many hives do you look after?**

300 on average, but the number fluctuates throughout the year.

④ **Do you get stung a lot?**

I only work with face protection, so I can expect three to ten stings a day.

⑤ **Complete this sentence: For me, bees are ...**
... masters of efficient communication.

⑥ **Where can we find bees in Vienna?**

Everywhere really, but mostly on rooftops, including on the University of Technology, the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna and even a pension insurance building.

⑦ **Is urban Vienna a suitable habitat for bees?**

Ideally, bees would live at the edges of woodland, in tree hollows situated four to five meters above ground. That said, the city does offer many advantages – such as an almost complete lack of predators, a diverse food supply, and constant access to water.

⑧ **What are the challenges facing urban beekeeping?**

Climate change. Above all, the increasingly common and unpredictable shifts in weather conditions.

⑨ **Your favorite spot in Vienna? And why?**

At our bee colonies at the Hohe Warte stadium. You can relax in the meadowland, listen to the buzzing of the bees and enjoy the views of the city.

⑩ **What should everyone know about bees?**

That there's no need to be afraid of them – and that goes for honey bees and wild bees alike. Bees always have a lot to do. If you leave them alone, they'll leave you alone, too.

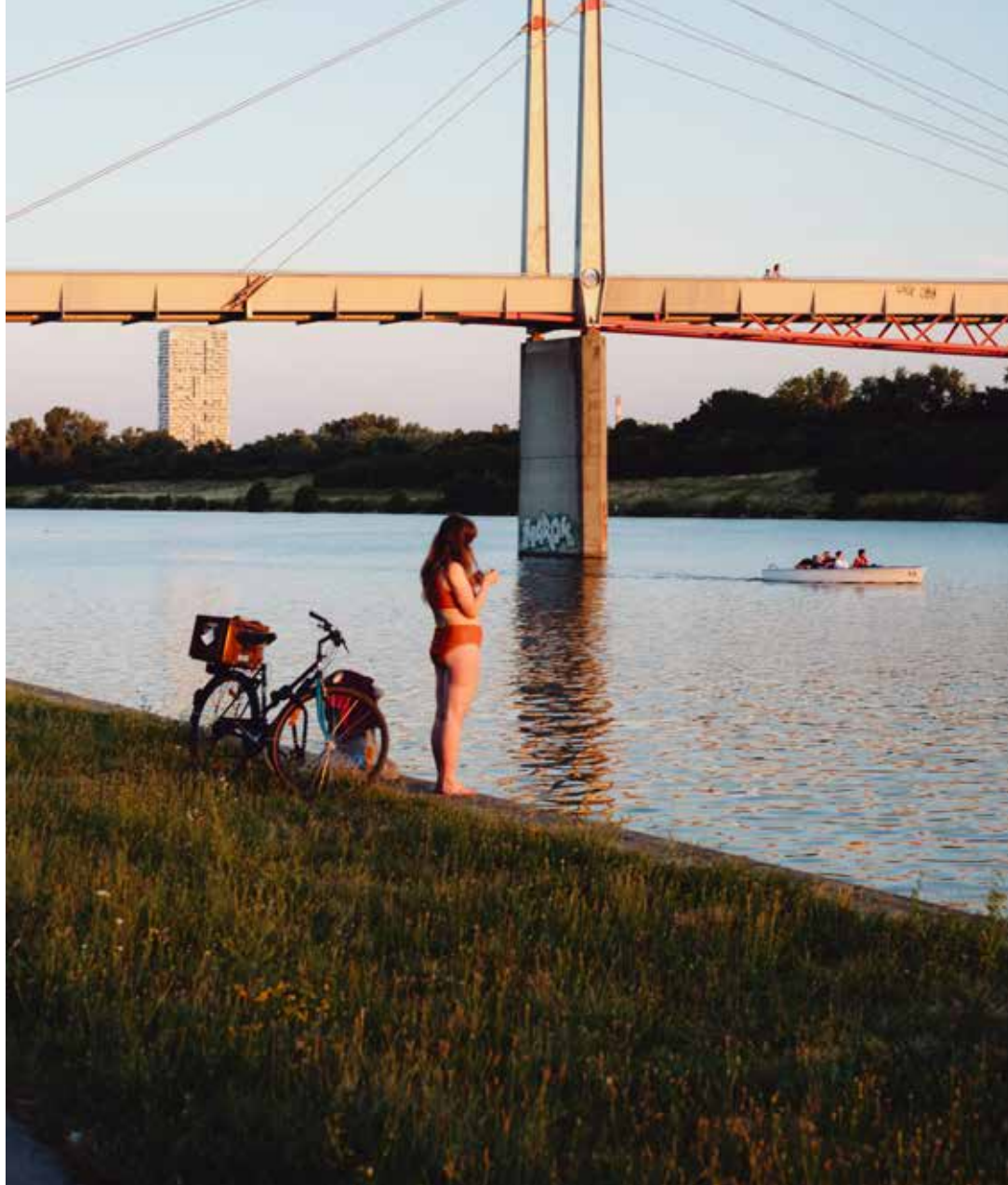


VIENNESE *Waves*

(Text)
Karoline KNEZEVIC

(Photos)
Gabriel HYDEN

The city's waterways are vital for people and wildlife alike.
Entire ecosystems thrive in its ponds, lakes, and rivers.
But there's just as much happening around the water as there is in it.
And nowhere more so than the banks of the Danube, where sun-seekers
gather in the summer, eager to take a break from everyday life.



Rio de Janeiro has Copacabana, Sydney has Bondi Beach, Los Angeles has Santa Monica Beach, and Vienna has ... the banks of the Danube. Just a few minutes from the center of the city, swimmers can explore miles of great beaches and cool off in the idyllic river. Brimming with its own unique charm, locals love it. But these days, visitors from all over the world are drawn to the Danube, too. Running for some 2,845 kilometers, it is the second-longest river in Europe after the Volga, which

measures 3,530 kilometers. Majestic and inspiring, the Danube even lent its name to the city's unofficial anthem: Johann Strauss's Blue Danube waltz. Fittingly too, given that the Viennese people have such a special bond with this local recreation area. It's no surprise to learn that four different bodies of water in Vienna have Danube in their name: the Danube River, the Danube Canal, the Old Danube, and the New Danube.

From Wildwaters to Waterside Oasis

Today, there's precious little left of the untamed Danube of yore. Where peace and relaxation now reign supreme, 150 years ago wild waters surged unchecked through virgin wetlands. But what seems so natural today is anything but accidental: the surrounding wetlands and everything associated with them – frequent flooding, unstable ground, and unpredictable water levels – were hardly conducive to Vienna's ongoing expansion. But the city needed – and wanted – to grow. To make this possible, the flow of this formerly wild and unruly river was regulated between 1870 and 1875 to make it more manageable. Sadly, the works failed to produce the desired effect.

But then came the "Second Danube Regulation" from 1972 to 1987 – under which one half of the floodplain was dug out and the material piled high on top of the remaining half. Thirty million cubic meters of soil was excavated. And the now-famous and beloved Danube Island was born. The resulting trough running through the floodplain was left as a flood relief channel. And this gigantic inundation zone would become known simply as the New Danube.

While the New Danube is usually a calm, standing body of water, when levels rise the two weirs and the inlet gates are opened up to take pressure off the main course of the river and keep the city safe from flooding. Today, the New Danube is all about relaxation. Even so, the swimming bans that are put in place after heavy rains and storms provide a stark reminder of the area's fundamental purpose.

New on the New Danube

Still, most of the time, the main focus is on recreation. A warm summer's day is the perfect time to let the New Danube's charm wash over you: the sun dances on the water's surface, bathing the surroundings in golden light. An angler sits by the



shore, hoping for a decent catch – surely one of the more than 15 fish species native to the area has to bite at some point. It's a particularly peaceful spot.

Yet only a short distance away, things are a little more lively: the beaches along the banks of the New Danube provide a fantastic wild swimming alternative to the lidos for locals and visitors. In fact, they're more than just an alternative, they're a lifestyle choice: plus points include chlorine-free water, natural shade, grassy and sandy sun-bathing spots, peace and quiet. And it's accessible around the clock. Oh, and let's not forget, it's free too. The locals love it.

And there's plenty of space for everyone. Best reached via the U2 subway line (Donaustadtbrücke station), the New Danube runs 21.1 kilometers parallel to the Danube River and is about 200 meters wide, with properly surfaced paths along the banks. There's more than enough room for cycling, swimming, skating, lounging around, having BBQs, hanging out or going for a stroll – with the family, the dog (in specially designated areas), or even just a hammock for company. At times, there's a lot going on here: little children

splash happily at the water's edge in the new Pirat Bucht pirate cove. Young people set up camp on the sand in groups or alone, surrounded by drinks and snacks, as well as the electronic music from the portable speakers they bring with them. Senior citizens relax in the shade of nearby trees. All in all, it is an idyllic scene where everything is right with the world. And sometimes the ice cream truck trundles by.

People have been passionate about protecting the Danube since 1970, when the Danube Island first started to take shape. Leading the charge

was Waluliso, whose “nom de guerre” was a contraction of Wasser-Luft-Licht-Sonne (Water-Air-Light-Sun) but was really called Ludwig Anton Weinberger. He was a genuine Viennese original. Advocating for peace and the environment, he collected tens of thousands of signatures in the mid-1970s to preserve the Danube Island and the Lobau wetlands.

And his hard work paid off: today, any new development directly on or around the Danube has to be primarily for the benefit of people looking for relaxation. This is best illustrated by the newly





created Arena Beach. Located a little further upstream, this inlet's name comes as a reference to its amphitheater-like design. The Arena was filled with sand, and the seating area was greened and planted with trees. People can wade or dive into the water almost anywhere along the shore, and do not have to seek out the sandy beaches. As evidenced by the occasional piles of clothes belonging to passersby and cyclists who interrupt their journey to take a quick dip. Unlike in some public pools, people rarely get in each other's way here. Another plus is that no matter the time of day, finding a good spot is never an issue.

From Sunset to Sundowner

Further upstream, the area gets busier – and long into the night, too. All that al fresco swimming quickly works up an appetite and probably an even bigger thirst, too. Copa-Steg, where CopaBeach is

also located, has cocktails, street food, and even a sandy beach all of its own. Anyone who is not on foot or using a bike to get around can take the U1 line to Donauinsel station. It's just a six-minute ride from Stephansplatz – right in the heart of Vienna. Here, too, there's the chance to swim and relax, only this time the food options – which range from Greek cuisine to Venezuelan specialties – are directly on hand. Pier 22 opened on the opposite bank in the summer of 2024. This new leisure paradise and New Danube highlight is located on the Danube Island side. A large floating wooden jetty with multiple ladders provides easy access to the water. Pergolas offer shade, while the adjacent open terrace restaurants just add to the holiday vibe with international cuisine and music to match. No one in their right mind could claim that there's nothing going on the "Viennese riviera". We say: Copacabana, eat your heart out.

Where & How to Reach the Water

Pirat Bucht (Pirate Cove)

● Kaisermühlendamm
on the New Danube,
1220 Vienna

DIRECTIONS:

U2 station Donaustadtbrücke,
then a 700-meter walk upstream



Arena Beach

● Kaisermühlenbucht,
downstream along the New Danube
from the Kaisermühlenbrücke
bridge, 1220 Vienna

DIRECTIONS:

U1 station Kaisermühlen VIC,
then take the 92A bus to
Harrachgasse, followed by
a 350-meter walk upstream

CopaBeach

● U1 station Donauinsel,
1220 Vienna

DIRECTIONS:

U1 station Donauinsel
(Reichsbrücke/Am Hubertusdamm
exit)



Pier 22

● Opposite CopaBeach

DIRECTIONS:
U1 station Donauinsel
(Donauinsel exit)



Swimming with Dogs

● Hundebadestrand Süd:
located between Stadlauer
Ostbahnbrücke and Praterbrücke
bridges, between kilometer 8.5
and 9.1, 1220 Vienna

DIRECTIONS:
U2 station Donaustadtbrücke

Angling and Fishing

Angling is only permitted in Vienna for holders of a valid fishing permit or visitor fishing card.

For more information visit:
→ www.fischundwasser.at



HUNGRY
FOR MORE
VIENNA

In the Waterfront episode of our YouTube series Hungry for More, we accompany top chef Lukas Mraz on a culinary voyage of discovery along the banks of the Old Danube. Scan the QR code for the full episode.



Dance *of the Bats*

(Text)
Robert SEYDEL

(Illustrations)
Francesco CICCOLELLA



Johann Strauss composed 15 operettas. But only one achieved world fame: *Die Fledermaus* (The Bat). The plot is wonderfully complicated: the notary Dr Falke wants to take his revenge on Herr von Eisenstein for letting him wander around town in a state of intoxication wearing a bat costume. A multitude of mix-ups even sees a number of innocent people end up behind bars. But there is a happy ending. The operetta premiered in Vienna in 1874.

Today, too, bats can still be found roaming – and flying – around the city. Quite a few, as it happens: 22 of the 28 species native to Austria can be found in the capital – including bats of the mouse-eared, Geoffroy's and gray long-eared varieties. So, it's official: Vienna is one of Europe's top cities for bats. We lift the lid on the secret world of these mysterious creatures.



Where Do Bats Live in Vienna?

Old trees, nooks and crannies, crevices and caves provide the perfect habitats. In the nation's capital, you can find all of this in the Vienna Woods, its former wetlands, large expanses of greenery such as the Prater park – and in prime locations right in the city center.

The intricate, filigree Gothic style of St. Stephen's Cathedral makes it a highly sought-after refuge for bats. At dusk, they swarm out and paint the town black. Gothic bat party time in Vienna!

Do Bats Go to the Cabaret?

One thing that's certain is that they will not be flying into "Fledermaus". Although there really is a music club called *Fledermaus* in Vienna, disco lights and thumping basslines would be too much for these sensitive little animals to handle. But *Fledermaus* is legendary all the same. Between 1907 and 1913, Cabaret *Fledermaus* was a cabaret stage on Kärntner Strasse, designed by Wiener Werkstätte design collective star Josef Hoffmann and decorated by world-famous artists such as Gustav Klimt, Oskar Kokoschka and Kolo Moser. The bar was sold in 1913. And in 1967, cabaret artist Gerhard Bronner opened the new Cabaret *Fledermaus* in Spiegelgasse, which is now a music club. Why the name *Fledermaus* was chosen back in 1907 remains a mystery to this day. Perhaps its founders were inspired by Strauss's operetta: no end of nocturnal shenanigans, and nobody is actually who they claim to be. And by the end of the night, everyone falls laughing into each other's arms. Presumably that's how things were at Cabaret *Fledermaus* back then, too.



Are Bats out for our Blood?



Bats use the onset of darkness to search for food. But don't worry: Viennese bats aren't bloodthirsty vampires. They're not interested in fresh blood, instead they're after insects, which they hunt down using their impressive flying skills. This makes them the city's real heroes in summer: all those things that bother us – moths, flies, mosquitos – provide an all-you-can-eat buffet for the bats. Over the course of a summer, a single bat can polish off up to a kilogram of insects. Even the smallest of the native bats, the pipistrelle, which weighs less than ten grams, can get through a quarter of a kilo. Daubenton's bats can even catch smaller fish in flight.



Where Can I Go to See Bats in Vienna?

Anyone interested in seeing bats hunting in Vienna can do so at Lainz Game Preserve, among other places. In summer there are guided tours to the Grünau pond. Ultrasound detectors are used to locate common noctule bats (registration: +43 1 4000-49200). But why is it that bats wait until dark falls before they go out to hunt? – Well, at night there's no competition. Their bothersome rivals, the birds, are fast asleep. Just like us, bats cannot actually see in the dark, but thanks to ultrasonic pulses, which they emit through their mouth or nose, they build up a spatial image of their surroundings. And this is also how they are able to pinpoint and catch their prey in flight.

How Can Humans Help Bats?

In daytime, it's time for rest and relaxation. Sleeping bats dangle lazily from the ceiling. But they need special habitats and shelters for this to happen. Meadowlands, hedges, forests, bodies of water, tree hollows and pesticide-free zones are all ideal. And in winter they need absolute peace and quiet is the order of the day – because bats hibernate. Attics provide a particularly suitable spot for them to hunker down during the cold season. So they should be freely accessible from the outside (for bats in flight) and not closed shut. Otherwise the bat won't be able to get in. And will be left hanging.





Insider

Overnight (not Orient) Express,
sustainability and Straussian sounds in the city,
as well celebratory links online.

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Ten Questions for Ivan Pöllauer

Vienna is a night train hub. Train manager Ivan Pöllauer
talks about his experiences aboard the ÖBB Nightjets.

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In the Green

Climate-friendly travel to the world's most livable city?

Want a more eco-conscious visitor experience?

We've compiled ten tips for a sustainable stay in Vienna.

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Top Events in 2025

Numerous events to celebrate the 200th anniversary
of Johann Strauss's birth. And plenty of other highlights
you won't want to miss.

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Vienna Online

The inside line on Vienna – important info online
and on social media.



(Interview)
Helga GERBL

Ten Questions for *Ivan Pöllauer*

(Photo)
Harald EISENBERGER/ÖBB

Ivan Pöllauer's job sees him criss-crossing Europe aboard ÖBB Austrian National Railways' Nightjet sleeper trains. Vienna is the night train capital of the EU, providing easy access to 30 other cities. As train manager, Pöllauer is responsible for passengers' safety and the wellbeing of travelers on the night train. There's never a dull moment.

ÖBB Nightjet
Serviced by Newrest
www.nightjet.com

① **What qualities does a train manager need to have?**

Resilience and being able to deal with stress are definitely important, given that you have to make the correct decision every single time. And the ability to work in a team is also up there. I am responsible for the team and the passengers.

② **The right decisions for what?**

There are many things I would have to pay attention to during an evacuation of a train so that the passengers and team are safe. As train manager, ultimate responsibility always rests with me. Thank goodness nothing has ever happened.

③ **What are the advantages of traveling by night train?**

It's environmentally friendly and saves time, you board in the evening and disembark fresh as a daisy the next morning in the center of a different city.

④ **What do you love about your job? And what's not so great?**

I love the variety that comes with my job, because no two nights are the same. But it definitely eats away at me when a passenger leaves the train in a less-than-positive mood.

⑤ **Do you have a favorite route? And why?**

Yes, Vienna–Paris. As soon as we depart in the evening, I'm already looking forward to my pain au chocolat the following morning.

⑥ **What was the most unusual request from a passenger?**

On the Paris–Vienna route, one gentleman wanted to surprise his girlfriend on her 30th birthday. We decorated the compartment with streamers and balloons with happy birthday on them, served special food and generally made sure they had a great trip. The lady was beaming from ear to ear.

⑦ **What is the strangest thing that you've experienced on the Nightjet?**

On the Vienna–Venice route once, I was the night steward on duty for a group of ladies who had booked out the entire sleeping car for a bachelorette party.

⑧ **What do you look forward to when you arrive back in Vienna?**

Other than my bed? Definitely my husband.

⑨ **Do you have an insider tip for people traveling to Vienna?**

Meissl & Schadn in the Grand Ferdinand Hotel for food, who I would say have the best schnitzel anywhere in Vienna.

⑩ **Where do you go to relax in Vienna?**

When the weather's nice, I enjoy the peace and quiet at Stadtpark or head to the MuseumsQuartier with a good book.

In the GREEN

(Illustrations)
Francesco CICCOLELLA

(Text)
Helga GERBL



These days, travelers are increasingly mindful of their environmental impact, including once they reach their destination. Vienna – named the world's most livable city for the eleventh time – has numerous options for visitors to spend their stay sustainably. Here are ten tips for you.

① Low-Impact Travel to and from the City

Vienna is a major international travel hub. There are direct train connections to the Austrian capital from 14 European countries. It's also the European Union's largest overnight rail hub, with the Austrian Federal Railways' Nightjet trains serving over 30 cities, including Brussels, Amsterdam, Berlin, Rome, Paris, and Zurich. But for anyone traveling by air, there's always the option of participating in a voluntary carbon offsetting scheme. Continuing in the same eco-friendly vein couldn't be easier after arrival, either. The city's railway stations and Vienna International Airport are directly connected to Vienna's outstanding public transportation network. It only takes about 20 minutes to get to the city center from the airport.

② Eco-Friendly Transportation in the City

Consisting of subways, trams, and buses, Vienna's extensive public transportation system gets passengers around the city quickly, safely, and reliably. The Vienna City Card, the capital's official visitor card, is an especially convenient option. Besides unlimited access to the full public transportation network for 24, 48 or 72 hours, or seven days, it grants holders more than 200 discounts throughout the city (prices start at EUR 17). The Vienna City Card is also certified in accordance with the Austrian Umweltzeichen ecolabel, making it the first city card worldwide to obtain green certification (visit www.viennacitycard.at for details).

Vienna is also a pedestrian-friendly city. The free guidebook "route" offers a selection of themed walking tours, covering everything from Jugendstil (Art Nouveau) to the Ringstrasse boulevard. And if sightseeing on two wheels appeals, the city has a giant network of over 1,700 kilometers of cycling paths. The WienMobil bike-sharing system offers 24/7 bike rentals at numerous locations throughout the city.



③ Sustainable Sleeping Arrangements

Around 60 of Vienna's hotels and accommodations are holders of the Austrian Umweltzeichen ecolabel. This is awarded in recognition of their energy efficiency, waste reduction, eco-friendly purchasing, and sustainable cleaning practices. While not officially certified, many other hotels in the capital have likewise implemented various measures designed to reduce their environmental footprint and support social sustainability initiatives.

Check the Sleep & Stay section of www.vienna.info for a list of all certified accommodation providers. The Vienna Hotels & Info team is more than happy to provide assistance when it comes to finding a sustainable place to stay (contact: info@vienna.info, see page 121).

Holders of a Vienna City Card can look forward to a 20% discount at numerous eco-certified partner hotels in the capital. So why not book that extra night?



⑥ Green Art

Vienna's museums are increasingly committed to providing low-impact and eco-friendly cultural experiences.

In all, 17 of the city's museums and galleries have been awarded the Austrian Umweltzeichen ecolabel, in a clear endorsement of their sustainability credentials. A prime example of this in action is the Kunst Haus Wien, which was designed by Vienna's eco-pioneer Friedensreich Hundertwasser – who also happened to create the Umweltzeichen logo. Other certified destinations include the Albertina, the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, the Naturhistorisches Museum Vienna, the Belvedere, the Vienna Museum of Technology, the Wien Museum, and the Jewish Museum Vienna.

④ Treat Yourself – with a Clear Conscience!

Anyone who values seasonal and local ingredients will be pleased to learn that Vienna offers sustainable dining experiences. In many cases, all it takes is a quick glance at the menu to find out where the products come from: lots of the city's restaurants get their produce from organic farms and use high welfare meat and animal products, while going out of their way to source local, seasonal and fair-trade ingredients. Vienna's young, creative districts, like the second and seventh districts, as well as areas around the city's neighborhood markets, are home to a wide variety of organic restaurants and stores.

⑤ Paperless Trail

Want to explore the city at your own pace, using your smartphone to help you? Then *ivie* – Vienna's official city guide app – is the perfect companion. The app is packed with informative and entertaining content about Vienna's sights, surprising stories, and useful features for when you're on the go (including things like a map of public restrooms in the city).

It also contains a choice of around 20 fascinating Walks and Guides, five audio tours (including the brand new Strauss audio walk right in time for the 2025 anniversary). All the Viennese classics are covered – Freud, Sisi, and the Ringstrasse. And modern architecture, a kids' guide, and highlights for the LGBTQ+ community complete the picture.

ivie and the Vienna City Card are the ideal combination: the City Card is available to purchase through the app and users can browse participating companies on their smartphone to check who's offering which discounts.



ivie is available for free on iOS & Android in the app stores.



⑦ Get to Know Vienna's Local Neighborhoods

Discover a side to Vienna that goes beyond the tourist hotspots by exploring one of its countless local neighborhoods, known as Grätzl here. Each one offers a unique mix of architecture, urban atmosphere, and dining and shopping options, and has a character and charm all of its own. And visiting these neighborhoods helps support independent stores, local cafés, and restaurants.

Lots of different Viennese Grätzl have been given their moment in the sun on heartbeat.vienna.info, while the ivie app also contains a number of interesting local neighborhood walks.

⑨ Conscious Shopping

One way to give a little back to the environment is to shop consciously and give preference to eco-friendly products that are made locally. The reputation of Viennese craftsmanship precedes it on the international stage. Stylish headwear, fine silver, exclusive porcelain, and high-quality glassware are all produced by the likes of traditional artisans Lobmeyr and Mühlbauer.

Venturing off into the side streets around the main shopping areas is always worth it. A particularly strong concentration of small independent shops, boutiques, and ateliers dedicated to sustainability can be found around Mariahilfer Strasse.



⑧ Fresh Spring Water

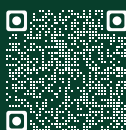
Viennese water is famous. It is renowned for its excellent quality and crisp fresh taste. For over 150 years, it has been carried into the city straight from the source in the Lower Austrian and Styrian Alps via a sophisticated pipeline network, and can be drunk straight from the tap. Don't forget to bring your refillable water bottle: there are around 1,500 drinking water fountains dotted around the city where you can quench your thirst or fill up your bottle.

The ivie app contains the locations of all the capital's drinking fountains, alongside a host of other practical urban tips.

⑩ The Barrier-Free Vienna Experience

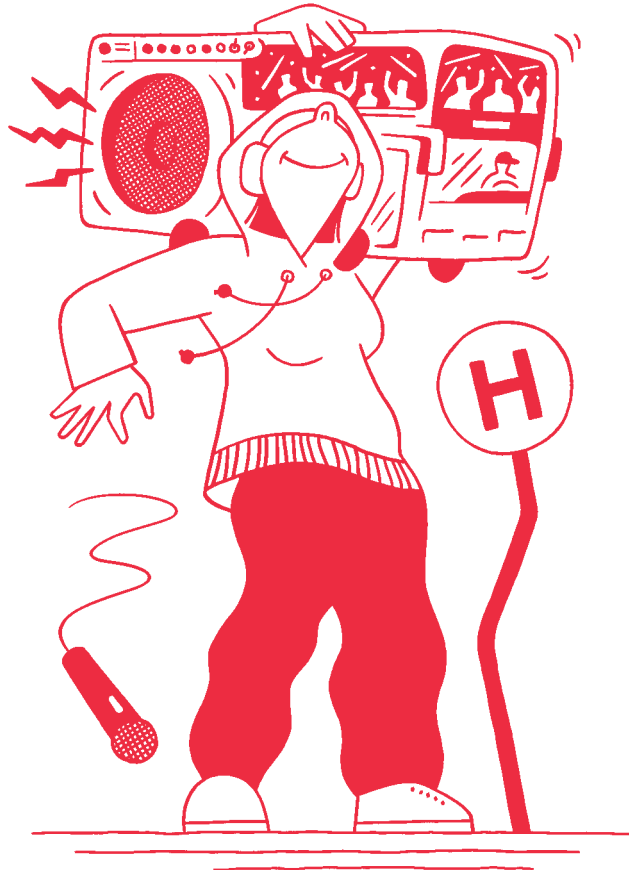
Visitors with mobility restrictions can explore the city flexibly, safely, and sustainably using public transportation in Vienna. The subway is fully accessible for wheelchair users, with ramps and elevators available. The stations and trains themselves have tactile guidance systems to help visually impaired passengers get around. Virtually all of Vienna's trams and buses are low-floor vehicles for greater ease of access. Numerous Viennese museums offer special services for blind, visually impaired, and deaf visitors.

Good planning is key. The Sleep & Stay section of www.vienna.info contains a wealth of information under "Accessibility". In addition, the highly knowledgeable members of the Vienna Hotels & Info team are also happy to help out with any questions about accessible travel (contact: info@vienna.info, see page 121).



Find out more about sustainability in Vienna

*"Hey, where's the
hip-hop bus?"*



Hop-On Hop-Off Buses

Nice try, but it won't get you far.
Ask us and we'll guide you through Vienna!

VIENNA.INFO

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JOHANN STRAUSS

(Text)
Andrea ORTMAYER

2025

(Illustrations)
Francesco CICCOLELLA

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF THE WALTZ KING



EXHIBITIONS

Numerous exhibitions in 2025 will be devoted to the life and work of composer and music phenomenon Johann Strauss.

Johann Strauss – The Exhibition

Theatermuseum

● Dec 4, 2024–Jun 23, 2025

Wed–Mon 10:00–18:00

→ www.theatermuseum.at

Johann Strauss – The Experience

Immersive – Informative –
Interactive

Johann Strauss – New Dimensions

● Sun–Thu 10:00–19:00

Fri, Sat 10:00–20:00

→ www.johannstraussmuseum.at

House of Strauss

How Johann Strauss and his brothers became the world's first pop stars. The true story behind the Strauss dynasty cast as a multimedia experience at one of the original Strauss venues.

● Tue–Sun 10:00–18:00

→ www.houseofstrauss.at

Johann Strauss Apartment

Following in Johann Strauss's footsteps in his former apartment, where he composed the famous Blue Danube waltz.

● Tue–Sun 10:00–13:00,
14:00–17:00

→ www.wienmuseum.at

House of Music

Get the fascinating inside line on Johann Strauss and sound out the Blue Danube waltz with the Vienna Philharmonic in the virtual conductor.

● 10:00–22:00 daily

→ www.hdm.at



Throughout the anniversary year, Vienna will serve as one giant stage for a packed Strauss schedule. Traditional renditions of Johann Strauss's music as well as a number of more contemporary experiments will all be part of the experience. The innovative projects dedicated to the musical genius range from augmented reality shows to world premieres. Numerous exhibitions will also look at the Strauss phenomenon from a host of different angles. Ten different genres are set to feature, from concert music, drama and performance to digital and immersive art.

Kick-off with Strauss

The opening concert of the Strauss anniversary year at the Wiener Konzerthaus

Wiener Symphoniker

Nikolaus Habjan and friends

Conducted by: Petr Popelka

● Dec 31, 2024

→ www.konzerthaus.at

New Year's Concert by the Vienna Philharmonic

in the Golden Hall at the Musikverein

Conducted by: Riccardo Muti

● Jan 1, 2025

→ www.wienerphilharmoniker.at

Time Waltz

A journey through time from the 19th to the 22nd century in the compartments of Vienna's Giant Ferris Wheel

● January–December 2025

→ www.johannstrauss2025.at



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2025 VIENNESE BALL SEASON

The Viennese ball season reaches its peak in January and February as the city celebrates its version of carnival – Fasching. Traditional balls and countless events for different professions fill the city's dance floors, where revelers dance to the beat of the waltz or the latest club music.

Confectioners' Ball

Wiener Hofburg

● Jan 16, 2025

→ www.zuckerbaeckerball.com

Vienna Philharmonic Ball

Musikverein Vienna

● Jan 23, 2025

→ www.wienerphilharmoniker.at

Rainbow Ball

Parkhotel Schönbrunn

● Jan 25, 2025

→ www.regenbogenball.at

Coffeehouse Owners' Ball

Wiener Hofburg

● Feb 21, 2025

→ www.kaffeesiederball.at

Vienna Opera Ball

Vienna State Opera

● Feb 27, 2025

→ www.wiener-staatsooper.at/opernball

For an overview of all the ball events in Vienna go to events.vienna.info or check the *ivie* app

Nesterval's "Princess/ Prince Ninetta"

An immersive operetta and theater experience by ensemble Nesterval based on Strauss's operetta Princess/Prince Ninetta with echoes of the Blue Danube waltz.

Dianabad

● Feb 15–Mar 12, 2025

→ www.johannstrauss2025.at

You Millions, I Embrace You

A utopian ball night – a futuristic ball: a total art experience merging dance with music and titillating all the senses.

Reaktor

● From Mar 1, 2025

→ www.johannstrauss2025.at



LichtStrauss

A light installation in Vienna's Stadtpark. Starting at the golden Strauss monument, seven female figures from Strauss's operettas are brought to life with the help of augmented reality.

Stadtpark

● Mar 21–May 20, 2025

→ www.johannstrauss2025.at



STRAUSS OPERETTAS IN 2025

Johann Strauss composed 15 operettas in all. The best known of which will be gracing Vienna's top music venues with their presence in 2025.

Die Fledermaus

Vienna State Opera

● Jan 1 & 4, 2025

→ www.wiener-staatsoper.at

Volksoper Wien

● Jan 1 | Mar 2 & 6 | Apr 1 & 21 |

May 8 | Jun 3 & 12, 2025

→ www.volksoper.at

The Queen's Lace Handkerchief

● Jan 18, 20, 22, 24,

26 & 28, 2025

The Carnival in Rome

Concert performance

● Feb 22, 2025

MusikTheater an der Wien

→ www.theater-wien.at

→ www.johannstrauss2025.at

The Edge of the World or the "Gypsy Baron"

A musical and literary reinterpretation of the famous operetta

● Mar 25, 27 & 30 | Apr 1 & 3, 2025

Woodruff

● Apr 25, 27 & 28, 2025

MuseumsQuartier – Halle E

→ www.johannstrauss2025.at

Indigo and the 23 Thieves

Open air in all 23 of Vienna's districts

● Jun 1–23, 2025

→ www.johannstrauss2025.at

Viennese Blood

Schlosstheater Schönbrunn

● From Aug 10, 2025

→ www.johannstrauss2025.at

A Night in Venice

Volksoper Wien

● From fall 2025

→ www.volksoper.at



Fledermaus Day

On April 5, Johann Strauss's most famous operetta, Die Fledermaus, will celebrate its birthday. To give the day its due, the MuseumsQuartier will be offering a packed program for all Fledermaus enthusiasts aged 3 to 99.

MuseumsQuartier

● Apr 5, 2025

→ www.johannstrauss2025.at

ROMAbaron

A theater performance inspired by Strauss's operetta The Gypsy Baron, told from the perspective of Saffi, a young Romani woman.

MuseumsQuartier – Halle G

● From Apr 10, 2025

→ www.johannstrauss2025.at



Wake Up Johann Strauss

Johann Strauss was laid to rest at Vienna's Central Cemetery on June 6, 1899. On June 6, 2025, two renowned Viennese artists (father and son) will bring him back to life and take him to the Wiener Konzerthaus for a grand musical tribute.

Central Cemetery

Wiener Konzerthaus

● Jun 6, 2025

→ www.johannstrauss2025.at

Danube Island Festival – Hooked on Strauss

The Danube Island Festival will be serving up Strauss for everyone with superstars Camo & Krooked, Christian Kolonovits and a symphony orchestra.

● Jun 20, 2025

→ www.donauinselfest.at

→ www.johannstrauss2025.at

For details of further Johann Strauss anniversary events go to www.johannstrauss2025.at, events.wien.info and the ivie app

Top Events in 2025

(Text)
Andrea ORTMAYER

(Illustrations)
Francesco CICCOLELLA



EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS IN 2025

Vienna has a magnetic appeal for art fans from all over the world. There are countless international-class exhibitions at Vienna's top museums for you to explore.

**Gustav Klimt
Pigment & Pixel**
● Feb 20–Sep 7, 2025

**Cézanne, Monet,
Renoir.**
French Impressionism from the
Langmatt Museum
● 25.9.2025–8.2.2026

Lower Belvedere
→ www.belvedere.at

**Arcimboldo –
Bassano – Bruegel**
● Mar 11–Jun 29, 2025

Michaelina Wautier
● Sep 30, 2025–Jan 25, 2026
Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna
→ www.khm.at

**Changing Times.
Egon Schiele's Last Years.
1914–1918**
● Mar 28–Jul 13, 2025
Leopold Museum Wien
→ www.leopoldmuseum.org



Vienna Ice World

Dreaming of a winter fairytale? Set against the stunning backdrop of City Hall, ice skating fans have the run of 9,500 m² of ice including a winding trail through the Rathauspark. Culinary treats and music to suit every taste complete the picture. Skate hire is available.

● Mid-January–start of March 2025
→ www.wienereistraum.com

SPARK Art Fair Vienna

Innovative contemporary art fair – meeting place for galleries, collectors, artists and art lovers.

● Mar 21–23, 2025
→ www.spark-artfair.com

Vienna City Marathon

Thousands of runners from all over the world combine running and sight-seeing at the Vienna City Marathon, following a route that takes in many of the city's best-loved landmarks.

● Apr 6, 2025
→ www.vienna-marathon.com

Vienna Festival | Free Republic of Vienna 2025

This contemporary festival of the arts provides a stage for Austrian and international productions covering everything from spoken theater, opera, music, dance and performance to visual arts and activism. The Vienna Festival transforms the entire capital into one giant festival zone!

● May 16–Jun 22, 2025
→ www.festwochen.at



EASTER MARKETS

Vienna has a long tradition of Easter markets. Easter decorations and beautifully painted eggs, handicrafts and culinary treats set the tone.

Schönbrunn Palace Easter Market

● Apr 5–22, 2025
→ www.imperial-markets.at

Am Hof Easter Market

● Apr 5–22, 2025
→ www.ostermarkt-hof.at

Old Viennese Easter Market at Freyung

● Apr 5–21, 2025
→ www.altwiener-markt.at

Vienna Pride and Rainbow Parade

In 2025, the legendary Rainbow Parade will take to the capital's showpiece Ringstrasse boulevard for the 29th time. The parade marks the culmination of Vienna Pride, a two-week event which sees the rainbow flag flying high all over the city.

● June 2025
→ www.viennapride.at
→ www.regenbogenparade.at

Vienna Philharmonic Summer Night Concert at Schönbrunn

Against the stunning Baroque backdrop of Schönbrunn Palace, the Vienna Philharmonic serves up classical music at its finest – outdoors and free of charge.

● Jun 13, 2025

→ www.sommernachtskonzert.at



Danube Island Festival

The three-day Danube Island Festival is one of the largest open-air music festivals in Europe. Admission is free!

● Jun 20–22, 2025

→ www.donauinselfest.at

ImpulsTanz – Vienna International Dance Festival

In July and August each year, Europe's biggest contemporary dance festival presents a uniquely diverse line-up of performances, workshops, research projects and musical acts.

● July 10–August 10, 2025

→ www.impulstanz.com

35th Film Festival on Rathausplatz

In July and August, the square outside City Hall is transformed into a bustling open-air hotspot. The Film Festival serves up opera, classical, pop and rock music film highlights – and great food, too. Admission is free!

● June 28–August 31, 2025

→ www.filmfestival-rathausplatz.at

Check events.vienna.info or the *ivie* app for details of the city's other al fresco cinemas this summer.



ART AND DESIGN IN FALL

Every fall, Vienna stages a huge variety of art and design events. Fall in the capital of culture takes in a host of exciting spaces and features a compelling selection of local and international art and design.

Open House

Free tours of more than 50 fascinating Viennese buildings that are otherwise not open to visitors provide exclusive insights for architecture buffs.

● September 2025

→ www.openhouse-wien.at

viennacontemporary

A magnet for art collectors, curators, gallery owners and art experts from all over the world.

● September 2025

→ www.viennacontemporary.at

Parallel Vienna

An art fair with a twist: an empty building will once again provide a platform for contemporary art by creating a canvas for Austrian and international artists.

● September 2025

→ www.parallelvienna.com

curated by

Gallery festival with international guest curators

● September/October 2025

→ www.curatedby.at

Vienna Design Week

International design festival

● End of September/
start of October 2025

→ www.viennadesignweek.at

Long Night of Museums

Over 100 museums and galleries in Vienna will be opening their doors to art-loving night owls – from six in the evening until one in the morning.

● Start of October 2025

→ www.langenacht.orf.at

Vienna Art Week

Highlights of the Viennese art scene: exhibitions, panel discussions, tours, studio open houses and parties throughout the city.

● November 2025

→ www.viennaartweek.at

CHRISTMAS MARKETS IN VIENNA IN 2025

Some of the city's most attractive squares are turned into enchanting Christmas markets between mid-November and Christmas. Festive lights twinkle above the old town and shopping streets, spreading Christmas cheer throughout the city.

Viennese Christmas Market on Rathausplatz

→ www.christkindlmarkt.at

Old Viennese Christmas Market at Freyung

→ www.altwiener-markt.at

Schönbrunn Palace Christmas market

→ www.imperial-markets.at

Christmas Village at Belvedere Palace

→ www.weihnachtsdorf.at

Spittelberg Christmas Market

→ www.spittelberg.at

Visit events.vienna.info or check the *ivie* app for more Christmas markets.

VIENNA NEW YEAR'S EVE TRAIL

On December 31, the city center is transformed into a giant party scene. Non-stop revelry from 2pm until 2am: the New Year's Eve trail in the city center keeps the entertainment coming.



● Dec 31, 2025

→ www.wienersilvesterpfad.at

Details of New Year's Eve events incl. concerts, balls, galas and parties are listed at events.vienna.info and in the [ivie](#) app.

Please note that the events listed are subject to change or cancellation. As a result, we highly recommend checking the organizer's website for updates in good time beforehand.

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Vienna Online

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Your travel guide in 12 languages
(incl. hotel reservations)
→ vienna.info

King of Waltz. Queen of Music
200 Years of Johann Strauss in Vienna
→ strauss.vienna.info

ivie – Your personal Vienna guide
→ ivie.vienna.info

Vienna newsletter registration
→ vienna.info/en/newsletter

Vienna City Card – The Official City Card
→ viennacitycard.at

All the events just a click away
→ events.vienna.info

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B2B SERVICES

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→ b2b.vienna.info

Vienna Convention Bureau
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→ meeting.vienna.info

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 → info@vienna.info
 → [Chat at vienna.info](#)
 Monday to Friday (work days) 09:00–16:00

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Information, free city maps and brochures, Vienna City Card sales at both Tourist Information centers.
 Corner of Albertinaplatz and Maysedergasse
 1010 Vienna
 09:00–18:00 daily*

During the summer months, the MOBILE TOURIST INFO tours the city, providing visitors with information at various locations (Thursday to Saturday 10:00–17:00)*.

Tourist Info Vienna International Airport

In the arrivals hall
 09:00–18:00 daily*

* Special opening hours and information on the Mobile Tourist Info can be found at time.vienna.info

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