

# 24 TOP EXPERIENCES



## Grossglockner Road

**1** Hairpin bends: 36. Length: 48km. Average slope gradient: 9%. Highest viewpoint: Edelweiss Spitze (2571m). Grossglockner Road (p279) is one of Europe's greatest drives and the showpiece of Hohe Tauern National Park. The scenery unfolds as you climb higher on this serpentine road. And what scenery! Snowcapped mountains, plunging waterfalls and lakes scattered like gemstones are just the build-up to Grossglockner (3798m), Austria's highest peak, and the Pasterze Glacier. Start early and allow enough time, as there's a stop-the-car-and-grab-the-camera view on every corner.

**2** Imagine what you could do with unlimited riches and Austria's top architects at your hands for 640 years and you'll have the Vienna of the Habsburgs. The monumentally graceful Hofburg (p59) whisks you back to the age of empires; marvel at the treasury's imperial crowns, the equine ballet of the Spanische Hofreitschule and the chandelier-lit apartments fit for Empress Elisabeth. The palace is rivalled in grandeur only by the 1441-room Schloss Schönbrunn (p78), a Unesco World Heritage site, and baroque Schloss Belvedere (p75), both set in exquisite gardens. Schloss Schönbrunn, below

