

Welcome to Vienna

Baroque streetscapes and imperial palaces set the stage for artistic and musical masterpieces alongside vibrant epicurean and design scenes.

Imperial Architecture

Vienna's imperial grandeur is the legacy of the powerful Habsburg monarchy. Their home for more than six centuries, the Hofburg palace complex, incorporates the Burgkapelle (Imperial Chapel) and the famed Spanish Riding School, along with a trove of museums, including the chandeliered Kaiserappartements (Imperial Apartments). Other immense palaces include the baroque Schloss Belvedere and Schloss Schönbrunn, while 19th-century splendours such as the neo-Gothic Rathaus (City Hall) line the magnificent Ringstrasse encircling the Innere Stadt (inner city).

Masterpiece-Filled Museums

One of the Habsburgs' most dazzling palaces, the Kunsthistorisches Museum, houses the imperial art collection. It's packed with priceless works by Old Masters, and treasures including one of the world's richest coin collections. Behind the Hofburg, the innovative MuseumsQuartier has a diverse ensemble of museums, from 19th- and 20th-century Austrian art at the Leopold Museum to often-shocking avant-garde works at the contemporary MUMOK. Meteorites, fossils and prehistoric finds fill the Naturhistorisches Museum, while exquisite furnishings at the applied-arts Museum für Angewandte Kunst are also among the artistic feasts in store.

Soul-Stirring Music

With a musical heritage that includes composers Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Joseph Haydn, Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Schubert, Johann Strauss (father and son), Johannes Brahms and Gustav Mahler, among countless others, Vienna is known as the City of Music. Incredible venues where you can catch performances today include the acoustically renowned Musikverein, used by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, the gold-and-crystal main opera house, the Staatsoper, and the multistage Konzerthaus. Music comes to life through interactive exhibits at the captivating Haus der Musik museum.

Drinking & Dining

The Viennese appreciation of the finer things in life extends to its opulent coffee-house 'living rooms' serving spectacular cakes; its beloved pub-like *Beisl*n dishing up hearty portions of Wiener Schnitzel and goulash; elegant restaurants; and its fine Austrian wines served in vaulted *Vinothek* (wine bar) cellars, and in rustic vine-draped *Heurigen* (wine taverns) in the vineyards fringing the city. Local and international delicacies fill the heady Naschmarkt stalls, and creative chefs are experimenting with local produce and fresh new flavour combinations in innovative, often repurposed venues.



Why I Love Vienna

By Catherine Le Nevez, Writer

With its rambling palaces, winding cobbled lanes, elegant *Kaffeehäuser* (coffee houses) and cosy wood-panelled *Beisln*, Vienna is steeped in history. Yet it's also at the cutting edge of design, architecture, contemporary art, and new directions in drinking and dining. What I love most about the city is that not only does it hold on to its traditions, it incorporates them in everything from high-fashion *Dirndls* (women's traditional dress) with pop-art motifs or punk conical studs to handmade *Sacher Torte*—flavoured doughnuts and inspired neo-retro cafes. Vienna's past is alive in its present, and, by extension, its future.

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