“It must have been very interesting in Vienna back then...”
Dear reader,

“It must have been very interesting in Vienna back then...” — these were the words used by the novelist and social commentator Hermann Bahr to describe Viennese Modernism. In that time, between 1890 and 1938, society and art veered between timelessness and beauty and the abysses of two world wars. The portrait of Koloman Moser on the cover of this publication captures the mood. Today, 100 years after the death of four of the key protagonists of Viennese Modernism — Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele, Otto Wagner and Koloman Moser — the achievements of this era are more in step with the times than ever. In this journal we look at just how modern they really were. We reveal what corporate design, urban expansion and Swedish furniture have to do with this age, and where you can pick up contemporary design with echoes of Wiener Werkstätte. We asked the French illustrator Thibaud Hérem to capture 11 key buildings of Art Nouveau and Viennese Modernism on paper for this publication.

What Klimt and Schiele were to painting, Gustav Mahler and Arnold Schoenberg matched with their contributions to music in Vienna. We show you where their work lives on and how innovation in music continues to be driven by the capital’s hotbeds of creativity today. A portrait of two musicians reveals the sheer diversity of Vienna’s present-day sound spectrum. Thilo Fechner, violinist in the Vienna Philharmonic, and singer and DJ Joyce Muniz talk about their love of music and Vienna. We also extend an invitation to experience music with all the senses, shine a spotlight on approaches in contemporary art that are making an impact at the Vienna Festival, and take a look behind the scenes with a “works in progress” at Europe’s largest dance festival.

Elsewhere we take a look at some of the more unusual aspects of the Viennese way of life: classic cakes and pastries such as Sachertorte and apple strudel have been given a new lease of life, and restaurants in the capital’s parks are setting their tables al fresco. Many of the delicacies they serve come from farms and estates inside the city. Join us at one of the city’s usual balls such as the Chimney Sweep’s Ball or the Diversity Ball. Find out where it’s all happening on the capital’s mountain biking, climbing, wakeboarding and in-door skydiving scenes — and what makes Vienna so special at each time of year.

Enjoy Viennese Modernism and modern Vienna!

Norbert Kettner
Managing Director, Vienna Tourist Board
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Corporate design, urban expansion, Swedish furniture, torpedoes, fashion and psychoanalysis – they appear to have little in common at first glance. But the foundations for many of these can be traced back to turn-of-the-century Vienna, and the age of Viennese Modernism.
The period around 1900 was a very special time in Vienna. With a conservative emperor firmly in the saddle and times relatively quiet, people began to turn their attention to other things. Intellectuals, artists, scientists, writers, journalists and a range of other professions made the most of the opportunity to fulfill their potential at this time, which veered between beauty and the abyss, before the two world wars. Pioneering breakthroughs that would chart a new course for the future were being made in science, society, the arts, medicine and many other areas. Evocative names from that time include Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele, Otto Wagner, Koloman Moser, Adolf Loos and Josef Hoffmann, his Werkbund-siedlung residential project (1930–1932) in the 13th district flew the flag for a new way of living. The simple exteriors and functional interiors of the buildings remain a fascinating part of Vienna's architectural mix to this day. Interior design also had an important part to play. And it was in this realm that Frank made his mark after immigrating to Sweden in 1933, where he was appointed chief designer at the Svenskt Tenn furniture company. Frank was prolific: after his death in 1967 his estate was found to contain more than 2,000 furniture sketches. 160 of his fabric designs are in the Svenskt Tenn archive, and some are still in production now. It is also impossible to overlook the influence that Frank had on IKEA. Traces of Josef Frank’s work can be found in millions of apartments across the world to this day.

Koloman Moser was also exceptionally prolific. The mastermind behind Wiener Werkstätte and one of its cofounders, Moser was what would be called a graphic designer and product designer today. He created designs for virtually everything – wallpaper, books, stationery, furniture, silverware, windows, and posters, and was focusing on corporate designs – before there was even a term for it. He was the brains behind what must be the first ever modern logo: that of Wiener Werkstätte (see page 8). Moser’s designs have lost nothing of their appeal over time: in 2016 the muff chain given by Gustav Klimt to his long-time muse and friend Emilie Flöge changed hands at the Dorotheum auction house in Vienna for the princely sum of EUR 198,200.

For many people Emily Flöge only warrants a footnote as Klimt’s companion. But she was a successful businesswoman in her own right, whose fashion salon set new trends. Klimt and other designers delivered the templates for her creations. Today designers from all over the world look to Viennese Modernism for inspiration. John Galliano (for Dior in 2008), Sarah Burton (for Alexander McQueen in 2013), Andreas Kronthaler (for Vivienne Westwood in 2017, see page 9) and Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel with his dress for Princess Caroline of Hanover for the 2017 Bal de la Rose in Monaco.

But returning to Flöge: she was one of many strong women in the early twentieth century who increasingly forced their way into the heart of public life, and demanded long overdue rights and freedoms. Flöge was joined by women’s rights advocates Marie Lang and Rosa Mayreder, salonnière Berta Zuckerkandl, painter Tina Blau, photographer Trude Fleischmann, and dancer Grete Wiesenthal. These individuals and others paved the way for women to confidently claim their rightful place in society and lead self-determined lives.

The kind of life that Hedy Lamarr also wanted to lead. She emancipated herself from the role of oppressed housewife, going on to become a celebrated Hollywood actor and inventor. Born Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler in Vienna in 1914, she would find fame as a sire of the silver screen. She shot to prominence in 1933 in the movie Ecstasy, when she was bathed naked in a lake for ten minutes, ran through a wood, and a close-up of her face in a state of sexual arousal was shown in a love scene. The door to an illustrious Hollywood career was well and truly opened. For some time, no one would have guessed that she had registered a patent for radio control of torpedoes together with the composer George Antheil in 1942. Her frequency hopping breakthrough is still used in modern-day communication technologies, such as Bluetooth.

FREUD’S COUCH

Lamarr’s public portrayal of female sexual desire would have been unthinkable only a few years earlier. While at the turn of the century men would dismiss their affairs as mere dalliances, women were less able to express their sexuality due to the repressive ideas of the time. So it hardly comes as a surprise that many of them wound up on Sigmund Freud’s couch. He recognized the significance of sexuality in human behavior, and this and other insights made him into a celebrated figure whose ideas are still applied in every psychoanalyst’s consulting room to this day.

Freud’s research was buoyed by medical breakthroughs in Vienna around 1900. The Second Vienna School of Medicine was one of the most highly regarded in the whole of Europe. Leading the way was pathologist Carl von Rokitansky, whose many autopsies revealing the inner workings of the human body made an essential contribution to medical progress and the development of new diagnosis and treatment approaches.

Art too began to give expression to what was going on below the surface. Gustav Klimt placed symbols of fertility (ovaries and sperm) on the clothes worn by the women in his portraits. And Egon Schiele gave the naked body center stage in numerous works – works that now change hands for millions of euros.

The center Stefan Zweig is reputed to have observed to Freud that “sperm was in the air in Vienna.” Certainly, there was no end of new discoveries, which we all still benefit from today.
The Vienna Journal 2018 — Music & Stage

Beautiful, sometimes offbeat

The University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna has 3,000 students from 70 nations worldwide. This is the room where lawless sound recordings are made.

Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven, the masters of Viennese classical music, created inspired compositions that are regularly performed in the city – and rightly so. The waltz melodies composed by Johann Strauss still resonate with audiences worldwide to this day. But there is always something new going on in the city’s music scene, too.

REVOLUTION AROUND 1900

A highly divisive figure among his contemporaries, Gustav Mahler was a fin-de-siècle genius who opened the door to the modern era. He channeled all of his almost superhuman energies into music, both as a composer and a conductor. He soon knocked the venerable Court Opera into shape, initiating sweeping reforms, which, among other things, would see the singers called upon to act out the on-stage drama.

The baritone Thomas Hampson, a leading performer of Mahler’s vocal works and top Mahler expert, made the following observations about the new direction of his music: “Mahler’s works provided the catalyst for a musical turning point, one which – under the influence of Wagner – actually came to pass with Schoenberg: it was about creating a new musical language which broke ranks with familiar harmony systems and managed to strike upon a new form of expression.”

TWELVE-TONE AND NEW BEGINNINGS

Mahler composed in an age when the traditional was in a state of stasis. His music influenced many of his young contemporaries, including Arnold Schoenberg, who went on to develop twelve-tone music in the early 1920s. Schoenberg formed the Second Viennese School of Music group of composers with his students Alban Berg and Anton Webern. Visitors can find out more about his life and work at the 1,300 m² Arnold Schönberg Center, which has more than 20,000 pages of musical scores and manuscripts, 3,500 historic photographs (together with Albert Einstein, Charlie Chaplin, Oskar Kokoschka and Adolf Loos, among others), journals, instruments and pictures (Schoenberg was also a painter and inventor) on display. Right at the entrance, Nuria Schönberg Nono describes on video the replica of his Los Angeles study at the center as well as the tools of the trade invented by her father and his daily routine.
FERTILE GROUND FOR NEW TALENT
To this day Vienna is a place where music lives. Its universities, music schools and conservatories continue to produce top musicians who breathe new life into time-honored pieces while creating their own unconventional new works. Being accepted to study music in Vienna would be a dream come true for many. Graduates of the mdw – University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna – include the composer Friedrich Cerha, the director Götzi Spielmann, the conductor Claudio Abbado and the actress Birgit Minichmayr. In 1980, the iPop Institute for Popular Music opened on the 200-year-old university’s doorstep. It covers an enormous spectrum of styles, from experimental improvisation to jazz, soul, funk, pop, dance and world. Ankathie Koi and Judith Filimónova teamed up at iPop to create avant garde pop duo Fijiuka.

Austrian jazz keyboardist and composer Joe Zawinul was given a free place at the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna (MUK). Other alumni include the star pianist Till Fellner, the actor Nicholas Ofczarek and the musical star Mark Seibert.

Anyone wanting to find out more about Mahler’s electrifying personality and radical reforms will come up trumps at the House of Music, the Vienna Museum of Sound.

THE CONCERTS HOSTED BY MDW AND MUK showcase the stars of tomorrow to small audiences (tickets are cheap or free of charge). With more than 1,300 shows to its credit, mdw is Austria’s largest organizer of cultural events. And in November the WIEN MODERN festival brings contemporary compositions to a wider audience.

In his second season in 2018, Creative Director Tomas Zierhofer-Kin wants to create “a fusion of performance, music, visual art and theatre in an art festival that connects the past with the future.”

The first night of the Vienna Festival: a free open-air extravaganza on Rathausplatz. Attended by thousands of people each year, it is also broadcast to the world.

Vienna’s festival
IN TUNE WITH THE TIMES: FOR FIVE WEEKS IN MAY AND JUNE, THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY INTERNATIONAL VIENNA FESTIVAL SHOWCASES THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN CONTEMPORARY ART.

Disconcerting, inspirational, incredible, controversial, extreme and surprising – just some of the labels that can be applied to the premieres and new productions at the Vienna Festival. Audiences know that contemporary stage work can be demanding, and that is exactly what attracts them in their droves. Vienna’s largest culture festival is synonymous with outstanding avant-garde productions and holds a mirror up to everything that is going on in the world. In addition to theater and musical theater productions, the Performeum (a temporary museum of performance art), the Akademie des Verlehrmens (“Academy of Unlearning”) and the Hyper-reality club festival offer a packed line-up of performances, discourse and music programs.

In his second season in 2018, Creative Director Tomas Zierhofer-Kin wants to create “a fusion of performance, music, visual art and theatre in an art festival that connects the past with the future.”

Dancing on impulse
IMPULSTANZ, EUROPE’S LARGEST DANCE FESTIVAL, PROVIDES A BLEND OF TOP PERFORMANCES AND AN UNRIVALED WORKSHOP PROGRAM. THE VIENNESE PRODUCER, DIRECTOR AND PRESENTER, NINA SAURUGG ATTENDS UP TO EIGHT COURSES EVERY YEAR – A GENUINE WORKSHOPAHOLIC. SHE SHARES HER THOUGHTS ON HIGH HEELS, PASSION AND PAIN.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO TURN SOMEONE INTO AN IMPULSTANZ WORKSHOP JUNKIE?
Just being there once – that’s all it takes to catch the bug. Anyone with a thing for dancing will be hooked. Beginners are in their element in the basic courses, which is something that many of my friends were not aware of – they assumed that ImpulsTanz was only for pros.

THERE ARE 250 WORKSHOPS TO CHOOSE FROM: WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITES?
Most of the workshops I go to are on contemporary jazz. I like that best of all, and Salim Gauwloos is one of my favorites. And I like street jazz, too. I once booked Jermaine Brown’s FemFunk, a very feminine dancing style that I think is really cool. Very self-confident. It makes you feel like a woman from head to toe. We also danced in high heels.

DANCE AND TEARS: HAVE YOUR ALREADY BEEN PUSHED TO YOUR PERSONAL LIMITS?
Although I’m not a professional dancer, I like the advanced workshops. If one of the dancers from the Vienna State Opera pulls off three pirouettes one after the other without any problems, then the best I can do is pretend that I am up to at least two. But it’s fun! I definitely push up against my physical limits. I’ve got cuts on my knees, blisters on my toes, bruises all over and everything hurts. My boyfriend asks me: “Why do you put yourself through it?” But then he looks at my face and sees me beaming with pleasure.

WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE WORKSHOPS?
You meet all sorts of people. In a street jazz class, everyone moves in this extremely cool way. It’s all very stylish. And then you find out from the person next to you that she is a lawyer and normally wears a suit to work. Everyone is equal at ImpulsTanz: young, old, pros and beginners. It’s a nice community.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD AND BODY WHEN YOU DANCE?
When I start dancing, I stop thinking about phone calls and appointments. I’m in my own world. It’s like meditation, although you have to stay fully concentrated to follow the choreography. But there will always be a moment when you can let go. You’re in the here and now. That’s priceless.
Wiener Werkstätte made a name for itself all over the world due to its prolific creative output. The designs and products of its heyday are now timeless classics, and pop up at virtually every turn in Vienna. Some of the companies that commissioned designs from Koloman Moser, Josef Hoffmann and numerous other Wiener Werkstätte stars are still around today.

Koloman Moser and Josef Hoffmann founded Wiener Werkstätte in 1903, in partnership with the industrialist Fritz Waerndorfer. Moser and Hoffmann were also the company’s creative directors. With the Gesamtkunstwerk or total work of art as their overarching goal, they wanted to introduce objects imbued with aesthetic and artistic value into people’s everyday lives. They even designed entire houses, with nothing escaping their critical gaze – from the architecture to the interiors, the gardens, the cutlery, and even the owners’ clothing. Palais Stoclet in Brussels and Purkersdorf Sanatorium are held up as epitomes of the Wiener Werkstätte total work of art.

“SQUARE HOFFMANN”
The revolutionary Wiener Werkstätte style represented a clear departure from the historicist approach with its use of shapes that were simpler, more pared down and more geometric – particularly in the early years when Hoffmann earned his famous nickname, “Square Hoffmann”. Moser had a special talent for typography and commercial art. His imagination was limitless and he turned out design after design. The First World War, the end of the monar-chy, the worldwide economic depression and financial difficulties ultimately led to Wiener Werkstätte’s demise and liquidation in 1932.

AUGARTEN PORCELAIN MANUFACTORY continues to have various Wiener Werkstätte designs in its repertoire, primarily those of Josef Hoffmann. Introduced in 1929, his Melon Service (a striking striped espresso set) has been in production ever since. Augarten porce- lain has always been handmade and the manufactory commissioned designs from the top artist of the day. The company celebrates its 300th anniversary in 2018 (see box for information on anniversary exhibitions).
Interwoven stories

YOUNG FASHION DESIGNERS GIVE VIENNESE TRADITIONS A NEW LEASE OF LIFE.

The woven pattern of Thonet’s chairs is famous all over the world and synonymous with Viennese coffeehouse culture. And now fashion label Sagan Vienna has taken the hand-made wickerwork weave known as Wiener Geflecht and put it at the heart of its bag collection. Playing with traditions, Tanja Bradarica and Taro Ohmae (the designers behind Sagan Vienna) have combined the characteristic Wiener Geflecht pattern with contemporary, minimalist bag designs. Thanks to the unique design signature, style bibles such as Elle and Vogue have already picked up on the instantly recognizable bags, which are available to purchase from the Steffl Department Store.

Handbags by Petar Petrov, another Vienna-based fashion designer, pay tribute to another traditional Viennese manufacturer. Petrov selected the iconic brass hand created by Carl Auböck’s studio for the clasp of his bag. Although designed in the 1940s, the hand still appears exceptionally modern, something that applies to all of the designs from Carl Auböck’s studios – which are hot property among collectors the world over. Featuring simple and clear shapes, the products range from figurines and bookends to bowls, brushes and lamps. Brass, leather, wood and horn are the materials of choice. Carl Auböck IV confirmed how excited he was to be working with Petar Petrov: “He is very experimental and a real perfectionist.” Bags by Petar Petrov are available in Vienna from Park and Liska.

FROM GLASS TO FABRIC

Viennese Modernism à la Westwood

Designer Andreas Kronthaler, husband of Vivienne Westwood and a native of Austria, brought out his first solo collection a number of years ago under the name “Andreas Kronthaler for Vivienne Westwood”. His fall/winter 2017/18 collection takes its inspiration from Wiener Werkstätte and Viennese Modernism, the theme chosen by the Vienna Tourist Board for 2018. O
Vienna is a green city, and besides its woods, meadows and fields, it boasts about 850 parks – and the best of them contain restaurants with fantastic views of the surrounding greenery.

Enjoying an excellent meal accompanied by a glass of wine, or perhaps afternoon coffee and a slice of cake – the ideal way to take in the idyllic setting in one of Vienna’s parks. The Palmenhaus in the BURGGARTEN is a good place to start. This former greenhouse at the back of the Hofburg is one of the best examples of Austrian Art Nouveau steel and glass construction. Inside, guests sit surrounded by exotic plants as they enjoy delicious food or a cocktail at the bar. In summer the patio offers great views of the Burggarten – seats here are very popular.

PARK LIFE

The Steirereck restaurant is located in STADTPARK. Not only regarded as one of the best restaurants in the world, it is also highly rated aesthetically. Architects PRAG opened up the restaurant to face out over the park. The green surroundings are reflected in the metal elements of the facade, and in summer the windows are retracted so that guests have the feeling they are sitting in the midst of the green. New interpretations of old recipes and all but forgotten local ingredients are what make the cuisine at Steirereck so special. Johann in the Kur-salon offers another view of Stadtpark and serves Viennese cuisine in a historic setting. As an additional treat, the Johann Strauss memorial can be seen from the patio.

Culinary delights are also on the menu for visitors to AUGARTEN, Vienna’s oldest Baroque park. Its palace is home to the Augarten Porcelain Manufactury as well as a café-restaurant with views of the flowerbeds that fill the park and its long avenues. Food is served on Augarten porcelain, and with a little luck guests can hear the Vienna Boys’ Choir rehearsing.
An insider tip: Landtmann’s Jausen Station is in a hidden spot in Schönbrunn Palace Gardens.

**VIEW**

**Classic desserts – recovered**

NEW TAKES ON APPLE STRUDEL, SACHERTORTE AND PUNSKHRAPFEN: CREATIVE CONFECTIONERS ARE WRAPPING UP THE FLAVORS OF CLASSIC VIENNESE SWEET DELICACIES IN CHOCOLATE, CONFETIONERY, ICE CREAM AND DESSERTS. CELEBRATED VIENNESE TRADITION MEETS CONTEMPORARY TRENDS.

French master confectioner Laure Doutrelieu has reinterpreted classic Viennese cakes and pastries as pralines at her store and workshop BONBON ET CHOCOLAT in the sixth district. Her love for the city led her to develop the Wiener Variation: a trio comprising Sachertorte, apple strudel and Punschkrapfen (fondant fancy) creations. Meanwhile, the patisseries at XOCOLAT MANUFAKTUR have come up with trifles based on classic sweet delicacies: “Wiener Mehlspeise” tastes of rum, raisins, lemon and vanilla, while rum takes center stage in the “Punschkrapfen” trifles. “Marillenkrapfen” trifles imitate apricot dumplings with a coating of fine breadcrumbs and white chocolate, and an apricot cream filling.

In the beautiful Art Nouveau setting of the patisserie ZUM SCHWARZEN KAMEEL, traditional desserts including apple strudel and Sachertorte are served in special glass tumblers called chamelles. Former PURVEYORS TO THE IMPERIAL AND ROYAL COURT GERSTNER have coated the classics in chocolate: their Punschkrapfel-Schokolade is a composition of light sponge, a gentle touch of rum, and fruity apricot jam, all covered in pink chocolate. The Apfelstrudel-Schokolade has a crisp base made from milk chocolate ganache, wafers and sweet short pastry. A pinch of cinnamon, apple marzipan, raisins and a chocolate mantle complete the creation. The chocolates were launched in 2017 to celebrate Gerstner’s 170th anniversary.

GERFRENEES, an ice cream parlor in the 18th district, serves both apple strudel and Sachertorte ice cream on weekends. Their creamy Sissi Mandel variety, with sweetened, crunchy almond pieces, is also highly recommended.

Viennese sandwiches with a kick

**FOOD TIP**

Culinary delights are the be-all and end-all at the annual Genussfestival in Stadtpark (May 11-13, 2018).

GERSTNER’S “Punschkrapferlschokolade” is sweet and seductive.

The “Wiener Variation” classic sweet recipes reinterpreted as pralines.

When the Viennese are out and about in the city and need a snack, they make a beeline for Trześniewski. The original branch of the Viennese sandwich makers opened in 1904 on Dorotheergasse in the first district – and here alone 5,000 open sandwiches are served every day. The recipe for success: dark bread with 23 different toppings. Bacon and egg is the most popular. The recipes have remained largely unchanged, and are closely guarded secrets. Apparently they use a very special technique for boiling the eggs.

Traditionally, anyone in need of a quick pick-me-up stops at Trześniewski, and orders one or two sandwiches with a “Pflit” of beer – a small, unusual measure of only an eighth of a liter, which goes perfectly with the size of the sandwiches. The sandwiches themselves have always been prepared by hand, using a fork, giving them their unmistakable appearance. The “spreaders” are highly respected within the business, and have successfully warded off any automated alternatives! And for anyone who wants to know how to pronounce Trześniewski, it’s “Chesnyewski”. Or something like that.
Its golden dome is visible from far and wide: the Secession, built by Joseph Maria Olbrich, was the original white cube and one of the most modern exhibition venues in Europe. “To every age its art, to art its freedom” is emblazoned in large letters above the entrance. The ground floor hosts exhibitions of contemporary art, and Klimt’s Beethoven Frieze is on show on the basement level.

Adolf Loos thought little of excessively decorated facades. This is plain to see in his building on Michaelerplatz, which was quickly dubbed “the house without eyebrows” because it did away with the ornamentation above the windows that was standard at the time. The Emperor could not bear to look at it, and ordered the windows of the Hofburg facing the building to be boarded up. Originally created for a gentlemen’s outfitter, it now contains a bank.

Eight of the numerous stations that make up today’s U4 and U6 subway lines have been maintained as they were when first built by Otto Wagner: Schönbrunn and Stadtpark (U4) as well as Gumpendorfer Strasse, Burggasse, Josefstädter Strasse, Alser Strasse, Währinger Strasse and Nussdorfer Strasse (U6). Another pair of particularly fine station buildings can be found on Karlsplatz.

The three apartment buildings built by Otto Wagner next to the Naschmarkt are a striking ensemble: the Majolikahaus (Linke Wienzeile 40) is clad with floral tiles. The impressive ornaments of the building on the corner plot (no. 38) were made by Kolo Moser. The last of the three (Köstlergasse 3) is the simplest and was also home to Wagner himself for a time, as well as his now lost glass bathtub.

Otto Wagner thought of everything when he designed this church in the grounds of a hospital for the mentally ill: a doctor’s office, lavatories and emergency exits were all on the blueprints as well as a pool with dripping holy water to fight infections. The floor is sloped so that patients in the back rows had a good view of the altar. The stained glass windows were designed by Koloman Moser.

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Max Fabiani, another of Otto Wagner’s protégés, created this public education facility and observatory on the banks of the Danube Canal and almost directly on the Ringstrasse. Today it is home to the Bulgarian Cultural Institute.

From a stylistic point of view, the Wiener Konzerthaus blends elements of late historicist architecture with Art Nouveau. The building was revolutionary at the start of the twentieth century: three halls on a single level can be used for a single event or partitioned to host multiple performances in parallel. Several buffet stations, a coffeehouse and three restaurants provided additional diversion for concertgoers.

Designed by Otto Wagner’s student Karl Ehn, the Karl-Marx-Hof is the longest contiguous apartment building in the world and a poster child for social housing: its 1,382 apartments accommodate around 5,000 people. Communal facilities ensure that residents live alongside each other as neighbors and not simply next door to one another. A former laundry at the site now hosts a museum dedicated to Red Vienna.

33 high-profile architects – including Josef Frank, Adolf Loos, Josef Hoffmann and Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky – created a total of 70 small family homes out in the suburbs. The idea was to showcase the variety of terraced houses and pre-engineered homes available, and provide a blueprint for future housing developments. The project was also concerned with optimal use of space and the creation of a contemporary residential culture.
Every night great things happen on around 120 stages in the capital, and each year around 15,000 music events cover just about every genre imaginable. But music in Vienna is not just a pleasure for the ears – it brings all of the senses into play.

Hearing is the first to be reached by music, primarily at the capital’s music theatres and concert halls. The sheer range is incredible – it is no accident that Vienna is fêted as the world’s music capital. In 2018 opera fans will be treated to performances by some of the genre’s biggest names at the Vienna State Opera including Elīna Garanča (in May, in Camille Saint-Saëns’ Samson et Dalila) and Jonas Kaufmann (in April/May, in Umberto Giordano’s Andrea Chénier). Although the only venue in the city dedicated to the light-hearted, colorful and enthralling world of operetta, the Volksoper also hosts its fair share of operas, musicals and ballets. The Theater an der Wien, the city’s newest opera house, focuses on high-end Baroque and contemporary opera with modern sets. Mozart’s works are a regular fixture. It follows a stagione (Italian for season) system with premieres almost every month, as well as concerts and dance performances.

Fans of classical music can listen to some of the best musicians in the world perform live, including the Vienna Philharmonic, the Wiener Symphoniker and the Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna. And there are a variety of festivals which focus on specific musical genres, right the way through to the present day. The city’s two main stages for musicals, the Raimund Theater and Ronacher, are another pair of entertainment hotspots.

TALKING OF OPERA HOUSES...

Enjoying music in Vienna is about much more than pleasure for the ears – there is also plenty for the eyes to feast on. it’s well worth taking a closer look at the capital’s music venues. The Vienna State Opera is a gem of Neo-renaissance architecture, even though it was initially dubbed a “sunken crate” and “supine elephant” by some when it opened in 1869, in response to its low positioning relative to the Ringstrasse. A guided tour gives a fascinating glimpse into life behind the scenes at the world’s largest repertory opera house: starting at the foyer, it takes in the grand staircase, the state rooms (the Tea Salon, Marble Hall, Schwend Foyer, and the Gustav Mahler Hall), and the auditorium with views of the stage.
A tour of the Musikverein is equally recommended. Opened in 1870, the crowning glory of this historicist temple to the music is the Golden Hall, which has superb acoustics as well as the honor of being one of the world's most attractive concert venues. It is here that the Vienna Philharmonic gives its annual New Year's Concert.

Aficionados can also pay house calls to see the charming original apartments owned by some of the great geniuses of the ages. Well and truly out in the suburbs in his day, Haydn's modest house has long since been subsumed by the growing city, with busy shopping street Mariahilfer Strasse now just around the corner. Johann Strauss's apartment still exudes cosmopolitan style, and the Mozarthaus Vienna in the heart of the old town has been expanded and transformed into a Mozart experience. The Beethoven Museum, which opened in 2017, is dedicated to the great composer's 35 years in Vienna. Accredited Vienna tour guides offer a wide variety of guided tours on various musical themes, with no end of anecdotes thrown in for good measure. But anyone that prefers to go it alone can follow the descriptions that accompany the city’s musician walks.

Beautifully crafted instruments once played at the imperial court by musicians such as Beethoven and Chopin are preserved for posterity in the Collection of Historic Musical Instruments in the Hofburg – a veritable treasure trove for music lovers. The zither on which Anton Karas played the score for silver screen classic The Third Man is another of the attractions.

At Madame Tussauds at the Prater visitors can rub shoulders with musicians past and present. Stars of the 3D waxwork show include Mozart, Elvis, Falco, Freddie Mercury, Udo Jürgens, Michael Jackson, Conchita Wurst, Christina Stürmer, panda-mask-wearing rapper Cro and Katy Perry.

FEEL THE MUSIC
Rhythm, beat, sound, melody – the ingredients that make up music trigger make themselves felt in every sense of the word. Such as when clubbers feel the deep bass sounds run through their bodies on a night out. Dancing like there is no tomorrow is all the rage at the capital’s discos, clubs and festivals. But dance partners can also tune in to the music on a different level at Viennese balls where the waltz, foxtrot, jive and samba set the scene. An experience for all the senses!

The only thing missing is a music-related taste sensation. but even that angle is covered thanks to the mighty Mozartkugel confectionery which has taken the world by storm with a taste of Mozart, in name at the very least. It is easy to see why the Mozart brand is valued at around EUR 5 billion – everyone knows Mozart.

At Madame Tussauds at the Prater visitors can rub shoulders with musicians past and present. Stars of the 3D waxwork show include Mozart, Elvis, Falco, Freddie Mercury, Udo Jürgens, Michael Jackson, Conchita Wurst, Christina Stürmer, panda-mask-wearing rapper Cro and Katy Perry.

The Music Film Festival is one of the city’s most popular summer attractions. Attracting round 850,000 people each July and August, this annual event on Rathausplatz is a magnet for late-night crowds looking to get away from it all with a culinary and cinematic flight of fancy. Fine food and free music films covering everything from opera to pop pop the scene for a perfect summer’s night – daily and admission is completely free of charge!

In addition to these two fan favorites, the city also offers an impressive range of genre-specific events for music lovers to enjoy. A selection of festivals for anyone looking to find out more about the sounds of contemporary Vienna:

- Vienna Blues Spring – the world’s longest festival devoted to the genre (March 20-April 20, 2018)
- Electric Spring – with stars of the local electronic music scene (April 2018)
- wean hean – the Wienerflied Festival (April-May 2018)
- Donaukanaltreiben – open-air music and culture festival (end of May 2018)
- Rock in Vienna – rock and more on the Danube Island (start of June 2018)
- Vienna Jazz Festival – top stars at the best venues (start of July 2018)
- Poptest Wien – Austria’s innovative pop scene on Karlsplatz (July 2018)
- Africa Days Vienna – toe-tapping world music (Jul 27-Aug 15, 2018)
- Gürfel Night Walk – the city’s longest music drag (Aug 25, 2018)
- Waves Vienna – from alternative to electronica (fall 2018)
- KlezMoreFestival – Jewish klezmer music (Nov 10-25, 2018)
- Vienna Jazzfloor – 100 concerts in nine clubs (November 2018)
- Voice Mania – a cappella festival (November/December 2018)

My kind of music
MUSIC FESTIVALS FOCUSING ON CONTEMPORARY SOUNDS FILL THE CAPITAL’S EVENT SCHEDULES. SOME BRING PEOPLE TO VIENNA IN THEIR TENS OF THOUSANDS, WHILE OTHERS APPEAL TO SELECT GROUPS LOOKING TO GO ON A MORE PERSONAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE CITY’S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE.

The Danube Island Festival is the granddaddy of them all: on the last weekend of June international stars and local heroes create a party atmosphere to tell the grandkids about, at Europe’s largest free open-air music festival. Artists perform music from every genre under the sun on around a dozen stages to three million visitors. The festival will take place for the 35th time in 2018.

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In addition to these two fan favorites, the city also offers an impressive range of genre-specific events for music lovers to enjoy. A selection of festivals for anyone looking to find out more about the sounds of contemporary Vienna:

- 18th International Accordion Festival – celebrating the instrument’s versatility (Feb 24-Mar 3, 2018)
- Vienna Blues Spring – the world’s longest festival devoted to the genre (March 20-April 20, 2018)
- Electric Spring – with stars of the local electronic music scene (April 2018)
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- Vienna Jazzfloor – 100 concerts in nine clubs (November 2018)
- Voice Mania – a cappella festival (November/December 2018)
Spicy chilies and beautiful sweet cherries grown in Vienna? Delicious pumpkins and squashes? And how about woolly pigs? A whistle-stop tour of Vienna’s agriculture scene...

Green spaces account for almost half of the Vienna metropolitan area, a factor that has a huge hand to play in creating outstanding quality of life for locals and visitors alike. But there is more to these areas than just recreation and leisure – the fertile soil is also used to grow a surprising wealth of agricultural produce, especially for a major world capital. One sixth of Vienna’s total area is managed by 630 farmers. A mix of horticultural companies, winegrowers, crop, vegetable and fruit producers, they keep the Viennese population supplied with fresh, sustainable local produce throughout the growing season. It is hard to believe that 72,000 tons of fresh vegetables are harvested in the districts of Simmering and Donaustadt alone each year – with peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, radishes and spinach among the annual bounty. But that is just the tip of the iceberg, with a whole lot more grown and reared in the city.

NICE AND SPICY: CHILIHOOF

Run by the Kölbi family, the Chilihof estate was founded in the Viennese suburb of Breitenlee around 100 years ago, but it can trace its roots all the way back to the first half of the nineteenth century. Highly advanced for the time, it even grew strawberries in greenhouses, ready for sale at Vienna’s legendary Naschmarkt. Today, Georg Kölbi grows 15 different types of chilies on an impressive 4,400 m² site. The fresh chilies and his grandmother’s lovingly created sauces, preserves, salts and schnapps are available from various direct sellers, farm stores and restaurants.
FRUITS OF THE SOIL: SCHOTTENSTIFT
The Schottenstift (Scott's Abbey) estate has been a bastion of sustainable agriculture for around 860 years. It still cultivates traditional farming practices that prioritize environmental factors, and has been producing fruit in Breitenlee since the 1970s. Today, the estate harvests up to 2,000 tons of apples (12 varieties), 25 tons of cherries (11 varieties), five tons of plums (two varieties) and sour cherries. The fresh fruit and delicacies derived from it, including juices and schnapps, are on sale at the farm shop in Breitenlee.

ANIMAL MAGIC: BIOHOF N°5
Young farmer Oliver Kaminek has been breathing new life into his grandparents’ dormant estate and winemaking business in Stammersdorf since 2010. While the focus is still on wine-growing, the farm also has a number of animals, with a particular focus on rare breeds. Here, Mangalitza pigs – known locally as wool pigs – are free to wallow in the mud to their heart’s desire. Meanwhile, the chickens from the Sulmtal valley can be seen running around the farmstead and fields.

BURSTING WITH VITAMINS: PRENTLHOF
Now run by the sixth generation of the Prentl family, the Prentlhof estate on the southern reaches of Vienna’s 10th district, Favoriten, grows organic sugar beet, soy and cereals including durum wheat, buckwheat, rye and barley. Fall is the season for organic potatoes and pumpkins. By the way, it is the only farm in Vienna to produce its own pumpkin seed oil. The Farm School initiative is another special highlight: the Prentlhof gives anyone with an interest in how cereal crops are grown a direct insight into its workings.

SWEET TREATS: BIO FEIGENHOF.
In summer 2006 Ursula Kujala and Harald Thiesz planted their first fig trees in Vienna’s 11th district, Simmering. Today the couple’s organic fig plantation produces more than 50 different varieties of the fruit between July and October. From pickled figs and fig chutneys and preserves to fig liqueur, there are countless delicious products on sale at the farm gate.

Vienna for action junkies

A good sense of balance and excellent coordination are essential at the tree-top climbing center, which takes having fun to new heights.

Mountain biking is booming even inside the city limits. Seven signposted trails lead bikers out of town and into the leafy surroundings of the Vienna Woods. With a range of routes to suit all abilities, there is something for everyone – and the beautiful natural surroundings of this biosphere park is just the icing on the cake. The new MTB-Zentrum Hohe-Wand-Wiese is sure to set mountain bikers’ pulses racing. This state-of-the-art trail center has three modern routes ranging in difficulty from easy to hard, and offers bike and equipment hire, technical training, skill parkour and guided tours around the center and the sprawling Vienna Woods. Time to hit the trail!

CLIMBING ADVENTURES WITH A VIEW
Kahlenberg, the tallest of Vienna’s landmark hills, is not only perfect cycling territory; right at the top it has the largest tree-top climbing center in eastern Austria. 150 obstacles divided into three levels of difficulty and reaching dizzying heights of up to 20 meters ensure that the fun never ends. Adventurous souls can also be seen zooming through the air on flying foxes while they lap up the breathtaking views of the city in the distance. And after all that physical activity, the neighboring Josefrennhütte offers welcome respite with classic local and seasonal dishes and a charming interior. Between April and October, avid climbers can also get their fix in the center of town on one of six historic anti-aircraft towers used as part of the city’s air defenses in the Second World War. Climbers can choose between 20 routes and 4,000 brightly-colored handholds and footholds as they scale the face of the building, eventually reaching the underside of the roof level, a dizzying 34 meters above ground. Anyone who manages to make it all the way up will be rewarded with a memorable sightseeing experience – without any of the crowds.

ALMOST AS GOOD AS FLYING
Vienna also makes people’s dreams of flight come true. On the 380-meter-long flying fox at the Spider Rock XL complex next to the Donaustadtbücke bridge, visitors soar above the Danube over the Marina Wien inlet. Visitors can also experience a controlled 36-meter fall – after going into virtual freefall, thrillseekers land unscathed at the foot of the Power Fan tower, while their adrenaline levels skyrocket in the other direction! Fun lovers glide rather than fly at the wakeboard lift next to the Donaustadtbücke station on the U2 subway line. With options including wakeboards, water skiing and knee boarding, water rats can skim over the surface of the water at speeds of around 30 km/h. More experienced wakeboarders also take to the water to practice jumps over various obstacles. Windobona at the Prater is another place where people can enjoy an adrenaline boost after going into free fall. At the world’s most modern glazed recreational wind tunnel, wannabe skydivers can experience wind speeds of up to 280 km/h – which feels like jumping out of a plane at an altitude of 4,000 m. The wind tunnel is also suitable for beginners.

Vienna Journal 2018 — Green Vienna/Vienna for action junkies
Vienna Journal 2018 — nightlife/DJs vs. orchestras

Still going strong as a DJ, producer, and radio host, and has moved to the Austrian capital at the age of 12. Vienna's club circuit. Born in Brazil, the DJ, singer, and music international reputation. Joyce Muniz is a regular fixture on everything in between. The scene is constantly growing locations to electronica nights in fashionable venues — and dance addicts get to enjoy clubs that are gaining an international reputation. Joyce Muniz is a regular fixture on Vienna's club circuit. Born in Brazil, the DJ, producer, and radio host, and has completely dedicated herself to music. She was just 16 when she played her first gig — making her the youngest female DJ in Vienna at the time. Today he's got involved in the club scene through friends and acquaintances — discovering my love of music and, above all, bass! It was only a question of time before I bought my first records, and soon enough I came up with the idea to start creating my own sounds. You were born in Brazil. Why do you now live in Vienna? I came to Vienna with my parents — nothing spectacular. I'm afraid.

For you, music and Vienna is like...

...life in the forest. There is total silence, but then as soon as something happens, it's unmistakable.

What do you like about “musical Vienna”?

While Vienna is pretty small, there's a great variety of music out there happily hiding in the underground. It takes some looking for, but as soon as you find it, the reward is often fantastic.

Describe your perfect day in Vienna.

I'm a late riser and love it that I can still get brunch after 12. After that my favorite thing is to take advantage of the good fortune we have in Vienna, grab my dog and head straight for the woods surrounding the city, to give my head some space and get away from the everyday. What would you say is an absolute must in Vienna?

A walk through the city center at night, ideally in summer.

It's Saturday night and you're going out. How do you spend the evening?

On Saturday nights I'm rarely at home, because I'm usually working. If I'm in Vienna, ideally I'll spend my evening at home with friends and family. Since I love cooking I'll prepare the food myself. Often the evening will end with a visit to the theater or in a bar — Vienna has lots to offer besides the club scene.

Do you ever go to classical concerts?

I love live music and concerts, but most likely you won't see me at a classical concert, since I prefer jazz, soul and bossa nova.

And finally —

Your top three restaurants

- Skopik & Lohn
- Nihonbashi
- Bits & Bites

Your top three tips for going out

- Sass Music Club
- Donau/Techno
- Grelle Forelle

Your top three favorite places

- Alte Donau
- Cobenzl
- Augarten

How did you get into music, and what was it about electronic music that appealed to you?

Music has always been present in my life, starting with my childhood in Brazil, since most of my mother's side of the family were percussionists. I came to Austria when electronic music was making a major breakthrough in the city, and of course as a teenager I got involved in the club scene through friends and acquaintances — discovering my love of music

Dance music pumps from one of the best sound systems in Vienna in a stylish setting at Sass on Karlsplatz — a long night's partying is guaranteed.

Dance music pumps from one of the best sound systems in Vienna in a stylish setting at Sass on Karlsplatz — a long night's partying is guaranteed.

How did you get into music, and what was it about classical music that appealed to you?

My parents are musicians. They never forced me to practice, so I never practiced for more than ten minutes a day. When I was 12, I began making electronic music in the cellar of my parents’ house. After graduating from high school when I was 18, I suddenly discovered classical music for myself, and started practicing a minimum of ten hours a day. Then I went to America to study. From that point on I have never asked myself whether I might prefer to do something else.

You were born in Germany. Why do you now live in Vienna?

Vienna is the best city for musicians. It always has been. Coming into contact with music and musicians is simply part of life here, and that's unique.

For you, music and Vienna is like...

...the beach and sunshine.

What do you like about “musical Vienna”?

Opera premiers are the talk of the town, people with instrument cases are part of the urban landscape, and toilets that play waltz music make tourists happy.

Describe your perfect day in Vienna.

In the morning, riding my racing bike from the city center into the Vienna woods. Breakfast at Joseph Brot on the way there. After the bike ride, a pitstop at Motto am Fluss. Then an hour's practice — free from stress. In the afternoon, a visit to one of the more than 100 museums in Vienna. A session in the gym before dinner, at John Harris on Schillerplatz (in our line of work, physical fitness is very important). Then dinner at Artnet in the Wieden district, followed by a drink at Heuer at the Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz.

What would you say is an absolute must in Vienna?

A long stroll in the first district, to take in the unique architecture.

It's Saturday night and you're going out. How do you spend the evening?

Unfortunately, I always have to play on a Saturday evening.

Do you sometimes go to clubs?

Those days are long gone now. It's so loud in the orchestra pit that quiet has become a great luxury for me.

And finally —

Your top three restaurants

- Ghsallos on Schönbrunner Strasse: a unique restaurant — a mixture of an Italian bar and bicycle boutique
- KIM
- Vietthao

Your top three tips for going out

Unfortunately, I work in the evenings. But when I still have plenty of energy, I go to

- Heuer at the Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz,
- Porgy & Bess, or the
- Albertina Passage

Your top three favorite places

- The Danube Island and the Lobau
- Sleepy spots in the second district
- Landmaun's Jauss Station, a hidden cafe in Schönbrunn Palace Gardens.

Two musicians who have both lived in Vienna for many years share their favorite sides of the city. Joyce Muniz and Thilo Fechner on their love of music and Vienna.

Joyce Muniz

Thilo Fechner
A different take on the Viennese ball

ASIDE FROM THE CLASSIC VIENNESE BALLS, THE BALL CALENDAR OFFERS ALL MANNER OF UNUSUAL TWISTS.

More than 450 balls are held in Vienna every year, where revelers can dance to the traditional waltz or contemporary beats. It’s not only the Opera Ball, Coffeehouse Owners’ Ball and Confectioners’ Ball that get people on the dance floor. Outsider, non-conformist balls also attract guests in their droves. In Vienna, each profession has its own ball. The CHIMNEY SWEEPS’ BALL opens the season. The opening dancers file onto the dancefloor wearing their traditional work clothes. At the WEIGHTLIFTERS’ BALL, the call “Alles Walzer” (“Everyone Waltz!”) is just one of many commands that ballgoers are expected to follow. In the Schutzhaus Zukunft auf der Schmelz, where the ball is held, dancing is the order of the day – as well as, traditionally, dumbbell lifting. There is no dress code here: 1980s tracksuits are just as welcome as any other clothing that ballgoers feel comfortable in. The ball is legendary in Vienna.

SUITS AND SNEAKERS
A relative newcomer to the ball calendar is the VIENNA HIP HOP BALL, where partygoers get down to a mixed program of music in the Kursalon Wien. Attire ranges from casual urban streetwear with sneakers, to elegant evening gowns and high heels. The Fly & Roll Dance Battle is a highlight of the program, seeking out the best breakdance, urban and contemporary dance moves. The latest music is also on the decks at the VIENNA TECHNO BALL, where tradition meets the future as the waltz is updated with beats. The ball is committed to bringing old and new together – it has a traditional, smart dress code but the sounds on the classic yet contemporary dance floor are electronic. The “Kunst am Ball” campaign supports young Austrian artists, and the ball is also a showcase for the current DJ scene.

COLORFUL BALLS
The DIVERSITY BALL is packed with color and variety. LGBTI partygoers set an example of diversity, tolerance, accessibility and mutual respect on a wild ball night at the Kursalon Wien together with a range of other communities. Profits from each year’s ball are deposited to various non-profit projects. The ROSE BALL has been held at the same time as the Opera Ball for many years now. Only the classical opening polonaise follows the traditional ball blueprint. A night free from prejudice and exclusion, where host Miss Candy is far from being the only drag queen in attendance. Off-the-wall, loud, and glamorous outfits are de rigueur, but it is not uncommon for Opera Ball guests to turn up for the end of the night in their tails. A tip for anyone whose wedding dress is collecting dust in their wardrobe: the WEDDING DRESS BALL provides a welcome opportunity to dig out that dream dress and indulge in a little nostalgia...
Spring feeling

SPRING IS THE MOST COLORFUL TIME OF YEAR. VIENNA OFFERS SOME AMAZING WAYS TO EXPERIENCE THIS SPECIAL SEASON, WHEN THE CITY AND MOTHER NATURE ARE AT THEIR PRETTIEST. VIENNA’S MARKETS, PARKS AND GARDENS HAVE A CHARM ALL OF THEIR OWN AND A HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDE OPENS UP THE CITY’S CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS FROM AN UNEXPECTED ANGLE.

A stroll around one of the capital’s produce markets is a pleasure for all the senses. The aroma of fresh fruit, vegetables and spices hangs in the air. The multitude of stands at the exotic Naschmarkt, the multicultural Brunnenmarkt, as well as Karmelitermarkt and Rochusmarkt offer a welcome opportunity to stop and watch the world go by.

At the Prater – the capital’s largest recreation area, which at six million square meters is almost twice the size of Central Park in New York – and the numerous parks in the historic city center, the flowers, plants and trees are in full bloom. Volksgarten is a sea of color as 400 different varieties of roses start to come into flower. Over in the neighboring Burggarten, people relax on the lawns and soak up the first rays of the spring sun. The University of Vienna’s Botanical Gardens next door to the Belvedere palaces are home to a breathtaking collection of more than 11,500 species of plants from five continents. Highlights include one of Europe’s most important orchid collections and 150-year-old sequoia trees. There are also edible plants such as wild garlic and pineapple mint to be found on an area roughly the size of 11 football fields.

Spring is also the ideal time for a horse-drawn carriage ride. The extended tours criss-cross the historic first district and take in sections of the showpiece Ringstrasse boulevard. Sightseeing while seated just like in the days of the empire, with tales about the city thrown in for good measure.

Summer fun

IN SUMMER, LIFE IN THE CITY PLAYS OUT IN THE OPEN AIR AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES SET THE TONE. HOT SUMMER DAYS AND BALMY EVENINGS ARE BEST SPENT AT ONE OF THE CITY’S BEACH BARS OR AN OPEN-AIR CINEMA.

Vienna’s MuseumsQuartier (MQ) – right on the doorstep of the historic old town – is one of the largest cultural complexes in the world. Spread across a 60,000-square-meter site originally occupied by the imperial stables, it brings together world-class art galleries, smaller cultural institutions and hip bars and restaurants. The courtyard and the futuristic-looking loungers give the MQ the feeling of a city center oasis, and provide a popular place for locals and their guests to hang out. Each year, Sommer im MQ stages open-air events including concerts, readings and DJ sets that attract visitors in their thousands each day. Mini golf, beach boules and boat races in the (admittedly very shallow) pool in the courtyard add an extra element of fun and variety.

Anyone looking for a spot of Riviera chic should head for Sand in the City on Heumarkt, the city’s largest beach club. Visitors are spoilt for choice here, too, thanks to a wide range of culinary and sporting options. On the Danube Canal, Strandbar Herrmann and Tel Aviv Beach offer an enticing combination of fun in the sand, cool music, chilled cocktails and great food.

Fresh air and fine films are the recipe for success at Vienna’s myriad open-air cinemas. Each summer, numerous open-air cinemas pop up all over the city with a broad range of themed programs. Admission to the Music Film Festival on Rathausplatz is free. Kino unter Steinern on Karlsplatz and the touring Volkokino often show movies in the original version with English or German subtitles.
To get a true feel for everything the city has to offer, visitors should spend all 365 days of the year in Vienna. Each season has its own distinct charm. In spring, the city bursts into flower, and in the summer everyone heads outside. Fall brings the latest crop of wine and art, and in winter Vienna dazzles in a sea of twinkling lights and decorations.

**Winter romance**

It’s hard to imagine winter without Christmas or Vienna without its popular Christmas markets and beautiful lighting displays...

At Christmas time, Vienna is cast in an especially attractive light. Many of the capital’s streets and squares have their own distinctive decorations and Christmas lights. Giant chandeliers on Graben, outsize baubles on Rotenturmstrasse and the contemporary decorative arches on the Ringstrasse all twinkle and dance overhead, adding a dash of Christmas romance to the night sky.

The first Christmas markets open in mid-November, infusing the capital with the aroma of hot punch and freshly-baked cookies, while carol concerts get visitors in the festive spirit. Tradition holds sway at the Old Viennese Christmas Market at Freyung, which has provided a dream-like backdrop for a Christkindlmarkt since 1772. Handcrafted products, glass decorations, ceramics and nativity scenes are among the keepsakes on sale.

The Culture and Christmas Market in front of Schönbrunn Palace is the epitome of imperial charm. This romantic setting is a major draw thanks to the wide range of handmade Christmas decorations on offer and a packed kids program including a Christmas workshop.

At the Vienna Christmas World at the Christmas Market in front of City Hall, there are 150 huts for visitors to enjoy, as well as two ice rinks. Light installations on Rathausplatz and the neighboring park add to the yuletide appeal.

And after the Christmas market packs up, the whole of Rathausplatz and the neighboring park is given over to skating and transformed into an 8,500 m² icy paradise. From January to March, visitors can get their skates on, cut loops and try their hand at more adventurous spins and pirouettes.

**Autumnal bliss**

Each fall, the capital’s 190 or so winegrowers are hard at work harvesting the newest vintage. Art fans also like to add to their collections at the various sales fairs that take place at this time of year in Vienna.

Vienna is a city for art fans and collectors. 100 museums, world-class Klimt, Schiele and Bruegel collections, the most preeminent Kunstkammer (chamber of art and wonders) in existence, the largest collection of Wiener Aktionismus works in the world, and around 110 galleries with a dizzying array of contemporary art are just some of the reasons to travel to Vienna. And fall adds some extra flavor to the mix with art and design fairs including viennacomtemporary, Parallel Vienna, Vienna Design Week and Vienna Art Week, all of which draw leading international experts and collectors to the city.

This time of year is also when the grapes are harvested for the latest batch of Viennese wine. With around 700 hectares of land given over to vineyards, Vienna is the only major world capital with an extensive winegrowing industry operating within its city limits. Even though the soil is actually great for reds, around 80 percent of the land under vines is set aside for white wine production. The best-known varieties include Grüner Veltliner, Riesling and Pinot Blanc, and a local specialty known as Gemischter Satz. To make this Viennese classic – which even has its own DAC appellation – at least three different varieties of white-wine grape varieties are grown alongside one another, before they are harvested and pressed together. Ideally, Viennese wine should be sampled at the grower’s estate – after all, the capital’s Heuriger wine taverns are as much a part of Vienna as Schönbrunn Palace. Speaking of Schönbrunn, the legendary summer palace also happens to have its own small vineyard.

Everyone who is anyone on the art scene gets together at viennacomtemporary.
VIENNA CITY CARD – new product with hop-on, hop-off ticket

A new white Vienna City Card is now available, in addition to the familiar red 24, 48 and 72-hour Vienna City Cards which grant holders free travel on the capital’s public transportation network. The white version, which starts at EUR 28, also offers 210 discounts and special concessions at participating ventures, but this new City Card product is not valid for the public transportation network. Instead, it includes a 24-hour Big Bus hop-on, hop-off ticket. A guided city walk also gives holders the chance to find out more about Vienna.

→ www.viennacitycard.at

Vienna City Card APP

German and English versions of the Vienna City Card smartphone app are available for free for iOS and Android devices. The app, which also works offline, provides a wealth of information on the city’s top attractions, including an “around me” function that shows the nearest sights. This interactive travel guide makes it even easier for visitors to find their way around the city.

→ www.viennacitycard.at

Tourist Infos: everything visitors need to know

Our tourist information offices are there to give visitors a helping hand when they are in the city. Employees share tips, make hotel reservations and hand out free brochures. From maps of the city and architectural guides, to tips on shopping, wining and dining, and family brochures – there is something to suit everyone. Vienna City Cards are also available here.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE VIENNA TOURIST BOARD PRINTS AROUND SEVEN MILLION COPIES OF 200 DIFFERENT PUBLICATIONS IN 17 LANGUAGES EACH YEAR?

TOURIST INFO VIENNA CITY CENTER
Corner of Albertinaplatz and Maysedergasse
09:00-19:00 daily

TOURIST INFO VIENNA MAIN STATION
Austrian National Railways (ÖBB) info point
09:00-19:00 daily

TOURIST INFO VIENNA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
In the arrivals hall, Level 0
07:00-22:00 daily

Destination Wien

Boyd Cohen, a leading climate strategist, ranks Vienna among the “smartest” cities worldwide. The Austrian capital has a strong commitment to sustainability, with the constant expansion of the public transportation network just one of many examples. And this also benefits the 23 million people who arrive at Vienna International Airport from 186 destinations every year. The City Airport Train (CAT), the S-Bahn and the ÖBB Railjet are three smart alternatives for passengers traveling from the airport to the city center.

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Dancing undead at the Ronacher: the cult musical TANZ DER VAMPIRE (Dance of the Vampires) has returned to its roots to mark two decades since its world premiere in the Austrian capital. Professor Abronsius and Alfred are back vampire hunting in earnest.

The AUSTRIAN NATIONAL LIBRARY has been existing for 650 years. Reason enough to mark its jubilee in 2018 with a series of events and a year-long temporary exhibition. Entitled “Treasury of Knowledge”, this show will put unusual objects from each of the library’s eight collections on display in the State Hall.

In fall, the WEINWANDERTAG hiking trails provide a great opportunity to explore Vienna’s stunning vineyards. In addition to moderate physical exercise, there are ample opportunities to sample Viennese wine and take in the fantastic views of the city below.

On May 31 the Vienna Philharmonic will once again give a free concert for locals and visitors to enjoy. Conducted by Valery Gergiev this time round, the annual SUMMER NIGHT’S CONCERT plays out against the stunning backdrop of Schönbrunn Palace.

The Kaiserwiese meadow in the Prater park will be full of people wearing traditional Dirndl and Lederhose from September 27 to October 14. The WIENER WIESN-FEST offers no end of traditional Alpine fun, including the Rosa Wiesn Fest for the gay and lesbian community.
RAIMUND THEATER

I AM FROM AUSTRIA

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Titus Hoffmann
Christian Struppeck

REGIE
Andreas Gergen

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DAS KULTMUSICAL

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