

Vienna bursts into bloom – Spring 2021

It's easy to enjoy the green of springtime in Vienna – after all, green spaces account for half of the urban area. These include parks and gardens as well as the large recreational areas in and around the city. Other than that, Vienna has all sorts of open-air pleasures to offer in spring and early summer – from the "Schanigarten" outdoor seating areas in front of cafés to the opera experience under a canopy of stars.

1,000 parks and green areas¹ are the green “living rooms” of the Viennese. Spring and early summer in Vienna are best spent outdoors: Follow your nose to the Volksgarten on the Ringstrasse, which is full of the fragrance of 400² different kinds of rose, people catch the sun on the meadow next door in the Burggarten, while others walk through the Baroque garden splendor in the parks of Schönbrunn Palace and the Belvedere. Garden splendor at close quarters is offered by garden shows and plant exhibitions organized by the botanical garden of the University of Vienna, at the Hirschstetten Botanical Gardens, at Schloss Hetzendorf, and in the Orangery in Schönbrunn Palace Park. At the beginning of April, the Easter markets set the mood – whether in front of Schönbrunn Palace, on Freyung or on Am Hof square in the city center. In May, the Genussfestival in the Stadtpark presents selected culinary specialties from across Austria, and in June the international wine fair VieVinum invites wine connoisseurs to a tasting at the Imperial Palace. People also enjoy the sun at Vienna's markets. At the exotic Naschmarkt and the multicultural Brunnenmarkt, at the little Karmelitermarkt and the lively Rochusmarkt, the stands offer fresh delicacies. And the street cafés and restaurants around the markets are packed with vibrant hustle and bustle.

The vast Vienna Woods on the edge of the city as well as the Prater, six million square meters of forest and water meadows within the city limits, invite locals and visitors alike to go on long walks and take part in all sorts of sporting activities. As does Danube Island with its many beaches. The world's biggest music festival – the Danube Island Festival – is held here every year in June.

Thousands of runners will line up at the start again for the Wings for Life Run and run together for a good cause. Vienna's imperial glory can also be enjoyed to the fullest from the saddle of a bicycle – such as on one of the Citybikes that can be rented at dozens of stations. And almost 1,400 km of cycle paths invite everyone to explore the city from new perspectives. Even a part of Vienna's cultural life moves outdoors in spring. For example, the Vienna State Opera broadcasts selected performances live to the square in front of the Opera House starting in April. A concert performance of the musical “Elisabeth” will be given in front of Schönbrunn Palace at the beginning of June, and the Wiener Philharmoniker will give a free open-air concert in Schönbrunn Palace Park in the middle of June.

¹ www.wien.gv.at/presse/2020/07/31/sima-park-erfolgsbilanz-alle-18-tage-ein-neuer-park-fuer-wien

² Source: Österreichische Bundesgärten

First-class performance venues such as the Wiener Konzerthaus and the Musikverein impress music lovers with their programs. Exciting stage performances dominate the Vienna Festival in May and June. Musical fans will delight in the “Wizard of Oz” and Leonard Bernstein’s “Into the Woods” at the Volksoper, while “Miss Saigon” takes to the stage at the reopened Raimund Theater. From the end of June, world stars make guest appearances at the Vienna Jazz Festival.

In June, the LGBT community demonstrates for equality and against discrimination at Vienna Pride and the Rainbow Parade on Vienna’s Ringstrasse boulevard.

The spring of art is heralded with the enfant terrible Joseph Beuys at the Belvedere 21. Next, the Bank Austria Kunstforum dedicates a comprehensive show to the Swiss universal artist Daniel Spoerri. At the Leopold Museum, "The Body Electric. Erwin Osen and Egon Schiele" runs until the middle of June. The Albertina shows works by the Austrian painter Xenia Hausner. The Lower Belvedere focuses on "Gustav Klimt. Pigment & Pixel". And the MAK – Museum for Applied Art opens an exhibition on "The Women of the Werkstätte" in the second half of April.

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