

VIENNA'S SEASONAL MUST SEES



VIENNA 2019: THE STAGE IS YOURS!

Vienna's music, theater and exhibition stages enjoy an international reputation. Because Vienna distinguishes itself like no other city by bringing life to the stage. In 2019, the curtain rises on very special "stages of Viennese": insights into otherwise hidden and inaccessible worlds make it possible to get to know Vienna from its very special theatrical side. And visitors to Vienna can themselves play a leading role in Viennese life. In other words, "Vienna plays life the way it is".

A stage for all those who would like to play the leading role themselves, for example, is **Zum Schwarzen Kameel** – half bar, half posh restaurant and a unique kaleidoscope of Viennese society from all walks of life. Here the construction worker meets the head of section. A glass of wine or beer is drunk next to and with each other while the Who's Who of Viennese society puts on a big show.

At the *genius loci* of the world capital of music, the **mdw – University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna**, the visitor to Vienna meets the music stars of tomorrow and is carried away by the intoxication of musical perfection. Students from all over the world allow visitors to look over their shoulders. Rehearsals, studies, previews and performances determine their lives.

Seventy years ago, the **Viennese sewer system** became the stage for Orson Welles and the film "The Third Man". This mystical counter-world with its infinite pipe, cable and tunnel systems, which ensure that everything "above" works, immerses the visitor in a superhero epic as if from the Marvel universe. Guided tours through this city beneath the city allow visitors to immerse themselves in the world of the "Third Man" and the sewer workers who toil away every day.

Hidden behind an inconspicuous gate on Mariahilfer Strasse is a long-forgotten world: the "Emperor's Couch" is stored here in the **Federal Furniture Administration**, which is attached to the **Hofmobiliendepot (Imperial Furniture Collection)** and safeguards the furniture of the former Austrian imperial family. The couches, tables, chairs and dinner service are still used on state visits today and guided tours behind the scenes give insights into the ceremonial then and now.

Jean-Paul Vaugoin's world comprises the royal palaces of Arabia and Malaysia. His home, however, is a hidden backyard in the 7th district. Situated here is his renowned silversmith **Jarosinski & Vaugoin**, where exclusive works for the crowned heads of the world are created. Silver master Yakup Kurter and his colleagues produce exclusive silverware for kings, sheikhs and co. by hand. Looking into the hidden workshop in the wildly overgrown courtyard of the Biedermeier House, visitors not only experience work that is still done here as it was 100 years ago. They also learn what the famous Hendlhaxen holder is all about and why Cellini's golden Saliera is made of silver here.

SPRING

This is how diverse spring and early summer are in Vienna: By mid-April, the **Easter markets** set the mood – whether on Freyung or on Am Hof square in the Old City.

As does **Danube Island** with its many beaches. Europe's biggest free open-air party is held here every year in June during the **Danube Island Festival**.

In the middle of May, the **Genussfestival** in the Stadtpark presents selected culinary specialties from across Austria.

A big attraction for spectators and runners alike in April is the **Vienna City Marathon**, whose route is lined with the city's most impressive sights.

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 over 120 locations. And almost 1,300 km of cycle paths invite everyone to experience 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. The Vienna Philharmonic gives a free open-air concert in **Schönbrunn Palace Park** in June.

In the early summer, Vienna's party and ball scene comes powerfully to the fore once again: In June, the **Life Ball** – one of the world's biggest AIDS charity events – takes to the stage and is followed by the EuroPride celebrating LGBT life in Vienna with numerous events and parties.

SUMMER

Twenty-one kilometers of sand, grass and gravel beaches, including playgrounds and BBQ areas as well as restaurants, cafés and bars make summer days on **Danube Island** a real experience.

The exciting combination of restaurant terraces, nostalgic beach pools and boat rentals defines the charm of the **Old Danube**. And on the urban beaches along the **Danube Canal** in the Old City, cool drinks are served by Strandbar Herrmann, Badeschiff, Café Bar Urania and Tel Aviv Beach. The Motto am Fluss, the café and restaurant at the mooring site of the Twin City Liner, offers the best view of the colorful hustle and bustle along the Danube Canal.

The **MuseumsQuartier**, an art area with important exhibition houses such as the Leopold Museum and the Museum of Modern Art, once again offers a vast array of cultural events in its extensive courtyards during "Summer in the MQ". Cafés, restaurants and bars as well as the MQ Furniture, the futuristic loungers on the squares in the area, offer a superb opportunity to chill out. And it goes without saying in Vienna that the "Schanigärten" sidewalk seating areas in front of **cafés and restaurants** all over the city invite everyone to find a spot and watch the world go by.

The **Music Film Festival** at City Hall Square presents extraordinary film adaptations of outstanding concert and opera events from July to the beginning of September – accompanied by culinary greetings from around the world at a range of food booths.

AUTUMN

September and October are high season for Viennese wine. The harvest is over, and the "Junge Wiener" of the current vintage is poured in the simple "Buschenschenken" **wine taverns** of the wine growing towns on the edge of the city, as is the "Wiener Gemischte Satz". The delicious wines can normally be enjoyed in a wine tavern with hearty home-made food from the buffet.

The **Vienna Art Week** in mid-November turns Vienna into a magnet for art fans with exhibitions and presentations. The domestic creative scene presents itself during Vienna Design Week and the Blickfang design fair.

From November, two ice skating rinks and light installations on City Hall Square and in the adjacent park set the mood for the **Vienna Christmas World**. Thousands of lights create a homey atmosphere as Christmas decorations in Vienna's Old City and shopping streets. Romance and enjoyment come together at the Christmas markets in front of Schönbrunn Palace and the Kunsthistorisches Museum which enchant against an imperial backdrop, while the market on Spittelberg derives its charm from the ambience of the old Biedermeier district.

WINTER

Three-four time dominates in Vienna in the first few weeks of the year. It all begins with the change of year, which is celebrated here with the **New Year's Eve Trail** through the Old City. Sparkling wine and snacks are served at stands and colossal live acts on stages. And the waltz is danced on the squares in the Old City.

A real **Eldorado of waltzing** is then offered by the 450 balls held during the ball season in January and February. The season gets off to an elegant start with the New Year's Ball in the Imperial Palace, and reaches its zenith with the famous Opera Ball at the end of February. The Philharmonic Ball, the Kaffeesieder Ball and the Johann Strauss Ball are other enjoyable highlights of the season.

Late winter is the ideal time for the coffee house. Not only because these oases of coziness are the place to round off a shopping tour of the shopping streets in comfort. Connoisseurs have long since discovered the café as an attractive place to have breakfast – or appreciate the combination of delicious pastries and lively music in the **concert-café**.

The **Ice Dream** (January to mid-March) transforms City Hall Square into an 8,500 m² ice rink that permits everything from sporty moves to popular music hits as well as convivial walks on the rinks in the adjacent park.

VIENNA

NOW ♦ FOREVER