

Winter 2014

“NEW WALLPAPER, More AIR CONDITIONERS and ‘Morning SUN’ in Your Bathrooms!”



In the last few weeks, a number of **extremely industrious air conditioning technicians** have been hard at work in Hotel AUSTRIA! Even though heat and cosy rooms are called for these days more than anything else, the opposite will be the case only a few months from now.

We have already prepared for this and **have furnished FIFTEEN more guest rooms with air conditioners!**

Several guest rooms have been NEWLY wallpapered – with **two new designs!**

And as of recently, the **morning sun** begin’s “**beaming**” at you in your bathroom! Fluffy hand towels, bath towels and bath mats welcome you with the warming light of the morning SUN...

“Our Special BALL BREAKFAST after a Long Night of Waltzing!”

In January and February, Vienna offers thousands of hours of dancing pleasure at countless balls. If you, too, want to hit the dance floor and – after experiencing a lively ball night in Vienna – would prefer to sleep late the next day undisturbed, then we have just the right offer for you. The evening before, order a **special ball breakfast with choice delicacies, salmon and a glass of sparkling wine** – we will serve it to you in your room at any time up to 11:00 a.m. (without additional charges). You can then continue to relive the memories, and we will be only too glad to pamper you!



“Who WON the 3 Prizes of a Weekend Stay For Two?”

Your countless evaluations and superb comments this year have provided us yet again with **feedback of the utmost IMPORTANCE.**

As a “**thank you**”, our “angel of fortune” has drawn **3 winners for a weekend getaway for 2.**



Ms **BARBARA IACOANGELI** - from Spain

Mr **PAOLO TADEU** - from France

Ms **ALICE NEGIN** - from the USA

We heartily congratulate **this year's prize winners!**

Current and upcoming **EVENTS / HAPPENINGS** in Vienna in Winter 2014



Interested in music, theater, the opera, museums, and exhibitions?

We'll be happy to keep you informed **about all the dates / schedules** and perhaps even let you in on **a few secrets too...**

Welcome to the ball season



Each year more than **450 balls** take place in Vienna. The city of waltzes exuberantly celebrates Carnival in January and February. The three-quarter rhythm is supplemented by more contemporary sounds, offering enjoyable dancing for every taste.

In **Vienna**, the **ball season** reaches its peak in January and February. The old tradition of carnival balls continues to thrive in the city. While some dancers enjoy following the three-quarter time of the waltzes, others may prefer letting loose to a disco beat.

On **New Year's Eve**, in the glorious ambience at the **Hofburg**, **Le Grand Bal** ushered in the New Year with dancing. Numerous other famous ball events are held in the Hofburg as well: the **Hunter's Ball** (January 27, 2014), the **Doctors' Ball** (January 25, 2014) and the **Jurists' Ball** (March 1, 2014).

The **Coffee-house Owners' Ball** (Feb. 21, 2014) is one of the most atmospheric. Each year it brings about 5,000 visitors to Vienna's Imperial Palace and into the Redoutensäle. Many of the guests end the night at Café Landtmann, to which they are transported in a fiaker shuttle, true to style.

The **Opera Ball** (Feb 27, 2014) at the Vienna State Opera is legendary. On this one day, visitors have the unique opportunity to see the famous opera house on Ringstrasse not only from the spectators' seats but actually experience it "backstage" surrounded by many music celebrities.

The **Vienna Philharmonic** (Jan. 23, 2014) opens the doors to its ball at the Vienna Musikverein. However, at this event the musicians of this world-famous orchestra can only be found with their instruments during the introduction. Because even the performers of the Vienna Philharmonic want to shake a leg now and then.

The sweetest ball is the Bonbon Ball (Feb. 28, 2014) at the Vienna Konzerthaus. This ball is known for its fun and informal ambiance. The Strauss Brothers once celebrated their greatest accomplishments at the Vienna Kursalon - and now visitors can dance to the tune of waltzes at the Johann Strauss Ball (Feb. 15, 2014). At the Blumenball (Flower Ball, 17 January 2014), City Hall transforms into a unique sea of flowers.

Vienna Ice World

From 24 January to 9 March 2014, City Hall Square (Rathausplatz) will be transformed into a gigantic ice surface, making it a paradise for ice skating fans of all ages.

The dreamily lit facade of City Hall forms the backdrop for the Vienna Ice World. The **7000 square meter surface** offers **ice-skating fans** a fabulous landscape of ice. Skaters of all styles, from spirited and wild to sweeping and elegant, can glide around the rink daily from 9 am to 10 pm to the hits of the 80s and 90s as well as waltzes. A **fantastic ice path** about 750 meters long will snake through the romantically lit **City Hall Park**. In addition, six **curling rinks** await visitors.



At various **outdoor stalls** and in the **Almhütte**, gastronomes pamper guests with **culinary delicacies from around the world**. Warming drinks are also available, of course, at the Vienna Ice Dream - from aromatic organic punch to hot tea.

1,200 pairs of **ice skates** preheated with warm air can be rented on-site. On the opening evening (23 January), ice skating is free for all.

24 Jan. - 9 Mar. 2014 Daily 9 am - 10 pm, Curling Mon-Fri 5 pm - 10 pm: Online reservation required Information at www.wienereistraum.com, 25 % discount with the Vienna-Card

The Viennese and the seas



The Austrian Riviera, which was a prized excursion destination for many Viennese, was created along the shore of the Adriatic in the 19th century. The Viennese and their sea are the topic of an exhibition in the Wien Museum.

At the end of the 19th century, the Südbahn railway made it possible to travel in comfort from Vienna to the upper Adriatic. There, in places such as **Abbazia, Trieste and Grado**, many Viennese spent their holidays – from the imperial family to the bourgeoisie. The Wien Museum sheds light on the period from 1890 to 1914 in the exhibition "Austrian Riviera. Vienna discovers the sea". On display are about **450 objects**: Artworks by Egon Schiele, Rudolf von Alt and Albin Egger-Lienz, unpublished photographs from Istria and Dalmatia, items of furniture from hotels, and tourist advertisements of the time.

The importance of the military-political annexation and transport developments in the upper Adriatic are also examined, as is the critical role of medicine in the propagation of spa towns such as Abbazia. The end of the exhibition: the **extensive Adriatic Exhibition**, which was held in the Prater in 1913, shortly before the era of the "Austrian Riviera" ended with the outbreak of the First World War in 1914.

Until 30 March 2014

Wien Museum Karlsplatz, www.wienmuseum.at

Der Besuch der alten Dame

The powerful drama by Friedrich Dürrenmatt has been turned into an exciting musical thriller. From 19 February at the Ronacher, it's all about the fear of the rich Claire, who wants to have her former lover Alfred killed. Pia Douwes and Uwe Kröger – a dream couple of the genre - embody the main roles.



The tragic comedy "Der Besuch der alten Dame" helped the Swiss author **Friedrich Dürrenmatt** to make his international breakthrough in 1956. The story is about the multi-millionairess Claire, who returns to her impoverished home town of Gullen after being away for decades. She offers help and holds out the prospect of a donation worth multi-millions, but which is linked to one condition: her former lover Alfred must die.

Naturally, there is a story behind this horrific demand. Because Claire and Alfred were a couple in love in their youth – with consequences. Claire was expecting a child that Alfred did not want to recognize. She left the town dishonored and penniless. Destiny had good things in store for the poor woman and she married a wealthy man. Yet she was never able to forgive her former love.

It is a story of betrayal, conformism, revenge and purification. **Pia Douwes** and **Uwe Kröger** perform alongside each other on stage again after a good twenty years, having set the standard in the original performance of "Elisabeth" at the Theater an der Wien in 1992. The audience's darling **Ethan Freeman** was also in the show at the time, and plays the teacher in "Besuch der alten Dame". **Koen Schoots** conducts the orchestra of the Vereinigten Bühnen Wien. (Book: Christian Struppeck, texts: Wolfgang Hofer, music: Michael Reed, direction: Andreas Gergen).

in German, with projected English subtitles from 19 February 2014 – 28 June 2014, daily except Mondays Tickets: www.wienticket.at and www.musicalvienna.at

Ice Age heroes on skates

From 8 January 2014, the most popular Ice Age heroes of all time can be seen in the Vienna Stadthalle: **Manni, Diego, Sid and Scrat**. The lovable mammoths, saber-toothed tigers, sloths and saber-toothed squirrels appear as life-sized figures in an acrobatic ice-skating show, delivering lots of action and fun for the whole family in German.

Fans of every age love the stars from the "Ice Age" films. The action in the show is just as funny and quirky as it is in the cinematic version. In addition to the famous protagonists, Crash and Eddie, the humorous opossums,



are also part of the action. The prehistoric friends go on new adventures in a story of friendship and solidarity based on the films. There are also spectacular acrobatics, ice-skating, flight scenes and dancing.

Michael Curry, who also designed the stage characters for "The Lion King on Broadway", was appointed as figure designer for this **Holiday on Ice** production. Guy Carron, who has already staged a number of Cirque du Soleil shows, was secured as director.

Particularly pleasing is the fact that the German comedian Otto Waalkes lends his voice to the sloth called Sid, just like in the films.

8 - 19 January 2014

Vienna Stadthalle - Hall D, in German

Tickets: www.wienticket.at and www.stadthalle.com

Fabergé

The exhibition entitled "Fabergé" in the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna offers unique insight into the fascinating world of Russian jewellery art. Ca. 150 pieces of jewellery from the Kremlin Museum in Moscow can be seen for the first time in Austria.

The Kremlin Museum in Moscow holds one of the most important collections of decorative art from the late 19th to the early 20th century in Russia. At this time outstanding and artistically extremely accomplished jewellers established major workshops in the larger Russian cities.

Thanks to its artistic creations the House of Fabergé was able to boast an exceedingly good reputation as the leading manufacturer of jewellery also outside of Russia. Even today the name Fabergé still embodies the idea of extraordinary jewellery creations world wide. Above all the house is known for its "Easter Eggs" made of gold, silver, rock crystal or enamel and decorated with pearls, rubies, diamonds and other precious stones which are still highly desired and valuable collector's items.

18 February – 18 May 2014 tickets & info: www.khm.at



Resonanzen

From 18 to 26 January, the Festival of Ancient Music presents "Querköpfe" - creative troublemakers of music from the Middle Ages to the Baroque. It includes minstrel Oswald von Wolkenstein, the legendary two-time murderer Gesualdo and madrigal composer Costanzo Festa.

The festival opens with the work of a talented scatterbrain: "**Adriano in Siria**" by Francesco Maria Veracini. Appropriately, his peers called him "Capo pazzo". The profound Italian Baroque ensemble **Europa Galante** plays a concert-style version of the incomplete *Dramma per musica*, which is based on a prelude by Metastasio (18 January).



Resonanzen Querköpfe

A keenly seen guest of the Resonanzen is the great American lute master **Hopkinson Smith**, who specializes in solo music for old plucked instruments. This time he plays suites by Johann Sebastian Bach on the **theorbe**, a nice-sounding bass lute. He calls his concert "**Hoppy plays Bach**" (19 January).

The Italian composer Prince **Carlo Gesualdo** of Venosa died 400 years ago. He is considered a master of an extreme form of chromaticism and adhered strictly to mediaeval polyphony. His grand madrigals conjure up a great need for love. However, the headstrong southern Italian was able to sing a song about this after murdering his wife and her lover. The **Ensemble Arte Musica** gives a superb performance of Gesualdo's **fifth book of madrigals** (22 February).

Bach has already inspired many musicians – right through to the present day. Jazz pianist **Édouard Ferlet** is one of them and can probably be considered a contemporary scatterbrain. In "**Think Bach**" he plays his role model with rhythmic set pieces and harmonious frameworks (23 January). Renaissance

composer **Costanzo Festa** was a manic contrapuntalist, who wrote his insistent a capella music for two to eleven voices. **Capella de la Torre** present an instrumental version of his work in the concert "**Obsession**" (24 January).

The celebrated minstrel **Oswald von Wolkenstein** was also a rowdy daredevil. "**Ossi, the scatterbrain**" is a hunt for clues performed by the **Ensemble Unicorn** (25 January). To finish with, the Resonanzen go "**Back to the Future**" with the **Concerto Copenhagen**. Also on the program is an unexpectedly different sounding work by **G.P. Telemann**, which points musically to the pre-Classical (26 January).

As always, the festival is supported with an **exhibition of "Historical Instrument Making"** (18 and 19 January) and a **Resonanzen Lounge** (20-26 January from 6.00 pm, Berio Hall).

18-26 January 2014

Vienna Konzerthaus (Wiener Konzerthaus), www.konzerthaus.at

HOTEL AUSTRIA - WIEN | Am Fleischmarkt 20 | A - 1010 Wien