

December 2009

Pre-Christmas Magic at Hotel AUSTRIA



Have you seen “it” already?

Our unique and **lovingly-decorated Advent wreath** at the dining hall?

For a few days now, **fragrant Waldviertel fir twigs** have held together the warmly gleaming Advent candles. The first candle is already lit!

Our very own little Christmas Angels have for several hours long set, painted, and simply conjured many wonderful Christmas decorations...

Have you ever tried your hand at it?

Is that cinnamon, vanilla, or simply “just” Pre-Christmas?

“Vienna – up close and personal!”

Let’s take a closer look this time at **The Christmas Market at Spittelberg**.

This is definitely one of the most **impressive Handicraft-Christmas Markets in Vienna**.

Somehow one immediately feels like having gone a long way back in time: between old houses which, revitalized and renovated, shine with splendor, over 100 handicraft specialists and traders present and show off their wares.



Jewelry, art carvings, handmade chocolate, ceramics and toys – all finely hand-made – can be acquired and bought here. There’s definitely something out there **for your own wished-for present!**

In case you start feeling cold from all the sights and astounding things around you, you can quickly warm yourself up with the simple Viennese specialties, Indian rice delicacy, Mexican tacos, and other delicious treats!

The Spittelberger Christmas Market offers also foremost an **exciting program for children**: for the little visitors, there’s the Christkindlwerkstatt (Christmas workshop), a visit from Nikolo and the Weihnachtsmann (Santa Claus) and an amusing children’s cinema!

Go and see it for yourself!

Current happenings in Vienna in December 2009



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

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

New Year's Eve Trail 2009



On December 31, Vienna's Old Town will be transformed into the venue of a giant party. Top quality entertainment awaits revelers along the New Year's Eve Trail , which winds its way through the narrow lanes of the old city from City Hall , flanked by about 80 different refreshment stands offering warming winter punch and a range of culinary delights. Performers on the various stages around the city contribute to the festive mood with musical entertainment from waltzes and operettas to rock and folk.

Rathausplatz (City Hall Square): children's show with Robert Steiner, from 2 p.m.; then the hits and oldies with Radio Wien

Am Hof: Ö3 charts, from 2 p.m.; then Ö3 New Year's eve party, Live: Tha Family

Freyung: Waltz lessons from 2 p.m., later New Year's Eve countdown with Waltz, Operetta and Musical melodies.

Lugeck: DJs present „Best of Bella Italia“ & Latino Hits

Graben: „Vienna's largest ballroom“, open-air-dancing for classik aficionados

Löwelstrasse: Club Fusion disco-fever

Neuer Markt: Arabella Karaoke-Show & Arabella Charts 09, from 2 p.m.; later anschliessend New Year's Eve party classics, live on stage: Tony Wegas, Andy Lee Lang, Eric Papilaya & Band, DJ Roman Gerner

Hoher Markt: Funk & Soul with Superfly & Superfly Radio Orchestra

Kärntner Strasse: DJ-Line 2x (Electronics & House – Pop&Rock)

Prater: music entertainment, fireworks in front of the Ferris Wheel at midnight

Winter at MQ

Things get hot on even the coldest of winter days in the MuseumsQuartier, thanks to the bar in the Ice Palace, an ice rink, an ice climbing wall as well as a varied program of DJ sounds, readings and all sorts of activities.

At the centre of it all - in the midst of the extensive courtyard of the MQ - is the **Ice Palace** , a bar built from the giant summertime lounge furniture, at which fantastic punch specialties are served. The Ice Palace, like the MQ façade, is covered inside and outside with an atmospheric **wallpaper of light**.



Those who prefer action to drinking punch can try their hand at the five-meter high **ice climbing wall** or dance over the ice on **skates**. The title of "MQ Curling King" or "MQ Curling Queen" is fought over at **curling**, with the prize being an annual ticket to the Leopold Museum and Mumok.

The pond of the MuseumsQuartier hosts the "**Winter Race**" - with remote-controlled cars. **DJs** provide warming sounds through the winter, while Austrian authors dispense warming thoughts at readings. A separate program is served up for "**Cool Kids**" .

12.11-23.12.2009

Painting of the Biedermeier period



A festival for friends of the Biedermeier is offered by the Vienna Museum with its exhibition of masterpieces of Austrian art between 1815 and 1848. On view are paintings by important painters – such as Friedrich von Amerling, Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller, Peter Fendi, Josef Danshauser, Rudolf von Alt and Adalbert Stifter.

The **most popular subjects** of the Biedermeier period are in the show - from **portraits** to **everyday scenes** and masterly **still lifes** to light-drenched **landscapes**.

Be impressed by detailed nature studies as well as the humorous-anecdotal narrations and moralizing melodramas. The 60 or so paintings and graphic works include well-known pieces as well as the occasional **rarity** from the museum's inventory. Some **arts-and-crafts objects** give insight into the everyday life of the Biedermeier period.

The exhibition makes it particularly clear how Biedermeier painting combines the **detailed reproduction** of reality with an **idealistic imagination**. Indeed, the apparent idyll often hides the tensions of that time. Only gradually did new topics such as **life on the land**, **poverty and wealth** in the city, popular piety and natural experiences near to and far from the **environs of Vienna** become popular.

Wien Museum Karlsplatz, until 17.1.2010

Tu - Su and Fr, 9.00 am - 6.00 pm

www.wienmuseum.at

Ballet „The Nutcracker“

In Western countries, The Nutcracker has become perhaps the most popular of all ballets, performed primarily around Christmas time. Tchaikowski's Swan Lake is part of each ballet repertoire. The version by Nurejew-Petipa-Iwanow is classic and fascinating.

The Nutcracker is a fairy tale-ballet in two acts, three scenes, by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, composed in 1891–92. Alexandre Dumas père's adaptation of the story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" by E. T. A. Hoffmann was set to music by Tchaikovsky (staged by Marius Petipa and commissioned by the director of the Imperial Theatres Ivan Vsevolozhsky in 1891).



Dates: 17th, 20th, 25th, 28th, 30th December 09, 3rd, 5th January 2010

+43-1-5131513, www.wiener-staatsoper.at

Musical Christmas

Uwe Kröger and other stars from "Rudolf" put you "musically" in the mood for Christmas on eight evenings at the Raimund Theater.

The popular **festive Christmas concerts** of Vereinigte Bühnen Wien (the city's largest musical producer) will be held during Advent - eight times this year. At "Musical Christmas in Vienna 2009", the audience will be enchanted



and captivated by artists such as Lisa Antoni, Claus Dam, **Carin Filipcic**, **Uwe Kröger**, Drew Sarich and Wietske van Tongeren. The supporting (**live-!**) **music** will be provided by the orchestra of the Vereinigte Bühnen.

On the program: **popular Christmas songs** and **rarities** from around the world to get you in the mood for the best time of year in an emotional and lively way.

Tickets: Tel. +43 1 58 885

www.musicalvienna.at

Dates: 7th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 18th, 19th, 20th December 2009

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