

*Vienna and Salzburg, Austria*

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Editors. For reprint rights, contact [cmwalter@claire-walter.com](mailto:cmwalter@claire-walter.com) or [TravelArts1@aol.com](mailto:TravelArts1@aol.com). Prices will be updated and reference to the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mozart's birth will be deleted or changed. Photos are available.



**Salzburg's medieval old city, still protected by a commanding fortress, looks much as it did when Mozart was a boy. (Claire Walter photo)**

All Mozart, All the Time

By Claire Walter

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You can't turn a corner without stumbling on something Mozart-related in the old sections of Salzburg and Vienna. The Salzburg apartment where the composer was born on Jan. 27, 1756 has long been a museum, but even a Viennese department store gets in the act. A plaque on the Steffl store commemorates the site of the home where he died.

The 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth begins a year of frenzied celebration. Concerts, operas, museum exhibitions, scholarly symposia and more are expected to draw visitors to Austria from around the world.

A Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart pilgrimage could start in Salzburg. The picturesque city of some 145,000 people is situated in north-central Austria at the edge of the Alps. The Salzach River bisects the city, with Festung Hohensalzburg, a forbidding medieval fortress, guarding the oldest section, north of the river. Begun in 1077, it was already nearly seven centuries old when Mozart was born.

Stroll down the pedestrians-only Getreidegasse to No. 9 and climb to the third floor to see Mozart's birthplace. Simply decorated and simply furnished, though no longer with original family pieces, the apartment conveys how a middle-class family lived in 18th-century Salzburg. On display are little Wolferl's childhood violin, concert violin, clavichord, family portraits and family letters.

Mozart's face is everywhere. As you wander down the narrow old streets, you run a gauntlet of street vendors and souvenir shops displaying an abundance of a local marzipan-nougat-chocolate confection called Mozartkugeln, plus Mozart puppets, T-shirts, potholders, tea towels, key chains, mugs, plates, golf balls, refrigerator magnets and other memorabilia.

The greatest concentration of kitsch is around an open square called the Residenzplatz, where you can see the glory of Renaissance and Baroque Salzburg much as young Mozart did. The opulent cathedral where Mozart was baptized is on one side of the square. On the west side is the magnificent Residenz, home of the prince-archbishops of Salzburg who oversaw both the city's spiritual and temporal life. Young Mozart conducted numerous concerts there. Here, you can visit the state apartments, see art exhibitions or attend a concert or lecture.

The Neue Residenz, a late 16th-century modification of a building that had been on the east side of the square since the 11th century, is new only in the context of such an old city. The Salzburg Museum, just relocated there, is debuting with "Viva! Mozart," a year-long exhibition of Mozart's life and times.

In his short life, Mozart composed more than 600 works and performed before royalty and nobility in much of Europe. Productions of all 22 Mozart operas over a six-week period will highlight the summer 2006 season of the legendary Salzburg Festival (July 23-Aug. 31). This will be followed by the Sacred Music Festival (Oct. 22-Nov. 12), where Mozart's religious music will be performed in Salzburg's churches. Thirty "Best of Mozart" concerts are scheduled between February and November, played by the Mozarteum Festival Orchestra. Even the Marionette Theater, which puts on beguiling, cleverly staged and sophisticated puppet shows to opera recordings, will be giving one-hour-long performances on the life and work of Mozart.

Head for the countryside to the nearby lakeside village of St. Gilgen, where Mozart's maternal grandparents were married and his mother, Anna Maria Pertl, was born. Her birthplace is now a Mozart foundation and small museum. At the Konditorei Dallmann you can stop for a slice of Mozart's Reisetorte, made just as his mother baked it for him when he went on performance tours. In the time before trains, Mozart is known to have spent a total of 10 years, eight months and two days — nearly one-third of his life — in stagecoaches. The preservative-free cake stays fresh for two months.

Mozart moved to Vienna in 1781, where he lived for most of his adult life. The Austrian capital is also pulling out all stops for its Mozart Year. Wolfgang and his wife, Konstanza, lived in a dozen places in Vienna. One of them, at Domgasse 5, has been expanded from a small museum in an upper-floor flat to a three-story museum called the Mozart House Vienna.

Around the corner is the Stefansdom (St. Stephen's Cathedral), begun as a 12th-century Romanesque sanctuary and later transformed into the massive Gothic cathedral we see today. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Konstanza Weber were married there in 1782. After Mozart's death on Dec. 5, 1791, his body was blessed in the Crucifix Chapel and carried through a small back door for burial in an unmarked mass grave at Markuskirche (St. Mark's Church). Just five days later, his prophetic but unfinished "Requiem" premiered in the nearby Michaelerkirche (St. Michael's Church).

You can see Mozart's operas in venues throughout the city all year long. Notably, the Theater an der Wien, known for excellent acoustics, will return from musical productions to its original function as an opera house, beginning with a complete Mozart season. The city's two major resident companies, the Vienna State Opera and the Volksoper (People's Opera), will also stage Mozart's most popular operas, including "The Magic Flute," "Don Giovanni" and "The Marriage of Figaro."

The Musikverein, from which the Vienna Philharmonic broadcasts its traditional New Year's Day concert, is a totally enchanting venue that will be among the settings for Mozart Year concerts. The opulent Goldener Saal (Golden Hall) will host Mozart performances with musicians in 18th-century attire. Even the Vienna Boys Choir, who usually appear at the Hofkappelle (Royal Chapel) in the Hofburg, will sing there.

The Hofburg is the massive palace complex where the imperial Hapsburg family lived, headed by Empress Maria Theresa. After six-year-old Wolferl played the clavichord for her, he flung himself into her lap and kissed her, much to her amusement and delight. Heroically sized, meticulously detailed paintings of a festival and dinner in a reception room at Schoenbrunn, the Hapsburg's summer palace, document this period.

When the Albertina was still a palace, Ludwig von Koechel catalogued Mozart's works there. Musicologists still refer to the "Köchel Listings." In addition to one of the world's most important graphic arts collections, the recently renovated and innovative museum presents a Mozart Year blockbuster, March 17 through Aug. 13. Architect Zaha Hadid, winner of the prestigious Pritzker Prize, created the groundbreaking exhibition, which will spotlight Mozart's internationalism and the ideals of the Age of Enlightenment mirrored in his works.

The adulation, though well deserved, is somewhat ironic. Mozart was often disdained in his adult years and distrusted by the Church and royalty for his association with the then heretical Freemasons. It wasn't until almost 50 years after his death that Salzburg first erected a statue to him. Now he is rightly revered as one of the great geniuses of all time.

## IF YOU GO

Prices quoted in Euros. (Foreign exchange rates fluctuate, but at this writing, €1 is equivalent to about 85 cents, U.S.)

## Where to Stay

### Salzburg

#### Luxury

Hotel Goldener Hirsch, Getreidegasse 37, 5020 Salzburg; Local phone +43/(0)662/80-84-0; [www.goldenerhirsch.com](http://www.goldenerhirsch.com). First documented as an inn in 1407, now an exquisite 69-room hotel furnished with antiques and locally made furniture. Located in the old city. All modern conveniences with polished service. Doubles, €141-1,100.

Sacher Salzburg, Schwarzstrasse 5-7, 5020 Salzburg; Local phone: +43/(0)662/88-977-0; [www.sacher.com](http://www.sacher.com). Beautiful 118-room riverside hotel. Recently renovated in a turn-of-the-last-century building, formerly the Oesterreichischerhof. Elegant rooms. Fine dining. Views of the old city and Hohensalzburg. Lavish breakfast buffet included. Doubles, €249-821.

Schloss Mönchstein, Mönchsberg Park 26, 5020 Salzburg; Local phone: +43 (0)662/84-85-55-0; [www.monchstein.at](http://www.monchstein.at). Well-appointed rooms in a glorious castle located on beautifully landscaped grounds on a hill above the city. Fabulous views. Twenty-three rooms and suites mean lavish personal attention. Doubles/suites: €240-990.

#### Moderately priced

Altstadthotel Amadeus, Linzergasse 43-45, 5020 Salzburg; Local phone: +43/(0)662/87-14-01; [www.hotelamadeus.at](http://www.hotelamadeus.at). First-rate location on a quiet side street in the old city center's pedestrian area. Twenty-six fine rooms. Excellent breakfast buffet and afternoon coffee included. Also, family apartments with two sleeping rooms. Doubles, €120-150; apartment, €220.

Hotel Bergland, Rupertgasse 15, 5020 Salzburg; Local phone: +43/(0)662/87-23-18; [www.berglandhotel.at](http://www.berglandhotel.at). Nicely appointed 18-room hotel a short walk from the city center. Family-owned since 1912. Renovated in 1999. Attracts international guests. Free parking. Bicycle rentals. Doubles, €88-128.

Zur Goldenen Enten, Goldgasse 10, 5020 Salzburg; Local phone: +43/(0)662/84-56-22; [www.ente.at](http://www.ente.at). Quiet, comfortable rooms recently renovated and furnished in a simple Austrian country style. Art and antiques. Set in a 700-year-old townhouse in the heart of the pedestrian zone. Doubles, €110-125; suites, €180-250.

#### Budget

Adlerhof, Elisabethstrasse 25, 5020 Salzburg; Local phone: +43/(0)662/87-52-36; [www.pension-adlerhof.com](http://www.pension-adlerhof.com). Family-owned, convenient to the railroad station and autobahn; 15- to 20-minute walk from the city center. Twenty-five attractively

decorated rooms. Breakfast buffet. €69-88.

Gasthof Ueberfuhr, Ignaz-Rider-Kai 43, 5026 Salzburg-Aigen; Local phone: +43/(0)662/62-30-10-0; [www.ueberfuhr.at](http://www.ueberfuhr.at). Cozy 35-bed country inn along the river on the outskirts of Salzburg. Regular bus to the city. Rustic dining room known for quality local cuisine, healthy dishes, homemade desserts and pastries. Breakfast buffet. Comfortable single and double rooms, some with private bath, a few with hot/cold running water. Doubles, €61-72.

## Dining

### Salzburg and Vicinity

Festung Hohensalzburg, 5010 Salzburg. Price Reservations: Local phone: +43/(0)662/82-58-58; [www.mozartfestival.at](http://www.mozartfestival.at). Elegant candlelight dinner and concert in the panorama restaurant. Unsurpassed views. Outdoor dining in warm weather. Choice of three menus. Prices include funicular ride up the mountain and fortress admission 30 minutes before dinner. Four-course dinner and performance, €33-44.

Stiftskeller St. Peter, St. Peter Bezirk, 5010 Salzburg; Local phone: +43/(0)662/82-86-95-0; [www.mozartdinnerconcert.com](http://www.mozartdinnerconcert.com). “Keller” is cellar in German, but the event takes place in a beautiful second-floor hall. Set menu of dishes from Mozart’s time. Choice of entrees. Between courses, the Amadeus Consort (five musicians and two opera singers in Mozart-era attire) performs popular Mozart pieces. Three-course dinner and performance, €45. Also, the main-floor restaurant is charming and historic. Lunch and dinner served. Local phone +43/(0)662/84-12-68-0. Entrees, €10-22.

Restaurant Goldener Hirsch, Getreidegasse 37, 5020 Salzburg; Local phone +43/(0)662/80-84-0; [www.goldenerhirsch.com](http://www.goldenerhirsch.com). Highly regarded hotel restaurant. Restrained and formal setting for fine dining. International cuisine. House specialty is venison. Entrees, €21-27.

Zum Eulenspiegel, Hagenauerplatz 2, 5020 Salzburg; Local phone +43(0)662/(0)84-31-80; [www.zum-eulenspiegel.at](http://www.zum-eulenspiegel.at). Charming, multi-level restaurant on small square across from Mozart’s birthplace. Austrian cuisine plus seafood dishes and separate seasonal asparagus menu. Daily specials. Great people-watching from sidewalk dining. Entrees, €12-22.

Cafe Tomaselli, Alter Markt 9, 5020 Salzburg; Local phone: +43/(0)662/84-44-88; [www.tomaselli.at](http://www.tomaselli.at). Mozart ate here. Classic cafe, opened in 1705 and owned by the Tomaselli family since 1852. Light meals, exceptional pastries and even better coffee. Terrific outdoor dining in season. No credit cards. Pastries, €2.10-3.20; entrees and sandwiches, €2.40-17.

Konditorei Dallmann, Mozartplatz 2a, 5450 St. Gilgen; Local phone:

+43/6227/(0)62-27-22-08; [www.dallmann.at](http://www.dallmann.at). Cafe in charming country village. Known for Mozart's Reisekuchen, Mozart Kugeln, other pastries, other confections and ice cream concoctions. Good coffee, too.

## WHERE TO STAY

### Vienna

#### Luxury

Hotel Bristol, Kärntner Ring 1, Vienna 1015; Local phone: +43/1/ 501-100. Located across the street from the Vienna State Opera. Built in 1892 and named for the old British town of Bristol. Sumptuous decor. Balcony rooms; unusual circular Tower Rooms. The Prince of Wales Suite is Austria's largest hotel suite. Doubles, €273-620; suites, €552-4,413.

Hotel Imperial, Kärntner Ring 16, 1015 Vienna; Local phone +43/1/ 501-100; <http://austria.starwoodhotels.com/imperial>. The most lavish of Vienna's several lavish hotels. Built in 1863 as the Vienna residence of the Württemberg nobles. Opulent, traditional and splendidly located. Antique-filled rooms, marble bathrooms and walls draped in silk. Suites are even more lavish. Doubles, €404-794; suites, €653-4,815.

Le Meridien, Opernring 13, 1010 Vienna; Local phone: 800-543-4300 (reservations, U.S.), +43/(0) 1-588-90-0 (local). Edgy but stylish haute-21st-century hotel in shells of adjacent 19th-century buildings. Specially commissioned art and sophisticated minimalist furnishings. All 261 rooms and 33 suites with 42-inch plasma TV, free-standing tower shower and several computer ports. Theme is Art + Tech. Vienna and international trendies gather at the Shambala Bar & Lounge. Adjacent restaurant serves French/Asian fusion cuisine by Michel Rostang, Michelin-starred chef. Doubles, 355-655 Euros; suites, 655-855 Euros.

#### Moderately priced

Hotel Amadeus, Wildpretmarkt 5, 1010 Vienna; Local phone: +43/1/ 533 8738; [www.hotel-amadeus.at](http://www.hotel-amadeus.at). Stylish boutique hotel in the heart of old Vienna. Period furnishings. Welcoming and friendly. Doubles, €150-193.

Hotel am Stephansplatz, Stephansplatz 9, 1010 Vienna; Local phone: +43/1/53-405-710 and -711; [www.hotelamstephansplatz.at](http://www.hotelamstephansplatz.at). Newly renovated and expanded to 56 rooms. Matchless views of the cathedral. Contemporary decor. Dark acacia parquet flooring, furniture of light oak veneer and brown leather, flat-screen TVs and walls finished with natural paint coating. Fabulous penthouse suite with terrace. Most rooms non-smoking. Doubles, €200-240.

Hotel Koenig von Ungarn, Schulerstrasse, 1010 Vienna; Local phone: +43/1/515-84-0;

www.kvu.at. Charming hotel built around inner courtyard. Rooms furnished with antiques. Contemporary comforts and unstuffy attitude. Steps from the new Mozart House Museum. Breakfast included. Doubles, €158-198.

## Budget

Hotel Post, Fleischmarkt 24, 1010 Vienna; Local phone: +43/1/515-83-0; www.hotel-post-wien.at. Reportedly lodged Mozart and other luminaries when it was the inn "Zum weissen Ochsen" and later the hotel "Zur Stadt London." Now, 104 simple, yet comfortable and modern rooms. Doubles, €64-120.

Pension Kraml, Brauergasse 5, 1060 Vienna; Local phone: +43/1/587-85-88; www.pensionkraml.at. Small, family-owned B and B just off the Mariahilferstrasse, the locals' favorite shopping street. Accommodations range from modest bathless rooms to spacious family apartments. Extensive breakfast buffet included. Doubles, €49-68; apartments, €90-120.

Schweizerpension, Heinrichsgasse 2, 1010 Vienna; Local phone: +43/1/53-38-156; www.schweizerpension.com. B and B with 11 recently refurbished rooms. Located near the Danube Canal, excellent for recreation and sightseeing. Simple furnishings. Some rooms with private bath/toilet, some not. Full breakfast included. No credit cards. Doubles, €58-87 Euros.

## DINING

### Vienna

Augustinerkeller, Augustinerstrasse 1, 1010 Vienna; Local phone: +43/1/533-10-26; <http://members.aon.at/augustinerkeller/>. Restaurant wine bar specializing in local cuisine and Austrian wines. Warm and cozy vaulted rooms. Vienna's first all-inclusive restaurant. Typical Austrian cuisine. Hot and cold buffet, salad, fruit, wine or beer, €24.50.

Drei Husaren, Weihburggasse 4, 1010 Vienna; Local phone: +43/1/512-10920; www.drei-husaren.at. Elegant restaurant founded in 1933 by three ex-World War I officers in the Hungarian Husars. Mannequins in the window still represent them. Two dining rooms done in regal red, gold and white. Excellent service. Classic Viennese cuisine. Entrees, 21-35 Euros. Three-course lunch menu, €33. Six-course dinner, €89. Seasonal cooking classes, €89, including recipes and lunch.

Griechenbeisel, Fleischmarkt 11, 1010 Vienna; Local phone: +43/1/533-19-41; www.griechenbeisel.at. In a tower from about 1200, a remainder of the old city walls. Vienna's oldest, most iconic restaurant, dating back to 1500 as the inn "Zum gelben Adler." Small, vaulted rooms on several levels, each different in style. Overwhelming atmosphere in the Zither Room with live "Third Man" theme-style music. Traditional Austrian fare continuously served from 11:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Entrees, €13-26.

Zum Finsteren Stern, Schulhof 8, 1010 Vienna; Local phone: +43/1/535-21-00. Cellar restaurant in the Palais Collalto, where six-year-old Mozart performed. Restaurant established in 1762. Traditional menu, including rabbit and other game. Tables on cobblestone patio for summer dining. Entrees, €15-20. Three-course menu, €29.

Cafe Demel, Kohlmarkt 13, 1010 Vienna; Local phone: +43/01/535-1717. Once the official court confectioner. Classic cafe and patisserie with coffee, confections and crystal chandeliers. Baroque style so extravagant that it raises the bar on the word, "ornate." Demel's perfect pastries resemble artwork. The basement bakeshop has picture windows for watching the pastry wizards at work. Pastries from €3.75. Also, sandwiches and light fare.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Salzburg: Tourismus Salzburg, Auerspergstrasse 6, 5020 Salzburg, Austria;  
Local phone: +43/(0)662/88-987-0; [www.salzburg.info](http://www.salzburg.info).

Salzburg Festival (takes place from July 23 to Aug. 31, 2006): Local phone:  
+43/(0)662/80450; [www.salzburgfestival.at](http://www.salzburgfestival.at).

Vienna: Vienna Tourist Board, 2, Obere Augartenstrasse 40, 1025 Vienna;  
Local phone: +43/1/24 555; [www.vienna.info](http://www.vienna.info).

Austria: Austrian Tourist Office, 120 West 45th St., New York, NY 10036;  
Local phone: 212-944-6880; [www.Austria.info](http://www.Austria.info).

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