TOP 10 ATTRACTIONS



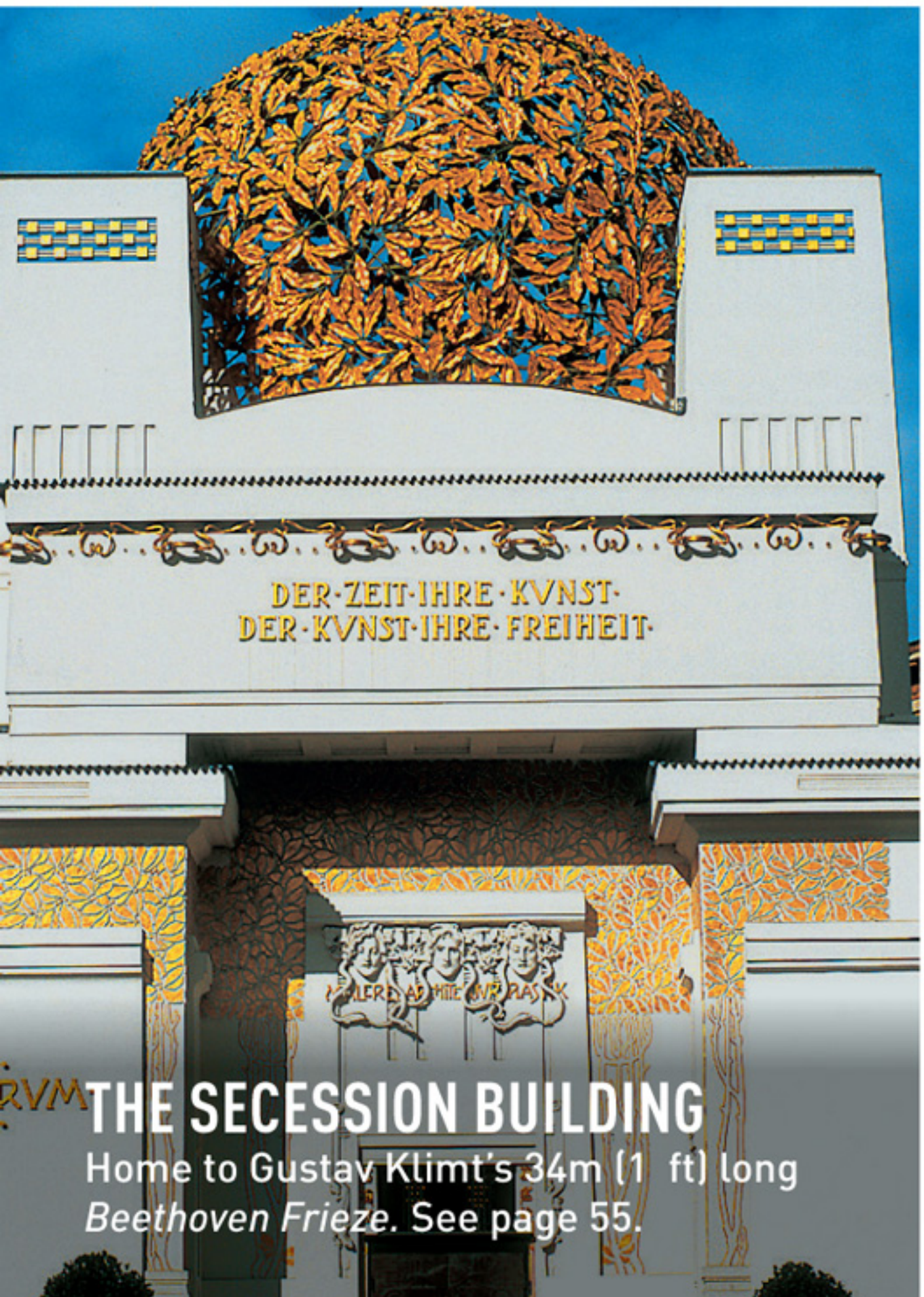
SCHÖNBRUNN

Empress Maria Theresa's opulent rococo palace and gardens. See page 66.



STEPHANSDOM

The cathedral at the heart of Vienna's Innere Stadt. See page 27.



THE SECESSION BUILDING

Home to Gustav Klimt's 34m (1 ft) long *Beethoven Frieze*. See page 55.



KUNSTHISTORISCHES MUSEUM

Works by Raphael are among its many masterpieces. See page 51.



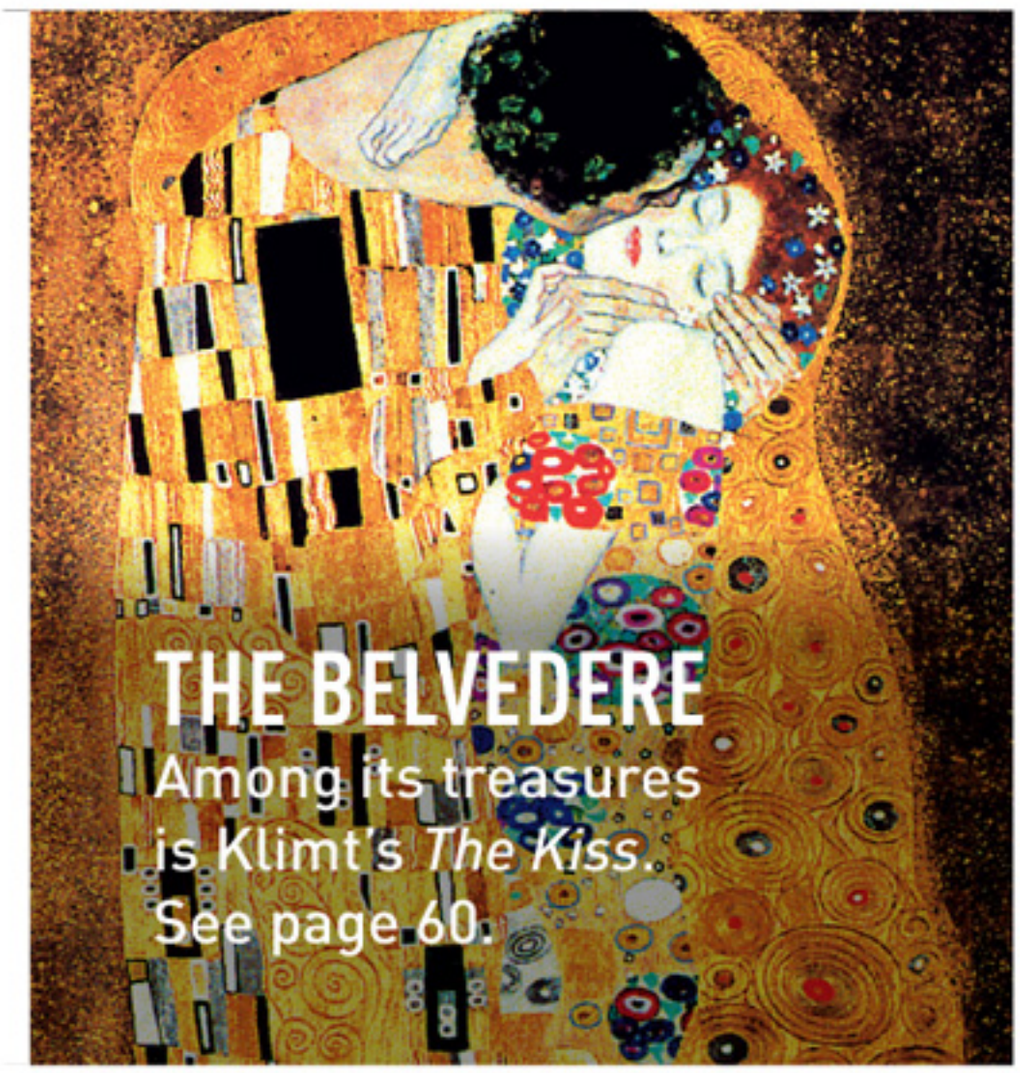
KARLSPLATZ

It has numerous attractions in addition to the Karlskirche. See page 56.



THE SPANISH RIDING SCHOOL

See the Lipizzaner stallions perform. See page 44.



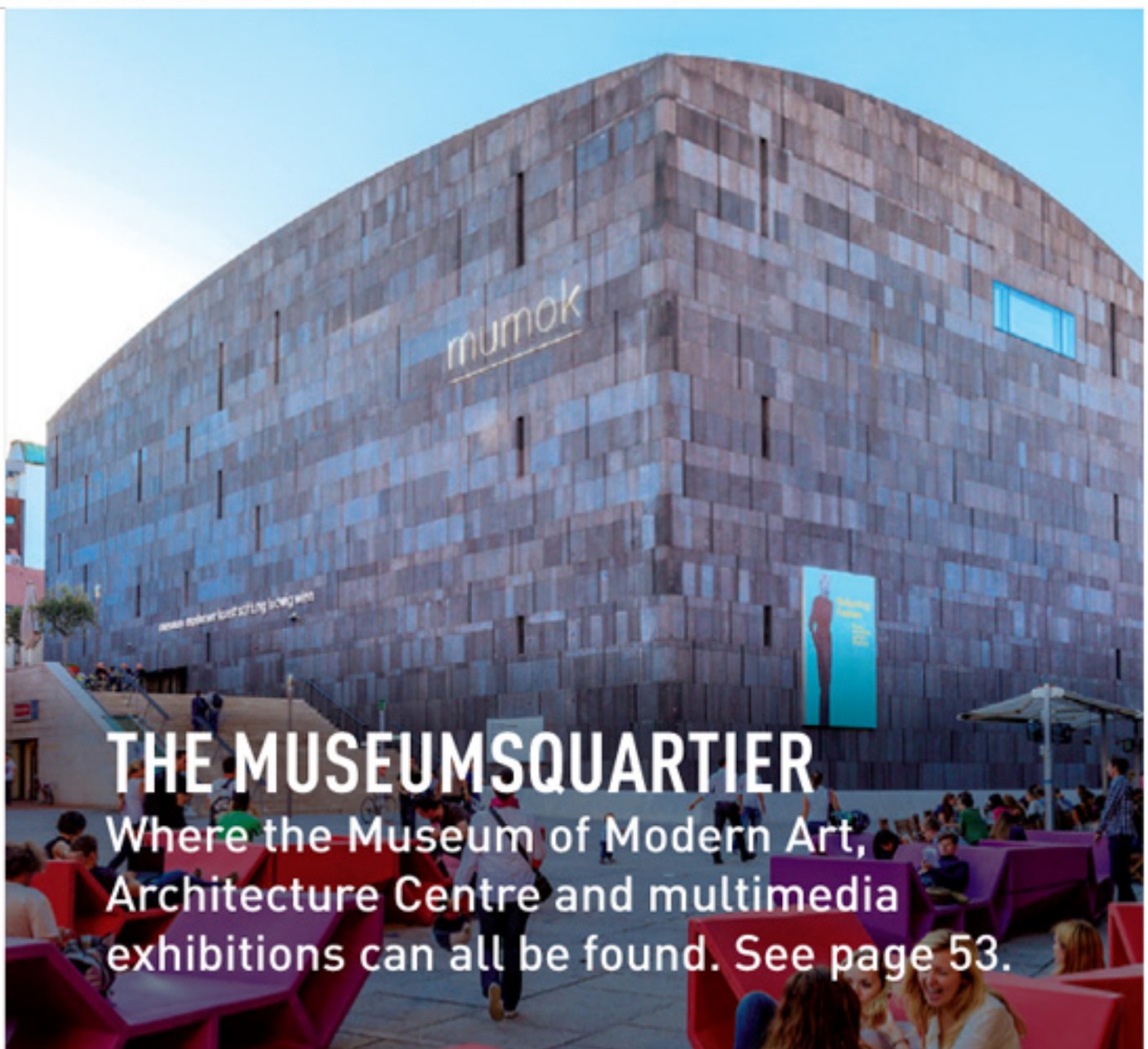
THE BELVEDERE

Among its treasures is Klimt's *The Kiss*. See page 60.



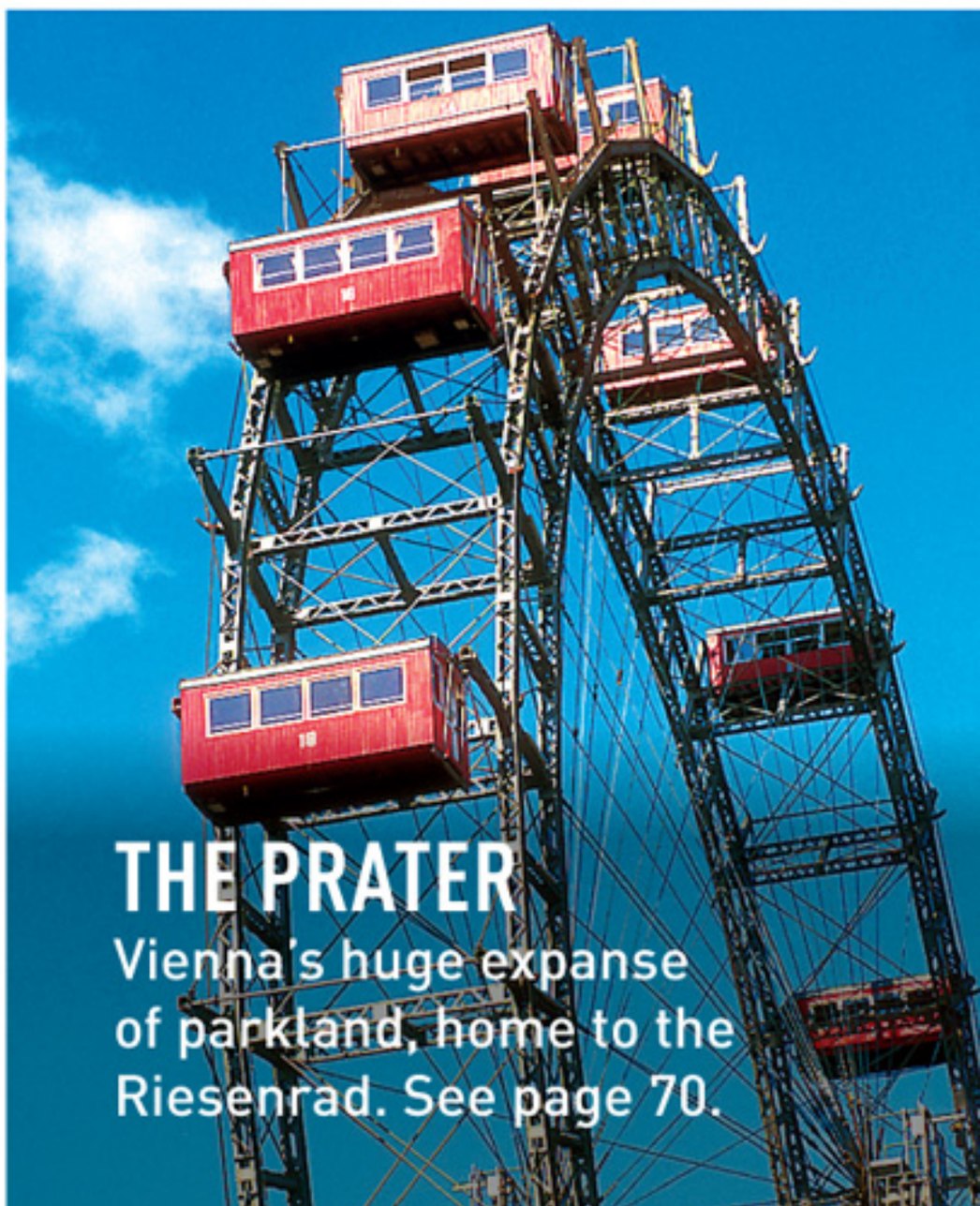
THE HOFBURG

Imperial palace of the Habsburgs. See page 42.



THE MUSEUMSQUARTIER

Where the Museum of Modern Art, Architecture Centre and multimedia exhibitions can all be found. See page 53.



THE PRATER

Vienna's huge expanse of parkland, home to the Riesenrad. See page 70.

A PERFECT DAY



9.00am

Breakfast

A hearty Alpine breakfast is a great set-up for the day, so eat your fill either from your hotel buffet or from the diet-busting breakfast menu at Café Drechsler (see page 109).



12 noon

Lunch

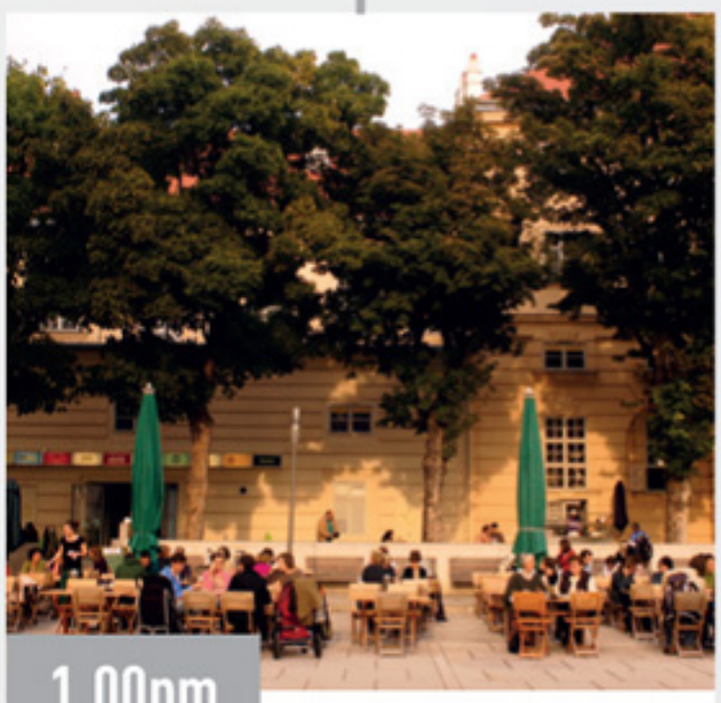
Take your midday pangs to tiny Immervoll (see page 105) for some authentic Viennese fare in the company of the city's office workers, or Trzesniewski (see page 105) for a traditional open sandwich with lunchtime diners on the hop.



10.00am

Royal Palace

Kick off your day of sightseeing at the Stephansdom with great city views from the tower; then take the U-Bahn southwest to Schloss Schönnbrunn, the Habsburg's baroque masterpiece. You'll just have time to take a tour of the 40 dazzling rooms before returning to the city centre.



1.00pm

Museum visit

After lunch take the U-Bahn or tram to the famous Museums-Quartier. MUMOK and Leopold Museum are top choices, and across the road stands the superb Kunst-historisches Museum. Cafés are plentiful too if you need to refuel.



5.00pm

Mine's a *Beisl*

Taking an early dinner frees up the rest of the evening for more Viennese experiences, so make your way to one of the city's friendly *Beisln*, a type of informal bistro with authentic local food. Beim Czaak (see page 103) or Reinthaler (see page 105) are popular with inner-city dwellers.



3.30pm

Take a break

Time to take a break, so hop across from the museum action into the Volksgarten for a quiet stroll, perhaps stopping off for a coffee at an open-air café.



8.30pm

Tavern time

A great way to round off the day is to head out of town to a *Heuriger* (wine tavern), perhaps Braunsperger (see page 107) or Fuhrgassl-Huber (see page 108) to sip some excellent local reds and whites as well as traditional food. They're easily accessible from the city centre.



6.30pm

In a spin

Next stop is the Prater amusement park for a spin on the big wheel, the Riesenrad, immortalised in the film *The Third Man*. If fun fairs are not your thing, there are plenty of Danube-side walks to take and parkland to explore, perhaps by bike.





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INTRODUCTION

The sophisticated Viennese enjoy what is known as the *Wiener Lebensart*, a cultured appreciation of all life's pleasures. Not only is this reflected in Vienna's glorious art, music and architecture, theatres and coffee houses, and its passion for glittering balls, but where else would you find vineyards within a city's limits? The Innere Stadt (Old City) is a Unesco World Heritage Site (in addition to the Schloss Schönbrunn), a fitting honour for an area that embraces baroque palaces, the famous Burgtheater and Staatsoper (Opera House), and a warren of narrow medieval streets and lanes tangled around the Stephansdom (St Stephen's Cathedral).

Yet Vienna, with a population of 1.8 million, has much to save it from becoming an open-air museum. Tired old sites are regularly revamped and given new uses, and various construction projects, from the whimsy of Hundertwasser's garbage incinerator to the steel Millennium Tower, add a 21st-century dimension. In the historic centre, projects such as the MuseumsQuartier blend old and new to bring fresh interest to the Austrian capital's cityscape. Vienna is divided into 23 districts. The 1st District is the historic Innere Stadt (Old City), and districts 2 to 9 fan out around the Ringstrasse.

Viennese charm

The Viennese seldom miss an opportunity to make a flattering remark: 'I kiss your hand, Madam' or 'I am honoured'. Even the familiar greeting '*Servus*' ('hi' or 'bye') is Latin for 'your servant'.

Since the 16th century, Vienna has been universally acknowledged as Europe's capital of music. People come here to enjoy the waltzes of Johann Strauss – only he could have described the muddy brown Danube as blue



Aerial view of the city at night

– and baroque Mozart recitals at the Opera House. Visit the *Heuriger* wine garden on the edge of the Vienna Woods (Wienerwald) for a late-night glass of white wine and a few sentimental songs or knock back a couple of beers to something more modern in one of the city's clubs. And when all you want to do is kick back, Vienna is a city with plenty of space to relax in, its rural setting inducing an easy-going attitude to life.

TRADITION AND MODERNITY

The Viennese are proud of their city's heritage and are great at achieving both continuity and change in equal measure. Grand old hotels and coffee houses have been symapthetically renovated, and the clientele – the artists, writers, thinkers and dreamers – have been joined by media moguls, bankers and business professionals, and of course tourists too. Fashion designers have taken hold of the traditional *Loden* fabric and produced it in brighter hues