

Sixteen Women and their Austrian Adventure



Austrian Music and Food

Sixteen women from Bronxville and Pelham recently came along with Herzerl Tours to Austria. We flew into Vienna with Austrian Airlines, then connected up to Salzburg. Our hotel was an example of amazing historic architecture, Hotel Altstadt on the banks of the river Salzach in the old part of town. Our first adventure was a Mozart Dinner at the mediaeval St Peters Abbey. The ladies enjoyed the songs of Mozart operas and the lovely food.



The next day with glorious weather saw us traveling "The Sound of Music" sites and the lakes and mountains, visiting the wedding church and, as a surprise, I took the group to an outlet of traditional Austrian clothing (boiled wool jackets flew off the racks).



Dinner in a typical Salzburgian restaurant ended the day.



On the following day we left Salzburg early in the morning and traveled East to St. Florian (about half way between Salzburg and Vienna) where we visited the famous Baroque abbey where Anton Bruckner (famous Austrian composer) had studied as a youngster and later composed his music there. We listened to an organ concert on that amazing "Bruckner" organ – 1400 pipes.



And now onward to Vienna, the jewel for music lovers. We arrived and checked into our Hotel Kaiserhof – a lovely four star with a great location close to Karlskirche (Charles Church) and good connections by street car which the ladies tried out and managed quite well.



Breakfast at the Kaiserhof was lovely and fortified all for the day. The first Vienna adventure was a visit to the Spanish Riding School in the Imperial Palace watching the Lippizan horses and their talented riders at their morning exercise – God what beautiful animals! And a quick lunch at a small restaurant with excellent

food (Führich) – ladies were introduced to Goulasch soup. And after a visit to St.Stephen's Cathedral a guided tour through the Vienna State Opera with our amazing guide gave the ladies a bit of an understanding for Vienna culture.



The next day saw us after an early start traveling by Street Car and "shoemakers horses" (Schusters Rappen) as we say in Austria to the Imperial Chapel in the palace. There we heard a Mass sung by the Choralschola of the Imperial Chapel (former members of the Vienna Boys Choir).



A sightseeing tour by private coach took us along the famous Ring (Boulevard) out to Schönbrunn Palace, the summer residence of the Austrian emperors, the Habsburgs. And typical for Vienna, there is always some food around the corner. We visited the Café Residenz for an "Applestrudel Show" – "blitz" teaching the ladies how to make an apple strudel the original way (stretching the dough... and of course tasted the strudel with coffee (a Melange...there are 26 different ways to take your coffee in Vienna).

That evening we had dinner at the oldest restaurant in Vienna, the Griechenbeisl (first mentioned in 1447) – a real treat. We sat in the Mark Twain Room, whose signature we discovered on the wall. It would be worth your while to go to the web site www.griechenbeisl.at to read about the fascinating history of the place. And, of course we ate Wiener Schnitzel and drank Grüner Veltliner!!



On the last day another "foodie" event beckoned – a hands-on cooking class at the Vienna Culinary Institute – another venerable Viennese institution. The chef-instructor and two students showed how its done, the ladies wore chefs hats and got involved with great enthusiasm. They vowed to cook at least the goulasch at home. I shall post the recipes on www.herzertours.com.



The last afternoon was free and I am sure much shopping took place. And all too soon we found ourselves on the coach to the Vienna airport where an Austrian Airlines plane took us back to New York City – Auf Wiedersehen, Vienna!

