

## Tradition meets zeitgeist: Only in Salzburg

*The best of both worlds | Symbiosis of old and new*

***The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Salzburg is a small but cosmopolitan town with an outstanding reputation for top-class musical and cultural events. The legacy of the prince-archbishops is evident in the lifestyle and the churches of the Old Town, while contemporary trends and art break through the seemingly classical, conservative facades. A town moving between deeply rooted traditions and pulsating vitality.***

Over the course of several centuries, the people of Salzburg developed an awareness and a (self-)conception for music and culture manifest known in few if any other towns. The town's manageable size, the legacy of the prince-archbishops and a wide range of styles and genres have resulted in a juxtaposition of well-established festivals and contemporary features – for an atmosphere of informed interest allows room for experiment. 2023 demonstrates possibilities for linking old and new, the classic and the unorthodox.

### **Mozart – in step with time(lessness)**

In many ways, Wolfgang Amadé Mozart is a "flagship". It is thanks to him that Salzburg still enjoys an international reputation as a town of music; his compositions offer children worldwide access to classical music and make him a top-selling brand. The Mozarteum Foundation acts as custodian of the treasure that is Mozart, preserving and disseminating his cultural legacy. The **Mozart Week** officially rings in the musical year with distinguished musicians in a top-class programme to celebrate the birthday of the genius loci. The events always include contemporary productions or interpretations designed to open Mozart's works to a wide public. Rolando Villazón, Artistic Director of Salzburg Mozart Week, entitles this approach *Trazom!* (Mozart spelled backwards), offering crossover productions such as *Letters and Music*, *Würstel Amadé Mozart*, or the new production *Der alte Baum* [the old tree] in the Salzburg Marionette Theatre, which focuses on the concerns of the Fridays For Future generation.

- Mozart Week, 26 January - 5 February 2023, [www.mozartwoche.at](http://www.mozartwoche.at)
- In Mozart's footsteps with City Walk: Mozart, [www.salzburg.info/city-walks](http://www.salzburg.info/city-walks)

### **Festivals: the great 21st-century attractions**

The status of the **Salzburg Festival** as a beacon of European culture is undisputed. For over a century, it has combined opera, concert and spoken theatre, transforming the town into a singular cosmos for six weeks. A notable feature of the Festival is the presentation of elaborate contemporary works and productions which give rise to lively debate on culture, modernism, and feasibility. The classic *Everyman* in its current interpretation is a good example, igniting as it did a discussion on gender neutrality. In 2023, the audience eagerly awaits the new casting of the roles of *Everyman* and his Paramour.

The preceding weeks also feature major cultural events, with the Easter and Whitsun Festivals. The new Artistic Director Nicolaus Bachler brings fresh initiative to the Easter Festival. Instead

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of a resident orchestra, Bachler will invite a different distinguished orchestra every year to shape the Festival with its own characteristic sound. The 2023 guest orchestra is the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, conducted by Andris Nelsons. Appropriately, the revised version of the Easter Festival begins with a native of Leipzig: Richard Wagner, whose opera *Tannhäuser* will be staged in the Large Festival Hall, starring Jonas Kaufmann, Marlis Petersen and Elina Garanča. The Felsenreitschule provides a distinctive setting for *Dreams*, the first contemporary dance production to be shown at the Easter Festival.

50 years have passed since the famous conductor Herbert von Karajan, a native of Salzburg, initiated the Whitsun Festival, which has been part of the Salzburg Festival since 1998. Since 2012 (and foreseeably until 2026), Artistic Director Cecilia Bartoli has been responsible for the programme.

- Salzburg Easter Festival, 1 - 10 April 2023, [www.osterfestspiele.at](http://www.osterfestspiele.at)
- Salzburg Whitsun Festival, 26 - 29 May 2023, [www.salzburgerfestspiele.at](http://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at)
- Salzburg Festival, July and August 2023 [www.salzburgerfestspiele.at](http://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at)

### Discover new (image-)worlds in art

Particularly during the summer months, Salzburg has a wide range of both music and art to offer. In June, the "Sommerszene" has developed into an avant-garde complement to the Festival. Representing a contemporary and interdisciplinary concept of art, dance, theatre, and performance are combined in installations, films, and concerts, including performances in public space. The visual arts also occupy a prominent place in Salzburg. In 2023, the Summer Academy of Fine Arts celebrates its 70th anniversary. In 1953, the outstanding Austrian artist Oskar Kokoschka founded the "School of Vision" in Hohensalzburg Fortress. The first summer academy of fine arts in Europe is a meeting-place for people of all origins, ages, and social backgrounds. Curator and art educator Sophie Goltz, a native of Dresden, has been director since autumn 2020. The focus in this celebratory summer will be on expanded painting, which includes performance, scenography, film, and installation. Open Studios invite the public to view participants' work, and to experience the distinctive potential of the two locations: Hohensalzburg Fortress and the Untersberg stone quarry in Fürstenbrunn.

- Sommerszene, 12 - 25 June 2023, [www.szene-salzburg.net/sommerszene](http://www.szene-salzburg.net/sommerszene)
- International Summer Academy of Fine Arts, [www.summeracademy.at](http://www.summeracademy.at)

### Baroque rooms in a new perspective

The historic centre of Salzburg was awarded the title of UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997. Decisive factors for the award – besides the significance of Salzburg as a music metropolis and as birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – were the distinctive character of the Old Town and the archiepiscopal architecture. No town north of the Alps displays more baroque features than Salzburg, with its five piazzas and the many churches and points of interest in the middle of the Old Town. Since 2014, the competence centre for the Baroque period and the town's legacy has been the DomQuartier, where a current exhibition is devoted to the last Prince-Archbishop, Hieronymus Colloredo (1772-1803/1812). The history of the building is also illustrated in the exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Residenzgalerie.

Visitors will find the counter-pole to the Baroque in an art gallery which also celebrates a significant anniversary this year: in 2023 it is 40 years since the Museum der Moderne was

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established in the Rupertinum in the Old Town; it expanded into the new building on the Mönchsberg in 2004. In 2023 Harald Krejci assumes the post of director and will bring new ideas to bear. Apart from museums, Salzburg offers some surprises in the realm of contemporary art. The 13 installations of the Walk of Modern Art demonstrate the eminent suitability of the baroque Old Town as a setting for modern art. The freely accessible sculpture park in the grounds of Schloss Arenberg, the ARTSPACE in front of the Berchtold Villa in Nonntal and the LEUBE sculpture park in St. Leonhard/Grödig also combine the history of the town with the ideas of the future.

- A Century of the Residenzgalerie Salzburg, DomQuartier, 7 July 2023 - 7 January 2024, [www.domquartier.at](http://www.domquartier.at)
- Prince-Archbishop Hieronymus Colloredo, exhibition on the occasion of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the last spiritual sovereign and his era, DomQuartier, 26 November 2022 - 29 May 2023, [www.domquartier.at](http://www.domquartier.at)
- Museum der Moderne Salzburg, [www.museumdermoderne.at](http://www.museumdermoderne.at)
- Art in public space: [www.salzburg.info/creative](http://www.salzburg.info/creative)

### **The magic of Advent – then and now**

The heart of Salzburg Advent is unquestionably the enchanting Christkindl market on Cathedral square and Residence Square, which dates back to 1941 and the year-round "Tandlmarkt". It has been held in its present form since 1974, and remains familiar in 2023: some 100 stalls sell local delicacies and creative craft-work, the tower brass players rejoice the hearts, and singers on the Cathedral steps awake childhood memories. The Adventsingen in the Large Festival Hall, with 150 performers resembles a time-capsule: with their folk melodies and the reflective "Andachtsjodler", the shepherd children, the traditional vocal trio and the large choir evoke a Nativity world all their own. The distance from the Old Town to the Volksgarten is only a kilometre – but here they seem decades apart. The site where the *Winterfest* started in the Volksgarten over 20 years ago is now full of circus tents instead of wooden huts, and acrobatics are performed instead of Christmas carols. The largest festival of contemporary circus arts in the German-speaking world combines breathtaking acrobatics with gentle poetry and vividly illustrates stories.

- Christkindl market on Cathedral Square and Residence Square, 23 November 2023 - 1 January 2024, [www.christkindlmarkt.co.at](http://www.christkindlmarkt.co.at)
- Salzburger Adventsingen in the Large Festival Hall, 24 November - 10 December 2023, [www.salzburgeradventsingen.at](http://www.salzburgeradventsingen.at)
- Winterfest, [www.winterfest.at](http://www.winterfest.at)
- Experience Salzburg during Advent, [www.salzburg.info/advent](http://www.salzburg.info/advent)

### **The place where luxury and simplicity live side by side**

The streets and lanes in the historic Old Town are not only #instagrammable, but they offer visitors a wealth of well-stocked businesses, shops, bars and restaurants. Contrasts between tradition and modern life are evident not only in events and architecture, but also in cuisine and lifestyle. Centuries-old workshops jostle with flagship stores of international luxury brands, traditional markets face concept stores, and the passages along the Getreidegasse link shopping facilities to suit every purse. There are cafés, bars and restaurants to cater for all tastes and occasions. In 2021, the renowned Gault Millau guide awarded toques to no less than 28 restaurants in and around the town. At the other end of the scale, the original Salzburg "Bosna" sandwich is one of the favourite local snacks. The Salzburg beer culture, with a 600-year

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## PRESS INFORMATION



brewing tradition and eleven breweries in and around town, provides enjoyment in time-honoured taverns just as in trendy bars and restaurants. Salzburg's coffeehouse scene ranges from Austria's oldest still operating coffee-house to the tiniest Fenster Café [window café].

- Best addresses for shopping and eating, [www.salzburg.info/shopping](http://www.salzburg.info/shopping)
- Salzburg beer culture, [www.salzburg.info/beerculture](http://www.salzburg.info/beerculture)
- Salzburg's coffee-house traditions, [www.salzburg.info/coffeehouses](http://www.salzburg.info/coffeehouses)
- Popular traditional businesses, [www.salzburg.info/traditionsbetriebe](http://www.salzburg.info/traditionsbetriebe)

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