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# Sleeping ■

# Sleeping

Vienna's sleeping options cover the full spectrum, from youth hostels and student residences to luxury establishments like the Hotel Imperial and Hotel Sacher, where chandeliers, antique furniture and original 19th-century oil paintings are the norm rather than the exception. In between are homely *Pensionen* (guesthouses) and less ostentatious hotels, plus a small but smart range of apartments for longer-term rentals.

Standards remain high, and generally so do prices; bargains exist, but they're few and far between. As a rule, budget doubles are available for under €80 a night, midrange from €80 to €200, and top end anything above that (and the sky's the limit in this city). Breakfast is invariably included in the price – normally a Continental buffet – but parking isn't (anything between €6 and €26 per 24 hours).

The Innere Stadt is first to fill up, so booking well ahead is advised. District's one to nine are the next to go, with the outer districts (outside the Gürtel) mopping up the leftovers. If you arrive without accommodation, head for the Tourist Info Wien (p231) which books rooms for a small fee.

## Accommodation Styles

### HOTELS & PENSIONEN

As hotels and *Pensionen* make up the bulk of accommodation options in Vienna, a huge variation in styles and tastes exist.

Leaving aside the city's luxury hotels, which are in a league of their own, hotels tend to be larger than *Pensionen*, have more facilities (on-site parking, bars and restaurants) and come with more extras (room service, laundry service etc). *Pensionen* are often located in apartment blocks, and can be far more personable and less standardised, with larger rooms. Prices start from around €50 to €60 for a basic double room with shared bath and top out at approximately €200 to €250 for an upmarket en-suite double in a four-star hotel. On average, expect to pay €100 to €150 for a decent double room in a hotel or *Pension*.

Note that many of the older hotels and *Pensionen* have a range of rooms and facilities, the cheapest of which share a toilet and shower with other guests.

### HOSTELS & STUDENT RESIDENCES

Vienna has a smattering of *Jugendherberge*, private hostels or hostels affiliated with Hostel-ling International (HI). In the former, no membership is required. Dorm beds, singles and doubles are generally available in both; expect to pay around €18 for a dorm bed and €25 to €35 for a double room in high season.

Austria has two HI-affiliated youth-hostel organisations: *Österreichischer Jugendherbergensverband* (ÖJHN; Map pp258–9; ☎ 533 53 53; www.oejhv.or.at; 01, Schottenring 28; ☎ 9am–5pm Mon–Thu, 9am–3pm Fri; ☉ U2, U4 Schottenring, ☑ 1, 2) and *Österreichischer Jugendherbergenswerk* (ÖJHW; Map pp254–5; ☎ 533 18 33; www.jungehotels.at; 01, Helfferstorferstrasse 4; ☎ 9.30am–6pm Mon–Fri; ☑ 1, 2). Either can provide information on all of Vienna's HI hostels.

For information on student residences, refer to the box (opposite).

### LONGER-TERM RENTALS

Viennese looking for apartments rely on word of mouth or turn to *Bazar* magazine. It's the magazine if you're looking to buy, sell or rent anything, including apartments or rooms. The time scale of places on offer may range from indefinite rental to occupation of a flat for a month or so while the resident is on holiday. *Falter*, *Kurier* and *Standard* also carry accommodation ads.

A couple of short-term apartment rentals are listed in this chapter.

## PRICE GUIDE

Each sleeping option has been given a price ranking, indicating the room price at double occupancy.

€ € €	over €200 a night
€ €	€80–200 a night
€	under €80 a night

## STUDENT RESIDENCES

When university students take their summer break from July to September, their student accommodation becomes available to tourists. The majority are outside the Innere Stadt, but are still reasonably convenient for the centre, and the rooms are perfectly OK but nothing fancy; expect single beds (perhaps placed together in doubles), a work desk and a wardrobe. Cheaper places have institutional-style shared facilities, while pricier places offer private shower and toilet, and the price includes breakfast. These are some of the better options:

**Hotel Academia** (Map pp260–1; ☎ 401 76; www.academia-hotels.co.at; 08, Pfeilgasse 3a; s/d €50/66; ☑ J, 46; ☎) Massive 498-bed student residence (with a lift, thankfully) with spacious rooms with en suite but no TV. There's a coffee bar on site.

**Accordia** (Map pp254–5; ☎ 212 16 68; www.albertina-hotels.at; 02, Grosse Schiffgasse 12; s/d €56/84; bus 5A) Modern, multifloor high-rise; pluses include private bathrooms, a bike storage room and the Innere Stadt only a short walk across the Danube Canal.

**Avis** (Map pp258–9; ☎ 408 96 60; www.academia-hotels.co.at; 08, Pfeilgasse 4; s/d €50/66; ☑ J, 46; ☎) Directly opposite Academia but more residential than its larger neighbour. Also has a garden.

**Kolping Wien-Zentral** (Map pp254–5; ☎ 587 56 31; www.wien-zentral.kolping.at; 06, Gumpendorfer Strasse 39; s/d from €45/70; ☉ U4 Kettenbrückengasse) Bold, brash and colourful student residence that also offers hotel-style accommodation year-round. Rooms come with shower and toilet but are a tad soulless. Enter via Steingasse.

## INNERE STADT

The Innere Stadt is Vienna's prime accommodation location, with easy access to the lion's share of the city's attractions, and an excellent selection of restaurants, bars and music venues. Comparatively, prices tend to outdo the rest of Vienna (except the Ringstrasse) and reservations are well advised.

## STEPHANSPLATZ

### HOTEL AM STEPHANSPLATZ

Map pp254–5 Hotel €€

☎ 534 05–0; www.hotelamstephansplatz.at; 01, Stephansplatz 9; s/d from €140/205; ☉ U1, U3 Stephansplatz; ☎ ☎

Hotel am Stephansplatz occupies the perfect position in Vienna, overlooking the Gothic spires of Stephansdom, but its interior almost tops its location. The entire hotel is a model of eco-friendly design – all building materials used, right down to the glue, was subject to environmental restrictions, and the breakfast is a compilation of organic produce. Rooms are filled with modern furniture and warmed with earthy colours while the bedding is a treat – thick, snug and *über* skin-friendly. Room 702 steals the show; a rooftop suite with balcony views across Stephansplatz to the hallowed doors of Stephansdom.

## EAST OF STEPHANSPLATZ

### PENSION RIEDL Pension €

☎ 512 77 79; www.pensionriedl.at; 01, Georg-Coch-Platz 3; s/d from €44/69; ☑ 1, 2 Pension Riedl is a traditional pension on the fringes of the Innere Stadt with a warm welcome and a homely atmosphere. Rooms are generally large and bedecked with mismatched furniture (bathrooms are on the small side); Nos 6 and 7 have tiny balconies overlooking Georg-Coch-Platz (and Otto Wagner's celebrated Postsparkasse) while the balcony in No 8 enjoys the peace of the inner courtyard. The pension's apartment, with its long balcony, enormous rooms, cosy ambience and kitchen, is a fine choice.

### HOTEL-PENSION SUZANNE

Map pp254–5 Pension €€  
☎ 513 25 07; www.pension-suzanne.at; 01, Walfischgasse 4; s/d €77/96; ☉ U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz, ☑ D, J, 1, 2, 62, 65

More a *Pension* than a hotel, Suzanne is a solid accommodation option in the very centre of Vienna. Its 1950s facade belies rooms filled with attractive antique furniture in a multitude of hues and finished in polished wood, which help to distract from the room's small size, while bathrooms are thoroughly modern affairs. Extras that add charm include stacks of information on classical concerts, umbrellas to borrow on rainy days and unusually friendly and helpful staff.

**APPARTEMENTS RIEMERGASSE**

Map pp254-5 **Apartments €€**  
 ☎ 512 72 20; [www.riemergasse.at](http://www.riemergasse.at); 01, Riemergasse 8; apt per night/month from €93/2233; ④ U3 Stubentor, ⑤ 1, 2

Riemergasse is an excellent option for travellers requiring a few home comforts while they're away. Studios are a little poky but include a kitchenette, while larger apartments are quite sizable and come with full cooking facilities; fittings in all apartments are more modern than most Viennese enjoy. Views from some of the top-floor apartments catch the spire of Stephansdom, but generally you'll be staring into the neighbours across the way. Breakfast is available for an extra €5.

**HOTEL KAISERIN ELISABETH**

Map pp254-5 **Hotel €€**  
 ☎ 515 26; [www.kaiserinelisabeth.at](http://www.kaiserinelisabeth.at); 01, Weihburggasse 3; s/d €109/187; ④ U1, U3 Stephansplatz

It may look plain from the outside, but inside Kaiserin Elisabeth is a delight, with 19th-century imperial-style luxury balanced with modern comforts. Rooms contain splashes of stately design, with chandeliers, oriental carpets, wooden floors and antique pieces. Bathrooms are tiled in light colours and the superior variety sport double sinks and a separate shower and bath. Portraits of a forever-youthful Sisi line the hallways and common rooms, but she never set foot inside, although Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Oskar Kokoschka and Otto Wagner all did.

**HOLMANN BELETAGE**

Map pp254-5 **Pension €€**  
 ☎ 961 19 60; [www.hollmann-beletage.at](http://www.hollmann-beletage.at) 01, Köllnerhofgasse 6; r from €130; ④ U1, U4 Schwedenplatz; ⑥

A minimalist establishment of sorts, Holmann Beletage is a *Pension* for guests with an eye for style, a penchant for clean lines and a desire for privacy. Rooms are slick units, with natural wood floors, bare walls, simple, classic furniture and designer lamps and door handles. Space is utilised to the max; bathrooms and cupboards are cleverly hidden behind tall double doors, creating a Tardis-like effect. The reception, with its open fireplace, sofas and footstools, library and CD collection, moonlights as a guest lounge. Advance booking is advisable.

**KÖNIG VON UNGARN** Map pp254-5 **Hotel €€**

☎ 515 84-0; [www.kvu.at](http://www.kvu.at); 01, Schulerstrasse 10; s/d €142/203; ④ U1, U3 Stephansplatz  
 The 'King of Hungary' is a quality hotel balancing class and informality. The wonderful inner courtyard, with its pyramid skylight, wood panelling and leather furniture, will easily impress, as will the service, where breakfast is from 6am to noon (at which time the bar opens) and little acts of decadence, such as gold-plated, free-standing ashtrays, are everywhere (even in the lift). Rooms can be a little poky, but each is individually furnished with antiques and range in style from rather plain to downright extravagant: the best face Domgasse.

**KÄRNTNER STRASSE, GRABEN & KOHLMARKT PENSION AM OPERNECK**

Map pp254-5 **Pension €€**  
 ☎ 512 93 10; 01 Kärntner Strasse 47; s/d €53/75; U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz, ⑤ D, J, 1, 2, 62, 65

It's hard to beat Am Operneck on two very important points – location and price. Directly across from the famous Sacher, its front doors open out onto Kärntner Strasse, the busiest street in the city. Its rooms are similar to its owner – fading after years of use but still going strong and easily making guests feel comfortable and at home. As there are only six rooms (all of which are quite large), it's essential to book well ahead.

**PENSION NOSSEK** Map pp254-5 **Pension €€**

☎ 533 70 41-0; [www.pension-nossek.at](http://www.pension-nossek.at) in German; 01, Graben 17; s/d from €58/110; ④ U1, U3 Stephansplatz

When it comes to real estate, it's all about location, location, location. And with a front door facing the Graben, and Stephansdom within sight, Nossek has oodles of all three.

**TOP CLASSIC PENSIONEN**

Stay in any of these to sample some traditional Viennese hospitality:

- Pension am Operneck (above)
- Pension Carantania (p199)
- Pension Kraml (p199)
- Pension Nossek (above)
- Pension Riedl (p193)

Service is professional, polite, a little stiff but typically Viennese; rooms are spotless, highly adequate, generally spacious and enhanced with baroque-style furnishings; views are either of the pedestrian street below or the quiet inner courtyard. Nossek is on the fourth floor, but fortunately there's a lift.

**HOTEL WANDL** Map pp254-5 **Hotel €€**

☎ 534 55-0; [www.hotel-wandl.com](http://www.hotel-wandl.com); 01, Petersplatz 9; s/d from €60/110; ④ U1, U3 Stephansplatz  
 A family-run hotel since 1854, Wandl attracts visitors to Vienna with its superb location and wide choice of accommodation options. Many of the rooms are arranged around pretty inner courtyards and range from quite plush affairs with ornamental carpets and fancy furniture (one features historical frescoes) to stripped-back digs (but still highly adequate) with shared facilities. Period furniture, antique pieces and helpful staff fill the reception, but note that tour groups do the same on a regular basis over the summer months.

**PENSION PERTSCHY** Map pp254-5 **Pension €€**

☎ 534 49-0; [www.pertschy.com](http://www.pertschy.com); 01, Habsburgergasse 5; s/d from €90/133; U1, U3 Stephansplatz; ⑥ ⑦

It's hard to find fault with Pension Pertschy. It's quiet yet central location, just off the Graben, is hard to beat, staff are exceedingly able, willing and friendly, and children are welcomed with gusto (toys for toddlers and high chairs for tots are available). Rooms are not only spacious but also filled with a potpourri of period pieces and a rainbow of colours; you'll find one bedecked in subtle hues of pink while its neighbour is awash in yellow. A little gem in the Innere Stadt.

**AVIANO** Map pp254-5 **Pension €€**

☎ 512 83 30; [www.pertschy.com](http://www.pertschy.com); 01, Marco-d'Aviano-Gasse 1; s/d €95/136; ④ U1, U3 Stephansplatz

Like its sister pension Pertschy, Aviano earns its points for a supremely central position, high standards, and all-round value for money. Its standard rooms are small without being claustrophobic while its superior variety are exceedingly large, easily accommodating a sofa and accompanying chairs; corner rooms have a charming alcove overlooking Vienna's main pedestrian street. Furniture isn't particularly modern, but quite comfortable all the same. The

breakfast room is sunny and bright, and in summer utilises a small balcony on the inner courtyard.

**HOTEL SACHER** Map pp254-5 **Hotel €€€**

☎ 514 56-0; [www.sacher.com](http://www.sacher.com); 01, Philharmonikerstrasse 4; s/d from €242/357; ④ U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz, ⑤ D, J, 1, 2, 62, 65; ⑥ ⑦  
 Walking into the Sacher is like turning back the clocks 100 years. The reception, with its dark-wood panelling, deep red shades and heavy gold chandelier, is reminiscent of an expensive *fin-de-siècle* bordello. The smallest rooms are surprisingly large, with beds the size of small ships, while suites are truly palatial. All are fashioned with baroque furnishings and genuine 19th-century oil paintings (the hotel has the largest private oil painting collection in Austria); bathrooms are entirely modern and include bathtubs. The top floor is a high-tech spa complex, with herbal sauna, ice fountain and fitness room.

**NORTH OF HOFBURG****STYLE HOTEL** Map pp254-5 **Hotel €€€**

☎ 22 780-0; [www.stylehotel.at](http://www.stylehotel.at); 01, Herrengasse 12; r from €250; ④ U3 Herrengasse; ⑥ ⑦  
 The name is naff, but there's no denying Style Hotel is a top contender for the title



Double room at Pension Pertschy (this page)

'most fashionable hotel address' in Vienna. The contemporary interior, with overtones of Art Nouveau/Art Deco, has been meticulously designed; even the empty spaces look perfectly planned. Rooms have also been carefully designed, but with comfort in mind – here you'll find dark woods, deep reds, smooth, clean lines, beds with six pillows, and complimentary Pringles. The basement contains the fitness room where an enormous safe door is the only reminder of the building's former tenants.

## JEWISH QUARTER & AROUND

### SCHWEIZER PENSION Map pp254-5 Pension €

☎ 533 81 56; [www.schweizerpension.com](http://www.schweizerpension.com); 01, Heinrichsgasse 2; s/d from €36/58; 1, 2

Rooms at this pleasant little *Pension* are super clean and, while not flushed with the most up-to-date amenities, everything you find inside – from big, comfy beds to ornamental ceramic stoves – has a cosy, homely feel to it. The feeling of wellbeing extends to the rest of the pension; Schweizer uses energy-saving light bulbs, equips rooms with wind-up clocks, and serves bio-breakfasts. As one of the cheapest options in the city centre, the 11 rooms fill up quickly, so book ahead.

## TOP LUXURY HOTELS

Magnificently opulent, these hotels are institutions in a city filled with stand-out luxury options:

**Grand Hotel** (Map pp254-5; ☎ 515 80-8; [www.grandhotelwien.com](http://www.grandhotelwien.com); 01, Kärtner Ring 9; s/d from €320/390) – Vienna's original luxury hotel

**Hotel Bristol** (Map pp254-5; [www.westin.com/bristol](http://www.westin.com/bristol); 01, Kärtner Ring 1; r from €405) – old-world extravagance and state-of-the-art amenities

**Hotel Imperial** (see opposite) – when royalty visit Vienna, this is where they stay

**Hotel Sacher** (see p195) – baroque gem with modern conveniences

**Palais Coburg** (Map pp254-5; ☎ 518 18-0; [www.palais-coburg.com](http://www.palais-coburg.com); ste from €810) – glorious hotel with banquet rooms to rival Schönbrunn

To read extensive reviews of Vienna's luxury hotels or to book accommodation go to [www.loneplanet.com](http://www.loneplanet.com)

### HOTEL ORIENT Map pp254-5 Love Hotel €€

☎ 533 73 07; [www.hotelorient.at](http://www.hotelorient.at) in German; 01, Tiefer Graben 30; r per hr €57-85, overnight €160; 01, U1, U3 Stephansplatz

The Orient is a hotel that thrives on discreet, and not so discreet, *liaisons à deux*, and provides a playpen for the sexually adventurous. Rooms are rented by the hour (overnighting is only possible on Saturday and Sunday) – take your pick from, among others, the 'Oriental suite', the 'Roman suite' and the 'Kaiser suite'. Each has its own individual flair, character, cosy nooks and well-placed mirrors. Even if it's not your kind of thing, it's worth stopping by to gaze at the *fin-de-siècle* hallway and façade (scenes from *The Third Man* were shot here).

### HOTEL AMADEUS Map pp254-5 Hotel €€

☎ 533 87 38; [www.hotel-amadeus.at](http://www.hotel-amadeus.at); 01, Wildpretmarkt 5; s/d €90/168; 01, U1, U2 Stephansplatz

With a pleasing interior of red and white and blood-red paisley carpeting (it looks better than it sounds) throughout, Amadeus is certainly easy on the eye. The foyer looks like a 19th-century living room, with chandeliers, period furniture and a handful of po-faced portraits, and while rooms don't quite match it for style, grace and space, they still do a good job of creating a comfortable atmosphere. Bathrooms are bright, white, spotless and fitted with modern trappings.

## RINGSTRASSE

The Innere Stadt may have some beautiful hotels, but the Ringstrasse outguns it with the big boys in town – this is home to the Imperial, the Grand, the Bristol. Luxury is the mainstay here, where 'If you have to ask, you can't afford it' truly applies, but hidden amongst the grandeur are one or two options catering to most budgets.

## PARLAMENT TO SCHWARZENBERGPLATZ

### MERIDIEN Map pp254-5 Hotel €€€

☎ 588 900; [www.lemeridien.com](http://www.lemeridien.com); 01, Opernring 13; s/d from €305/345; 01, U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz, 01, D, J, 1, 2, 62, 65; 1, 2

With its sleek rooms, cutting-edge interior, contemporary art themes and hi-tech



Lobby of Meridien (opposite page)

extras, Le Meridien has set the standard for designer hotels in Vienna. The lobby, a metrosexual's haven, is a vibrant space of contemporary art installations and plenty of comings and goings, while the basement showcases local artists on a regular basis. Rooms are the epitome of Le Meridien's ART+TECH motto, featuring designer furniture, Vienna-motif glass headboards, mammoth plasma TVs and freestanding power showers. Thankfully there are also personal touches, like real coffee, ironing equipment and copies of *Henry Moore's Sheep Sketchbook* (Why? Why not?). Service is young and fresh, but always professional and helpful.

### HOTEL IMPERIAL Map pp254-5 Hotel €€€

☎ 501 10-333; [www.luxurycollection.com/imperial](http://www.luxurycollection.com/imperial); 01 Kärtner Ring 16; s/d from €469/563, royal ste from €2500; 01, U2, U4 Karlsplatz, 01, D, J, 1, 2, 62, 65; 1, 2

The Imperial – a name that makes most Viennese nod in awe and respect. This former palace, with all the glory and majesty of the Habsburg era, gives any respectable classical museum a run for its money. The Fürsten Stiege, cloaked in rich red carpet, is a flamboyant opening, leading from the

reception to the Royal suite. Suites are filled with 19th century paintings and genuine antique furniture (and come with butler service), while 4th and 5th floor rooms in Biedermeier style are far cosier and may come with balcony. Oh, and the service is world class; the morning papers are even ironed.

## SCHWARZENBERGPLATZ TO THE DANUBE CANAL

### HOTEL AM SCHUBERTRING

Map pp254-5 Hotel €€

☎ 717 02-0; [www.schubertring.at](http://www.schubertring.at); 01, Schubertring 11; s/d from €99/128; 01, U4 Stadtpark, 01, 1, 2

Of the highly sought after hotels on the Ringstrasse, Am Schubertring is the only option available to the average-Joe. Rooms are either Biedermeier or Art Nouveau; the former are characterised by floral designs and graceful lines and may look disturbingly similar to your Granny's flat, while the latter are more dynamic, with flowing lines and little flourishes. All are in very good condition. Staff are friendly while keeping a healthy professional distance and the hotel spreads itself across the upper floors of two buildings.



**RADISSON SAS PALAIS HOTEL**

Map pp254-5 Hotel €€€  
 ☎ 515 17-0; www.radissonsas.com; 01, Parkring 16; r from €220; ☎ 1, 2; ♿

A combination of two former *fin-de-siècle* palaces, Palais Leitenberger and Palais Henckel von Donnersmarck, the Radisson is a beautiful hotel on busy Ringstrasse. Rooms come in a variety of styles and colours – entire wings are decorated in vibrant floral patterns of green, red and yellow, while others are more reserved, with dark woods and light brown tones. All are clothed with understated furnishings and period pieces, and the best face the green of Stadtpark. The reception is lit by a high, glass skylight and perfect for a rejuvenating *Melange*.

**INSIDE THE GÜRTEL**

Depending on your perspective, staying inside the Gürtel (in the 3rd to 9th districts) is more preferable to overnighting in the Innere Stadt. It's less trampled by the tourist trail so advanced bookings are less of a problem, the big tourist attractions are still within easy striking distance, bars and restaurants abound, and the price could be more to your liking.

**TOP DESIGN HOTELS**

In a city noted for its architecture, it's no surprise that Vienna boasts a fine collection of design hotels, the pick of which are listed here:

**Das Triest** (right) – the hotel that planted the designer hotel seed in Vienna

**Das Tyrol** (opposite) – a lovely combination of art, comfort, and champagne

**DO & CO** (Map pp254-5; ☎ 241 88; www.doco.com; 01, Stephansplatz 12; r from €310) – the new kid on the block, with view of Stephansdom

**Le Meridien** (p196) – leading the way in interior design in the city

**Style Hotel** (p195) – Art Nouveau and Art Deco touches adorn this hotel that resides in a former bank

To read extensive reviews of Vienna's designer hotels or to book accommodation go to www.lonelyplanet.com

**LANDSTRASSE**

**HOTEL HILTON** Map pp254-5 Hotel €€€  
 ☎ 71 700-00; www.hilton.com; 03, Am Stadtpark 3; s/d €195/235; ☎ U3, U4 Landstrasse/Wien Mitte; ♿

The Hilton Vienna is the city's, if not the country's, foremost business hotel, which recently enjoyed a €61 million makeover. Rooms (all 15 floors of them) employ a combination of light-browns and creams which go easy on the eye, and management go the extra mile to add personal touches to each and every one; bathrooms sport yellow rubber duckies and cotton buds (Q-Tips), while wooden clothes hangers and sewing kits hide behind wardrobe doors. Business facilities are top notch and an extensive fitness centre hides in the basement.

**WIEDEN**

**DAS TRIEST** Map pp262-3 Hotel €€€

☎ 589 18-0; www.datriest.at; 04, Wiedner Hauptstrasse 12; s/d €200/258; ☎ 62, 65; ♿ Designed by Sir Terence Conran, Das Triest is a symbiosis of history and modern design. The 300-year-old building once used as stables has been transformed into a cutting edge hotel, with an overall nautical theme; portholes replace spyholes and windows, and stairwell railings would be just at home on the Queen Mary 2. Rooms are stylish in their simplicity and bathed in pastel warmth, while little touches, such as fresh flowers, folded toilet rolls and more towels than you'll ever need, polish the scene off. Staff are highly professional while retaining an air of informality.

**MARIAHILF**

**WESTEND CITY HOSTEL** Map pp260-1 Hostel €

☎ 597 67 29; www.westendhostel.at; 06, Fügergasse 3; s/d €47/56, 4-/6-/12-bed dm €17.50/19.50/21; ☎ U3, U6 Westbahnhof; ♿ Westend, a no-party, no-fuss independent hostel, is suited to backpackers and adventurous families looking to pay the bare minimum for a bed. Dorm rooms are basic, with wooden bunks filling almost every available space and lacking colour, but each has an attached bathroom and lockers for every guest. Staff are knowledgeable and affable, and will arrange packed lunches on request.

**PENSION KRAML** Map pp260-1 Pension €  
 ☎ 587 85 88; www.pensionkraml.at; 06, Brauergasse 5; s/d from €30/50, apt from €95; ☎ U4 Pilgramgasse, bus 13A, 57A

A cosy pension in a quiet neighbourhood, Kraml is family-run and from the 'Old-Skool' of hospitality, where politeness is paramount and the comfort of guests a top priority. Rooms are surprisingly large, accommodating twin beds, bed-side tables and a solid wardrobe, while leaving plenty of room for a close waltz. Furniture and fittings, including those in the bathroom, are a little dated but by no means past their used-by dates.

**TYROL** Map pp254-5 Hotel €€

☎ 587 54 15; www.das-tyrol.at; 06, Mariahilferstrasse 15; s/d from €109/149; ☎ U2 Museumsquartier Since its recent makeover, Das Tyrol ranks among the top design-hotels in the city. Each floor is devoted to a theme, but not always a serious one; the third floor is given over to Donald Duck and his love, Daisy. The cosy rooms are a subdued mix of greens and yellows and spacious enough to fit a small couch and desk, while bathrooms are a spotless combination of white-and-black tiling. Try for a corner room, which enjoy a small balcony overlooking busy Mariahilferstrasse. Breakfast – served with champagne – will keep you going for most of the day.

**NEUBAU**

**JUGENDHERBERGE MYRTHENGASSE** Map pp260-1 Hostel €

☎ 523 63 16; hostel@chello.at; 07, Myrthengasse 7; dm €17, tw €50; bus 48A; ♿ This well-organised HI hostel on a quiet side street has all the trappings you'd expect. Its rooms are simple affairs, with bunk beds and en-suite bathrooms, but there's a secluded inner courtyard to escape to if need be. Self-service meals (Monday to Friday) are available and knowledgeable staff are happy to take telephone reservations.

**PENSION CARANTANIA** Pension €

Map pp260-1  
 ☎ 526 73 40; www.carantania.at, in German; 07, Kandlgasse 35; s/d €65/95; ☎ U6 Burggasse-Stadthalle Carantania is a tiny, family-run pension of only six rooms with plenty of warmth

and cosy corners. Its sizable rooms are flooded with natural light and filled with a hotchpotch of furniture – some of which looks antique, some of which could do with repair – while bathrooms are the only modern corner of the pension. The reception area is pleasantly cluttered with plants, brochures and books, and the breakfast room is big enough for a banquet.

**HOTEL FÜRSTENHOF** Map pp260-1 Hotel €€

☎ 523 32 67; www.hotel-fuerstenhof.com; 07, Neubaugürtel 4; s/d from €69/110; ☎ U3, U6 Westbahnhof This family-run affair overflowing with personality has been the choice of touring alternative bands (see the reception for proof) and knowledgeable visitors for years. Rooms don't come with a lot of extras but they're in excellent condition; blood-red carpets, full-length curtains and deep colours create a warm feel and furniture is simple yet highly functional. Bathrooms are big, bright, modern, and spotlessly clean. The house dates from 1906, so ceilings are higher than normal and the lift is a museum piece (the motor thankfully isn't).

**ALTSTADT** Map pp260-1 Pension €€

☎ 522 66 66; www.altstadt.at; 07, Kirchengasse 41; s/d from €109/129; bus 13A, 48A; ♿ Charming, tasteful, quirky, arty, welcoming – Altstadt is arguably the finest pension in Vienna. Each room is individually decorated, but they all have one thing in common; tasteful modern décor that's not overcooked, and the right consistency of art, practicality, comfort, and above all, warmth. Add to this brew high ceilings, plenty of space and natural light, and you have a room you'll find hard to vacate, even for the excellent breakfast. Staff are genuinely affable and the art work is from the owner's personal collection.

**HOTEL AM SCHOTTENFELD** Hotel €€

Map pp260-1  
 ☎ 526 51 81; www.falkensteiner.com; 07, Schottenfeldgasse 74; s/d €129/164; bus 48A; ♿ Am Schottenfeld is a business hotel in suburbia with a difference. Its interior sports a contemporary design and a clash of garish colours which may or may not appeal, depending on your tastes. Rooms



## TOP CHEAP SLEEPS

- Jugendherberge Myrthengasse (p199) – quality HI hostel near the centre
- Schlossherberge am Wilhelminenberg (p202) – HI hostel with fabulous views of the city from the Wienerwald (Vienna Woods)
- Schweizer Pension (p196) – the best bargain in the Innere Stadt
- Westend City Hostel (p198) – simple and straightforward hostel with plenty of amenities
- Wombat's (opposite) – Vienna's colourful party hostel, and a taste of Down Under

are another story altogether, with soft greys, greens and creams, and plenty of natural wood. The best rooms are saved for last; *Dach* (rooftop) suites come complete with sizable balconies and are awash with natural light. Service is sharp and snappy and there's a fitness room, sauna, steam room and solarium.

**K+K MARIA THERESIA** Map pp254-5 **Hotel €€€**  
 ☎ 521 23; [www.kkhhotels.com](http://www.kkhhotels.com); 07, Kirchberggasse 6; s/d €175/230; Ⓜ U2, U3 Volkstheater; ♿  
 The interior of this smart business hotel is clean and functional with touches of personality, like oriental carpets and a half-circle bar made for barflies. Rooms are filled to overflowing with modern furnishings, including a desk for working, and a smattering of individual affects, such as chocolates on pillows and flowers in vases, help liven up the scene. The big, bright and airy top-floor suites are the hotel's highlight.

## JOSEFSTADT

**PENSION WILD** Map pp254-5 **Pension €**  
 ☎ 406 51 74; [www.pension-wild.com](http://www.pension-wild.com); 08, Lange Gasse 10; s/d from €37/45; ♿ 46  
 Wild is one of the very few openly gay-friendly pensions in Vienna, but the warm welcome extends to all walks of life. The top-floor Luxury rooms are simple yet appealing, with plenty of light-wood furniture and private bathrooms, the latter a big advantage over Wild's other two categories, Standard and Comfort. All however are spotlessly clean and kitchens are available for guests to use and abuse. Note that 'Wild' is the family name, not a description.

**LEVANTE LAUDON** Map pp258-9 **Apartments €€**  
 ☎ 407 13 70; [www.thelevante.com](http://www.thelevante.com); 08, Laudongasse 8; apt per day/week from €130/840; ♿ 43, 44  
 Stay as long as a year or as little as a day at the Levante Laudon, an apartment building catering to short-term rentals. Apartments come in two varieties – Superior and Standard. Stylish touches, like freestanding sinks, make-up mirrors, space-age coat racks and flat-screen TVs make the Superior apartments truly inviting; Standards have less panache but are just as large. Personal touches, such as fresh flowers in rooms, daily housekeeping and a complimentary self-service continental breakfast, add to an already homely atmosphere. Service is professional, prompt and lacking any pomp.

**THEATER-HOTEL** Map pp258-9 **Hotel €€**  
 ☎ 405 36 48; [www.theaterhotelwien.at](http://www.theaterhotelwien.at); 08, Josefstädter Strasse 22; s/d €184/196; ♿ J  
 For lovers of theatre, this hotel will rank among the best in Vienna. Theatre memorabilia lines the hallways, stairwells and rooms, and Art Nouveau touches hark back to the days when the stage was all the rage. Rooms are filled with dark-wood furniture and Art Nouveau picture panels, both of which are offset by pale-cream shading. Most are on the small side but a handful come with the added bonus of a small kitchen. Theatre-Hotel also has many of the facilities its more modern counterparts offer, such as sauna, solarium, bar and café-restaurant.

**HOTEL RATHAUS** Map pp258-9 **Hotel €€**  
 ☎ 400 11 22; [www.hotel-rathaus-wien.at](http://www.hotel-rathaus-wien.at); 08, Lange Gasse 13; s/d €138/198; ♿ 46  
 Rathaus is a shrine to Austrian winemakers. Each of the 33 stylish rooms in this newly

revamped boutique hotel is dedicated to a quality Austrian winemaker and the minibar is stocked with premium wines from the growers themselves. The interiors are an elegant mix of dark woods, pale yellows and personal touches (cut flowers, designer vases and the like), creating a functional and appealing setup. The hotel offers wine tastings in its designer bar and excursions to Austria's nearby wine-growing regions.

## OUTSIDE THE GÜRTEL

You won't be in the thick of things if you stay in these heavily residential outlying suburbs, but you will be amongst the Viennese, whether it is in the predominantly rich 13th and 19th districts, the working-class neighbourhoods of the 10th to 12th, or the Turkish and Balkan influenced 15th and 16th. You'll also have the advantage of close proximity to some of Vienna's larger natural attractions, the Wienerwald (Vienna Woods) and Lainzer Tiergarten, and easy escape by car to excursion destinations.

## HIETZING

### PARKHOTEL SCHÖNBRUNN

Map pp260-1 **Hotel €€**  
 ☎ 878 04-0; [www.austria-trend.at/paw](http://www.austria-trend.at/paw); 13, Hietzinger Hauptstrasse 10-20; s/d from €127/172; Ⓜ U4 Hietzing  
 Franz Josef specifically built the Parkhotel as his guesthouse in 1907 (any self-respecting Emperor needs all 1441 rooms in the palace for himself), which explains the Schönbrunn-yellow façade and ubiquitous portraits of the penultimate emperor throughout the interior. Rooms are fairly standard and reasonably spacious and come with modern furniture, twin beds and plenty natural light; balconies are attached to those facing busy Hietzinger Hauptstrasse. The hotel's four suites, which take pole position on the building's corners, are a far more interesting option.

## PENZING

**SOPHIENALPE** Map pp252-3 **Hotel €**  
 ☎ 486 24 32; [www.sophienalpe.at](http://www.sophienalpe.at); 14, Sophienalpe 13; s/d €41/67; bus 243, 443  
 This hunting lodge of sorts, with its wood trimmings and cheerful rows of flowering

pot plants, provides a taste of the Austrian countryside without having to wander too far from the capital. Rooms are one step up from basic but are more than adequate, with natural-wood furniture and large twin beds hidden under fluffy duvets and pillows; all are en suite. The restaurant, which alludes to hunting tales (both tall and short), specialises in 'wild' meats, best appreciated in the autumn months. A car is really needed to get around, and it's only open from May to November.

## RUDOLFSHEIM-FÜNFHAUS

**DO STEP INN** Map pp260-1 **Hostel €**  
 ☎ 982 33 14; [www.dostepinn.at](http://www.dostepinn.at) in German; 15, Felberstrasse 22/6; hostel s/d €32/39, hotel s/d €39/48; Ⓜ U3, U6 Westbahnhof  
 Handy to Westbahnhof and offering some of the cheapest rooms in town is Do Step Inn, a small, clean hostel/hotel. Rooms are generally bright, colourful and simple, and the hotel variety come with a private bathroom. Kitchens are available for use, and staff are quite helpful. Ten percent is added to the price if you're only staying one night.

**WOMBAT'S** Map pp260-1 **Hostel €**  
 ☎ 897 23 36; [www.wombats.at](http://www.wombats.at); 15, Grangasse 6; dm €18, r €48; ♿ 52, 58, bus 12A; ♿  
 Offering up a bit of Australian hostel vibe in the Capital of Culture, Wombat's is the choice for the savvy backpacker. The interior is a rainbow of pastel colours which immediately liven up the reception, bar, corridors and rooms, and whoever the artist was took to cubism like Castro to communism. Rooms are clean, bright and breezy but don't offer much more than a comfy bed and place to stash your gear. The bar is a big bonus, with pool tables, music and chummy pals on bar stools. Bike rental is available and staff are experienced and relaxed.

**ALTWIENERHOF** Map pp260-1 **Hotel €€**  
 ☎ 892 60 00; [www.altwienerhof.at](http://www.altwienerhof.at); 15, Herklotzgasse 6; s/d €74/119; Ⓜ U6 Gumpendorfer Strasse, ♿ 6, 18  
 Altwienerhof is a pseudo-plush family-run hotel just outside the Gürtel. Room decor harks back to a bygone era when the Orient Express was all the rage; miniature chandeliers, antique pieces, floral bed covers

and couches, and lace tablecloths all do a fine job of adding a touch of old-fashioned romance. Breakfast is taken either in the conservatory or large inner courtyard, depending on the weather.

## OTTAKRING

### SCHLOSSHERBERGE AM

**WILHELMINENBERG** Map pp252-3 **Hostel €**  
 ☎ 485 85 03700; [shb@verkehrsbuero.at](mailto:shb@verkehrsbuero.at); 16, Savoyenstrasse 2; dm from €20.50, s/d from €43/62; bus 46B, 146B; 🚏

This HI hostel in the grounds of Schloss Wilhelminenberg may be a long way from the city centre, but the glorious views of the city and easy access to the Wienerwald make up for it. Like most of Vienna's hostels, the rooms are modern with a minimum of extravagance, and include solid wooden bunk beds, attached bathrooms, individual lockers, and enough colour to take away the blandness. It's also a perfect spot for families, with a minigolf course, table tennis, a PlayStation and large meadows.

### HOTEL SCHLOSS

**WILHELMINENBERG** Map pp252-3 **Hotel €€**  
 ☎ 485 85 03-0; [www.austria-trend.at/wiw](http://www.austria-trend.at/wiw); 16, Savoyenstrasse 2; r from €120/150; bus 46B, 146B  
 Schloss Wilhelminenberg is a fully-fledged palace with unbridled views of the entire

city and a resortlike ambience. The reception and café are suitably palatial (featuring high ceilings, detailed wall- and ceiling-inlays, chandeliers) and while rooms are in contemporary style they complement rather than detract from the building's neo-imperial architecture. The standard rooms on the top floor are small but have excellent views, and the more expensive maisonette variety are unusually narrow but they do have exceptionally high ceilings and loft beds.

## DÖBLING

### LANDHAUS "FUHRGASSL-HUBER"

Map pp252-3 **Pension €€**  
 ☎ 440 30 33; [www.fuhrgassl-huber.at](http://www.fuhrgassl-huber.at); 19, Rathstrasse 24; s/d from €77/115; bus 35A

The thick, whitewashed walls, rows of flowering pot plants and creeping vines of Fuhrgassl-Huber look more suited to the valleys of Tyrol. Inside it's no different; panelled-wood ceilings are ever-present, folk art adorns the walls, ornamental carpets warm tiled floors, and staff don traditional garb. Flowery designs are the norm in the pension's cosy rooms, and the huge buffet breakfast (taken in the pension's secluded garden on warm mornings) will please the most uptight gourmet. At night, a world of *Heurigen* (wine taverns) is only a step away.

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