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TRAVEL

Vienna is the chicest city break for 2022, and Hotel Motto is the only place to stay

What do you get when you cross Parisian art-nouveau style with a tongue-in-cheek Austrian sensibility? The most stylish hotel in Vienna - all the locals think so

By Rebecca Cope
1 April 2022



THE RECEPTION Courtesy of Hotel Motto

Stepping inside Hotel Motto is in many ways like entering into a Wes Anderson filmscape: there are uniformed bellboys on the walls, stuffed cheetahs guarding the reception and exquisite parquet flooring worthy of a shoe-fie. A marble spiral staircase stands at the centre of the hotel, unravelling like a peeled orange, while old-fashioned brass elevators feature a dial that points to which floor the lift is on. The visionary behind the decor is local restaurateur Bernd Schlacher, who after cutting his teeth on a handful of wildly successful gastronomical ventures in the city, decided to open his own hotel. Inspired by his favourite place in Paris, the Petit Moulin in the trendy Marais, it is French Art Deco meets 18th century Viennese refinement, with a sprinkling of Scandinavian cool for good measure.

The Anderson aesthetic continues in the bedrooms and suites: upholstered walls in a vivid brocade of wild flowers and hummingbirds playfully conceal the loo and the wardrobe, while a curtained off shower room is tiled in vivid pastel hues. There's a cocktail area complete with elegant glassware, shaker and ice bucket, not to mention a booklet of recipe suggestions, plus coffee table tomes that would raise an eyebrow (*The Butt Book*, anyone?). The television is hidden behind a mirrored door, there's a lush velvet sofa in deep emerald, and frou-frou cushions thrown in for good measure, not to mention tasseled lampshade. Best of all are the pastries awaiting you after check-in: fresh from hotel bakery Motto Brot downstairs, we ended up with powdered sugar everywhere from the rate at which we scoffed the almond croissant.

THE BEDROOMS Courtesy of Hotel Motto

The bakery plays a starring role at breakfast in the seventh-floor Chez Bernard restaurant, with avocado on sourdough laced with harissa, chilli and lime, and pain au chocolat and croissants ready to be dunked into coffee (or try a 'trendy latte' their words, not ours, like chai or matcha with almond milk). Dinner is a buzzy affair, all dim lighting, mood music and achingly cool locals, who are either perched at the bar for a cocktail or sat on the low velvet arm chairs admiring the sky-rise views. Food is a mix of European fair and local nods, with the veal schnitzel served with zingy cranberry jam and a refreshing potato salad a must-try for any tourist. Staff wear bird-print skirts, shirts and dresses, designed by local Lena Hoschek, and will guide you towards the restaurant's hero dish, the fries with truffle and parmesan (as they rightly should).

Attracting a cool, local crowd (we didn't hear anyone that wasn't Austrian or German in the elevators) and with a slick, young team running front of house, you're well-placed to ask for recommendations about local life. You're also in the ideal spot: situated above a metro station on one of the busiest shopping streets in the city, Hotel Motto is a mere 20-minute walk from the museum quarter, the Opera House, and many other local must-sees.

CHEZ BERNARD Courtesy of Hotel Motto

One of the best recommendations we received was to score tickets to see the world-famous Lipizzaners performing at the Spanish Riding School, an unforgettable experience that harks back to Vienna's 18th century golden age of Habsburg rulers and bewigged concert performers. A trip to the Schönbrunn Palace is similarly an essential, bringing to life the glamorous world of Empress Sisi et al. Other must-dos include trying Sacher Torte, the local chocolate cake sandwiched together with apricot jam, and a visit to the Vienna Giant Ferris Wheel is always kitsch and fun.

To book, visit hotelmotto.at

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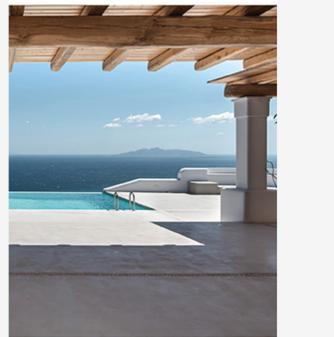


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