The MONOCLE Travel Guide Series 12

Vienna

Need to know
H Hotels
F Food and drink
R Retail
E Essays
C Culture
D Design and architecture
S Sport and fitness
W Walks
I Index

Ateliers. Furniture. Antiques — Coffeehouses. Markets. Bars — Music. Art. Museums.

... Servus! Waltz with us through the city's outposts of good food, design, retail and more. Prost! ...

Hotels
At home in Vienna

The Viennese do five-star stays in a grand manner that few cities can compete with but the time-tested swank and ceremony aren't all the Austrian capital has to offer. A clutch of sprightly independents has opened in recent years to challenge the more traditional options and created a diversity of dwellings that belie the city's diminutive size and conservative image.

From a townhouse in Neubau and a towering bank and converted shopfronts (now apartments) to a former brothel, new spaces are opening that are bolstering Vienna's hotel scene. Read on for our survey of the fluffiest pillows and bounciest beds in the Austrian capital.

1 Grand Ferdinand, Innere Stadt (1st)
Elegant restraint

The stately Grand Ferdinand is a tasteful gear change from the team behind Hotel Daniel (*see opposite page*), who specialise in design-minded accommodation where the frills are optional. This hotel opened in October 2015 after a careful year-and-a-half refit of the 1950s building. As you enter, the first thing that greets you is a Viennese 18-candle crystal chandelier from glass specialist J & L Lobmeyr.

But this is where the stuffy ceremony ends. The reception and lobby are spare but homely – and patrolled by attentive staff. Hang left for a 200-seat restaurant dotted with wooden Thonet chairs, ruby-red leather booths and accents. Upstairs there are 188 well-appointed rooms – none carpeted, most spacious and simple – and up top there's a bright eighth-floor terrace (guests only, mind). It's perched on the southeastern stretch of the Ringstrasse so expect views to the city's east and north towards the twinkling Donaukanal. An attractive cocktail crowd forms come nightfall.

10-12 Schubertring, 1010
+43 (0)1 91 880 400
grandferdinand.com

MONOCLE COMMENT: The Viennese tend not to frequent hotels as they do restaurants or bars but the tall windows that showcase the hotel's inviting restaurant to the street outside may change this.

Wheely good time

Guests can hire one of the hotel's vehicles – choose from either a sporty Maserati Quattroporte or a 1964 Jaguar. The Jaguar once belonged to Dr Hans Lauda – grandfather of Austrian Formula One world champion Niki Lauda – whose company formerly occupied the building.

High life
A guest-only roof terrace offers great views

2 Hotel Daniel, Landstrasse (3rd)
Contemporary class

Hotel Daniel is unerringly cool. Cue smart modern suites, a bakery serving honey produced on-site and apples from the garden, and hammocks in several of the 116 rooms.

The hotel is itself a landmark; it was built in 1962 by architect Georg Lippert, who also created the Daniel's sibling hotel in Graz (a happy coincidence only discovered by owner Florian Weitzer after the purchase).

The magnificent Belvedere Museum and its Gustav Klimt collection is within strolling distance, as is the 21er Haus with its contemporary exhibitions. If you prefer wheel-powered transport, the hotel has bicycles and Vespas for hire.

5 Landstrasser Gürtel, 1030
+43 (0)1 901 310
hoteldaniel.com

MONOCLE COMMENT: If you're feeling adventurous there's a 1950s Silver Creek Clipper van – with a full-size bed and freestanding tub – in the garden.