

GRAND FERDINAND

The unique Grande Suite.

A space designed by Florian Weitzer that borrows from history but charms in the here and now.

Beautiful and grand were the criteria Florian Weitzer set for himself when designing the largest suite at the Grand Ferdinand. The head of Weitzer Hotels instinctively adheres to the style ideal that is reflected in all of the 186 rooms and three restaurants at the Grand Ferdinand. Unique high-quality elements are combined to create a harmonious overall look. The Grande Suite at the Ferdinand tops off this exquisite design with direct access to the hotel's rooftop restaurant and pool as well as a blend of historic Ringstraße elegance and beautiful details. The result is a collection of creative beauty, which - unlike a typical grande suite - is not pretentiously overwrought.

The Grande Suite provides guests with a special luxury: exclusive access to the hotel's roof. A private stairway leads up to the pool overlooking the city's rooftops and to the Grand Étage restaurant, where guests can treat themselves to a culinary experience. The Private Dining Club on the Grand Étage borrows from the private salons in vogue at the end of the 19th century and is open to hotel guests, their guests and guests with a special club membership. But if that's not private enough, guests can of course retreat to the Grande Suite's terrace, where the view of the Ferris wheel, St Charles's Church and many other sights is just as splendid. Perhaps the best place to take in the view of the Ringstraße is from the free-standing Art Nouveau cast-iron bath tub. The grey terrazzo flooring in the bathroom area, paired with a white antique vanity and cart, continues the elegant light and dark colour concept used throughout the living and sleeping area of the Grande Suite. At 100 m² and featuring a walk-in closet, king-size bed and two toilets, the Grande Suite already earns its name, but it outdoes itself with even more special decorative details.

Borrowing from the Ringstraße era, when round sofas and exotic palm trees were all the rage, the living area of the Grande Suite paints a similar picture. Metre-high live plants in giant, hand-decorated clay pots circle a rich green velvet sofa. A blue and white curtain depicting nature scenes – a reproduction of Toile de Jouy developed in France in the 19th century – expertly conceals the modern flat-screen television behind it. This picture of glamorous living is rounded out by a nearly ninety-year-old Oriental rug, whose construction is so elaborate (there are over 400,000 knots per m²) that it was reserved for royalty and nobility. As is typical of Florian Weitzer’s designs, surprising details interrupt any excessive opulence. In this case, taxidermied parrots have been purchased from Maison Deyrolle, a cabinet of curiosities, in Paris. Housed in cages or perched around the room, the birds complete the dream-like world of the Grande Suite. And speaking of dreams, the Biedermeier chaise longue in front of the bed in the Grande Suite recalls Sigmund Freud’s famous couch. Incidentally, his apartment and office on Berggasse are just three kilometres away from the Schubertring.

Just as Austrian elements serve as focal points at the Grand Ferdinand as a whole, the Grande Suite wouldn’t be complete without pieces from traditional Austrian companies. Guests have an excellent view of a magnificent Lobmeyr chandelier from the bed, while another chandelier hangs above the bath tub. In all of his borrowing of elegance from years past, Florian Weitzer hasn’t forgotten the 1950s, the era when the building at Schubertring 10-12 re-emerged after suffering damage during the war. Glass-brick shower enclosures and ceramic light switches recall this decade. Design classics, such as the leather-framed mirror by Gubi in the style of Jacques Adnet and the cross-generational cult lamp from Arco by Flos, are interspersed throughout the Grande Suite. All of these special details make the Grande Suite a place full of beauty but without the pomp, at an exquisite address – Vienna’s Ringstraße.

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*The pleasure is all
mine, Grand Ferdinand.*