

Drinking

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Drinking

The pleasure of drinking in Vienna is variety. Wine, beer and coffee all have their special place in the hearts and minds of the Viennese, and exude a strong influence on the cultural make-up of the city.

Vienna has a strong claim to the 'Coffee Capital of the World' title. Its *Kaffeehäuser* (coffee houses) are as famous as the city's classical music heritage, and an attraction in their own right. The sheer number of coffee houses is staggering, but each has its own flair and flavour, and a trip to Vienna would be incomplete without sampling their unique ambience.

Wine is most beloved by the Viennese and outweighs beer in the consumption stakes. Seven sq km of vineyards lie within Vienna's borders, making it the world's largest wine-growing city. *Heurigen*, the city's equivalent of a wine taverns, are rustic establishments on the outskirts of the city where 'new' wine (normally only a year old) is served to eager patrons on warm summer evenings.

The bar scene, where much of the city's beer disappears down parched throats, is small but highly accommodating. Whether you're looking for a family-friendly microbrewery or grunged-up student hang-out, Vienna can supply. The distinction between bar and restaurant, and bar and club, is often blurred however. Don't dismiss a place because of the label above the door: many restaurants are just as good for a night out as the bars listed here.

While normal precautions should be taken when heading out for the night, it's good to remember Vienna is a very safe city. For information on the best sources for listings in the city, see the Entertainment chapter (p162).

COFFEE HOUSES

Vienna's coffee houses are legendary. As much a part of Viennese life as football is in Britain and BBQs are in Australia, they are places to halt a busy schedule, order a coffee, cake, or full meal, and replenish the system.

Coffee houses have for centuries graced Vienna's alleyways. Legend has it that coffee

beans were left behind by the fleeing Turks in 1683, and by 1685 the first house had opened, at 01, Rotenturmstrasse 14. However their popularity didn't take hold until the end of the 19th century; by this time there were a reputed 600 cafés in business. The tradition has waned over the years, but only slightly; the Viennese still love their coffee rituals and their coffee houses.

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MORE THAN JUST COFFEE

Ordering with 'a coffee, please' won't go down well in most coffee houses. A quick glance at a menu will uncover an unfathomable list of coffee choices, and a little time studying the options is advisable. A good coffee house will serve the cup of java on a silver platter accompanied by a glass of water and a small sweet.

The general selection of coffee includes:

- *Brauner* – black but served with a tiny splash of milk; comes in *Gross* (large) or *Klein* (small)
- *Einspänner* – with whipped cream, served in a glass
- *Fiaker* – *Verlängerter* (see below) with rum and whipped cream
- *Kapuziner* – with a little milk and perhaps a sprinkling of grated chocolate
- *Maria Theresia* – with orange liqueur and whipped cream
- *Masagran* (or *Mazagran*) – cold coffee with ice and maraschino liqueur
- *Melange* – the Viennese classic; served with milk, and maybe whipped cream too, similar to the cappuccino
- *Mocca* (sometimes spelled *Mokka*) or *Schwarzer* – black coffee
- *Pharisäer* – strong *Mocca* topped with whipped cream, served with a glass of rum
- *Türkische* – comes in a copper pot with coffee grounds and sugar
- *Verlängerter* – *Brauner* weakened with hot water
- *Wiener Eiskaffee* – cold coffee with vanilla ice cream and whipped cream

The traditional coffee house comes in a number of guises; the grand affairs of the 19th-century – Café Central and Café Griensteidl – share the streets with *Jugendstil* delights, like Café Sperl, and post-WWII establishments, such as Café Prückel and Café Bräunerhof. *Konditoreien*, cake shops with seating and invariably an older clientele, are also commonplace; Aida is a classic example. Starbucks has recently had the gall to enter Vienna's already overcrowded coffee scene, but of the 35 planned sites, so far only seven have opened.

No matter the decor, the environment is the same – paused. Nothing moves fast in a coffee house, not even the clouds of smoke hanging in no-mans'-land. Patrons are encouraged to devour newspapers and magazines, including international titles, at their leisure, and pressure to order a second cup is non-existent. Waiters command their own genus; arrogant and scolding one minute (especially if your mobile phone goes off), courteous the next, they are annoyingly charming in their peculiar way of going about their business.

INNERE STADT

AIDA Map pp254-5

☎ 512 29 77; 01, Stock-im-Eisen-Platz 2; 11 7am-8pm Mon-Sat, 9am-8pm Sun; 12 U1, U3 Stephansplatz
An icon of the *Konditorei* scene, Aida is a time warp for coffee lovers. Its pink and brown colour scheme – right down to the waitresses' socks – matches the 1950s retro

decor (all genuine of course) perfectly, and most of the clientele are well into retirement. Order a *Melange* and a slice of cake (there are almost 30 to choose from) and head upstairs to spy on the activity on Kärntner Strasse. Twenty-six such gems are scattered throughout Vienna.

Café Bräunerhof Map pp254-5

☎ 512 38 93; 01, Stallburggasse 2; 11 8am-9pm Mon-Fri, 8am-7pm Sat, 10am-7pm Sun; bus 2A, 3A
Bräunerhof is an authentic coffee house of some standing amongst *Kaffeehäuser* aficionados. It remains little changed from the days when Austria's seminal writer Thomas Bernhard frequented the premises; smoke-stained walls, tight tables, surly staff, and a huge newspaper selection. Classical music from the Bräunerhof features 3pm to 6pm on weekends and holidays.

Café Central Map pp254-5

☎ 533 37 6426; 01, Herrengasse 14; 11 8am-10pm Mon-Sat, 8am-7pm Sun; 12 U3 Herrengasse
Grand Central has a rich history – Trotsky came here to play chess, and turn-of-the-century literary greats like Karl Kraus and Hermann Bahr regularly met for coffee. Its impressive interior of marble pillars, arched ceilings and glittering chandeliers now plays host to tourists rather than locals, but it's worth stopping in for a look. There's live classical music from 4pm to 7pm Monday to Saturday and noon to 5pm Sunday, and the plaster patron with the walrus mous-

tache near the door is a model of the poet Peter Altenberg.

CAFÉ ENGLÄNDER Map pp254-5

☎ 966 86 65; 01, Postgasse 2; 11 8am-1am Mon-Sat, 10-1am Sun; 12 U3 Stubentor
Attracting the rich and the famous, Engländer is no classic *Kaffeehaus*, but rather a modern edifice with a discerning air and top wine and a contemporary take on Viennese cuisine. Its service and coffee are of the highest standard.

CAFÉ GRIENSTEIDL Map pp254-5

☎ 535 26 92; 01, Michaelerplatz 2; 11 8am-11.30pm; U3 Herrergasse, bus 2A, 3A
Griensteidl holds a prestigious position between the Hofburg and the Loos Haus, and was once the *Stammlokal* (local haunt) for Vienna's late-19th century literary set. It now caters mainly to tourists, but it still attracts with its *Jugendstil* lamps, wooden chairs and tables, and huge windows overlooking the comings and goings on Michaelerplatz.

CAFÉ HAWELKA Map pp254-5

☎ 512 82 30; 01, Dorotheergasse 6; 11 8am-2am Mon & Wed-Sat, 4pm-2am Sun; 12 U1, U3 Stephansplatz

At first glance it's hard to see what all the fuss is about: dirty pictures, ripped posters, brown-stained walls, smoky air and cramped tables don't look too appealing. But a second glance explains it – the convivial vibe between friends and complete strangers. A traditional haunt for artists and writers, it attracts the gamut of Viennese society. You'll be constantly shunted up to accommodate new arrivals at the table. Be warned: the organising elderly Frau seizes any momentarily vacant chair (curtail your toilet visits!) to reassign elsewhere.

CAFÉ SACHER Map pp254-5

☎ 541 56-0; 01, Philharmonikerstrasse 4; Sacher Torte around €3; 11 8am-midnight; 12 U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz, j D, J, 1, 2, 62, 65
Sacher is the café every second tourist wants to visit. Why? Because of the celebrated *Sacher Torte*, a rich chocolate cake with apricot jam once favoured by Emperor Franz Josef. Truth be told, as cafés go Sacher doesn't rate highly for authenticity, but it pleases the masses with its opulent furnishings, battalion of waiters, and air of

nobility. The newly revamped section on Kärntner Strasse has at least brought some of the Sacher into the 21st century.

CAFÉ TIROLERHOF Map pp254-5

☎ 512 78 33; 01, Führichgasse 8; 11 7am-10pm Mon-Sat, 9.30am-8pm Sun; bus 3A
A lovingly renovated *Jugendstil* décor from the 1920s and homemade *Apfelstrudel* (apple strudel) help to make Tirolerhof an inviting Innere Stadt choice. Service is less tart than at other traditional coffee houses, and the location directly opposite the Albertina (p63) is a bonus.

DEMEL Map pp254-5

☎ 535 17 17; 01, Kohlmarkt 14; 11 10am-7pm; bus 2A, 3A
An elegant and regal café within sight of the Hofburg, Demel was once the talk of the town but now mainly caters to tourists. The quality of the cakes hasn't dropped however, and it wins marks for the sheer creativity of its sweets – its window displays an ever-changing array of edible art pieces (ballerinas and manicured bonsai for example). Demel's speciality is the *Ana Demel Torte*, a calorie-bomb of chocolate and nougat which rivals Café Sacher's *Torte*.

DIGLAS Map pp254-5

☎ 512 57 65; 01, Wollzeile 10; light meals €6-13; 11 7am-midnight; U1, U3 Stephansplatz, bus 1A
Diglas comes straight from the classic coffee house mould, with swanky red velvet booths, sharp-tongued waiters, extensive (and good) coffee range, and old dames dressed to the 9s. The reputation of Diglas' cakes precedes itself; some argue they're the best in town and the *Apfelstrudel* is unrivalled. Meals are delicate and more like snacks, but extend beyond the normal Viennese specialities to include a variety of Hungarian dishes. Live piano music fills Diglas from 8pm to 11pm every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

HAAS & HAAS Map pp254-5

☎ 512 26 66; 01, Stephansplatz 4; 11 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 8am-6.30pm Sat; 12 U1, U3 Stephansplatz, bus 1A
The fragrance of tea from around the world greets customers on entry to Haas & Hass, Vienna's prime teahouse. Green, herbal, aromatic, Assam, Ceylon, Darjeeling; the

selection seems endless. The rear garden is a shaded retreat from the wind, rain, sun and tourist bustle, while the front parlour sports comfy cushioned booths and views of Stephansdom.

KLEINES CAFÉ Map pp254-5

01, Franziskanerplatz 3; 11 10am-2am Mon-Sat, 1pm-2am Sun; 12 U1, U3 Stephansplatz
Designed by architect Hermann Czech in the 1970s, the Kleines Café exudes a bohemian atmosphere reminiscent of Vienna's heady *Jugendstil* days. It's tiny inside, but the wonderful summer outdoor seating on Franziskanerplatz is arguably the best in the Innere Stadt.

RINGSTRASSE

CAFÉ LANDTMANN Map pp254-5

☎ 241 00; 01, Dr-Karl-Lueger-Ring 4; midday menus €9.60, mains €12-17; 11 7.30am-midnight; 12 U2 Schottentor, j 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44
Landtmann attracts both politicians and theatre-goers with its elegant interior and close proximity to the Burgtheater, Rathaus, and Parlament. The list of coffee specialities is formidable and the dessert menu features classics like the *Sacher Torte* and *Apfelstrudel*. There's a huge selection of Austrian and international papers, and live piano music from 8pm to 10pm on Sunday.

CAFÉ PRÜCKEL Map pp254-5

☎ 512 61 15; 01, Stubenring 24; 11 8.30am-10pm; 12 U3 Stubentor, j 1, 2
Prückel's unique mould is a little different from other Viennese cafés: instead of a sumptuous interior, it features an intact 1950s design. Intimate booths, aloof waiters, strong coffee and diet-destroying cakes are all attractions, but the smoke can at times be bothersome; thankfully there's a nonsmoking room at the rear. Live piano music is offered 7pm to 10pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

X-CELSIOR CAFFÉ-BAR Map pp254-5

☎ 585 71 84; 01, Opernring 1; 11 7am-midnight; 12 U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz, j D, J, 1, 2, 62, 65
Modern, styled, and devoid of *Melange* and strudel, X-Celsior is part of the new generation of cafés in Vienna. Espressos and cappuccino form the basis of the coffee menu at this Italian-chain café, and nibbles

like panini, ciabatta and bruschetta fill the menu. Its large bay windows overlook the Staatsoper and busy Karlsplatz.

INSIDE THE GÜRTEL

CAFÉ DRECHSLER Map pp254-5

☎ 587 85 80; 06, Linke Wienzeile 22; 12 U4 Kettenbrückengasse
Drechsler is closed for renovation but its reopening in the imminent future is eagerly awaited by insomniacs in search of breakfast or *Gulasch* (goulash) before sunrise.

CAFÉ FLORIANIHOFF Map pp258-9

☎ 402 48 42; 08, Florianigasse 45; 11 8am-midnight Mon-Fri, 10am-8pm Sat & Sun; j 5, 33
This child-friendly café in Josefstadt serves food heavily laden with organic produce and a remarkable array of fruit juices. Paintings by local artists add a splash of colour to the clean white walls, and in summer the streetside seating fills quickly. There's free internet access with the purchase of a drink.

CAFÉ HUMMEL Map pp258-9

☎ 405 53 14; 08, Josefstädter Strasse 66; 11 7am-12.30pm Mon-Sat, 8am-12.30pm Sun; j 5, 33, J
Unpretentious and classic, Hummel is a large *Kaffeehaus* catering to a regular Josefstadt crowd. The coffee is rich, the cakes baked on the premises, and the waiters typically snobbish. In summer, it's easy to spend a few hours at Hummel's outdoor seating area, mulling over the international papers and watching the human traffic on Josefstädter Strasse.

CAFÉ RÜDIGERHOF Map pp258-9

☎ 586 31 38; 05, Hamburgerstrasse 20; 11 9am-2am; 12 U4 Kettenbrückengasse
Rüdigerhof's façade is a glorious example of *Jugendstil* architecture, and the furniture and fittings inside could be straight out of an *I Love Lucy* set. The atmosphere is homely and familiar and the terrace huge and shaded. On Saturday mornings it fills up quickly with Naschmarkt shoppers.

CAFÉ SPERL Map pp254-5

☎ 586 41 58; 06, Gumpendorfer Strasse 11; 11 7am-11pm Mon-Sat, 11am-8pm Sun (closed Sun in summer); bus 57A
With its gorgeous *Jugendstil* fittings, grand dimensions, cosy booths and unhurried air, Sperl is one of the finest coffee houses in

Vienna. And that's to say nothing of a menu that features *Sperl Torte* – a mouth-watering mix of almonds and chocolate cream. Grab a slice and a newspaper, order a strong coffee, and join the rest of the patrons people watching and day-dreaming.

CANETTI Map pp260-1

☎ 522 06 88; 07, Urban-Loritz-Platz 2A; h 9am-midnight Mon-Sat; b U6 Burggasse/Stadthalle, j 6, 18

Canetti is one of only a handful of eateries in Vienna with rooftop views. Perched on top of the Bücherei Wien (p91), its vantage point provides a sweeping vista of Vienna to the south. The Viennese dishes can be hit-or-miss unfortunately, but it's a fine place for a quiet coffee or something stronger.

OUTSIDE THE GÜRTEL

CAFÉ GLORIETTE Map pp260-1

☎ 879 13 11; 13, Gloriette; h 9am-1am; b U4 Schönbrunn, Hietzing

Café Gloriette occupies the Gloriette, a neo-classical construction high on a hill behind Schloss Schönbrunn, built for the pleasure of Maria Theresa in 1775. With sweeping views of the Schloss, its magnificent gardens and the districts to the north, Gloriette has arguably one of the best vistas in all of Vienna. And it's a welcome pit stop after the short but sharp climb up the hill.

SCHAUKASTEN Map pp258-9

16, Brunnengasse, cnr Grundsteingasse; h 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm Sat Apr-Oct; j J
A new concept on Brunnenmarkt, Schaukasten is a tiny container with excellent Italian coffee and a fresh menu daily. It's a delight to watch the market's comings and goings from one of the three small tables occupying the roof space, but if they're full, a pew at the ground-level bar is almost as good.

HEURINGEN

Like *Beisl*n (beer houses) and *Kaffeehäuser*, *Heurigen* are an integral part of Vienna's cultural and culinary scene. These simple establishments date back to the Middle Ages, but it was Joseph II in 1784 who first officially granted producers the right to sell their wine directly from their own premises. It proved to be one of his more enduring

reforms and *Heurigen* have since become a permanent fixture in the city.

Heurigen can normally be identified by a *Busch'n* (green wreath or branch) hanging over the door. Decor is normally rustic, with basic wooden tables and benches, and a large garden or inner courtyard. Food is served buffet-style; roast pork, blood sausage, pickled vegetables, potato salad and strudel are the mainstay of *Heurigen* cuisine. Don't pass over the chance to try *Schwarz Wurzel Salat* (black root salad) and *Senf Gürk*e (mustard gherkins) which taste spectacularly better than they sound. Wine, the most important feature of any *Heuriger*, is traditionally made by the owner and is usually only a year old, quite tart, and best when mixed with soda water. *Sturm* (literally 'storm' for its cloudy appearance and chaotic effects on drinkers), fermenting grape juice with a high alcohol content and deceptively sweet, nonlethal taste, is available from around early September to the middle of October. *Buschenshank* are a variation on *Heurigen* and only exist in the countryside bordering the city; open a few weeks of the year (normally in September), they are family-run and offer a small selection of food and wine. *Stadtheurigen* reside in the city's urban confluence and are either very basic affairs with tiny inner courtyards or multileveled cellars.

Heurigen are concentrated in and around Vienna's wine-growing regions. In the north, Grinzing has the largest concentration, but most cater to tour groups with kitsch live music and pseudo folk art and are often beyond the pale. Nearby Neustift am Walde is slowly going the way of Grinzing, while Sievering, squeezed between the two, still retains an air of authenticity. Old-worldly Nussdorf has a string of inviting *Heurigen* that cater to a healthy number of regulars, and elevated Kahlenberg is harder to get to but the views make it worth the effort.

Most *Heurigen* to the west in Ottakring are within the city's built-up area, but offer excellent views and peaceful gardens. Mauer, a small suburb in the southwest reaches of the city, contains a tiny pocket of traditional *Heurigen*; Maurer Lange Gasse is a good place to start hunting.

To the north across the Danube the neighbourhoods of Strebersdorf and Stammersdorf produce around 30% of the city's wine, making it Vienna's largest wine-growing district. The *Heurigen* here are far more traditional, and less frequented by tourists.



Radishes, Liptauer dip, bread and wine at Sirbu (this page)

KAHLENBERG

HIRT Map pp252-3

☎ 318 96 41; 19, Eisernenhandgasse 165; h 3pm until late Wed-Fri, from noon Sat & Sun Apr-Oct, noon until late Fri-Sun Nov-Mar; bus 38A
Hidden among the vineyards on the eastern slopes of Kahlenberg, Hirt is a simple *Heuriger* with few frills. Basic wooden tables, a small buffet and marginal service all help to create a traditional atmosphere, while views of Kahlenbergdorf and the 21st district across the Danube are a pleasure to enjoy over a few glasses of wine in the early evening. Hirt is best approached from the top of Kahlenberg; see the Walking & Cycling Tours chapter (p111).

SIRBU Map pp252-3

☎ 320 59 28; 19, Kahlenberger Strasse 210; h 3pm-midnight Mon-Sat, mid-Apr-mid-Oct; bus 38A
Like Hirt, Sirbu has far-reaching views across Vienna's urban expanse from its quiet spot among the vineyards of Kahlenberg. Its wines have reached the pinnacle of Austrian success in recent years, and its garden is the perfect place to while away a sunny afternoon. Sirbu features in the Kahlenberg to Nussdorf walk (p111).

NUSSDORF

MAYER AM PFARRPLATZ Map pp252-3

☎ 370 12 87; 19, Pfarrplatz 2; h 4pm-midnight Mon-Sat, from 11am Sun; bus 38A
Fifteen minutes' walk from U4 Heiligenstadt U-Bahn station, Mayer caters to tour groups but still manages to retain an air of authenticity, helped along by its peaceful ambience, vine-covered surrounds and history (Beethoven lived here in 1817). The huge shaded garden towards the rear includes a children's play area, and there's live music from 7pm to midnight daily.

GRINZING

REINPRECHT Map pp252-3

☎ 320 14 71; 19, Cobenzlgasse 22; h 3.30pm-midnight mid-Feb-mid-Dec; bus 38A
Located in the heart of Grinzing, Reinprecht shines bright amongst the dull *Heurigen* in these parts. It still caters to the masses with its huge garden, enormous buffet and live music, but quality reigns throughout – it won the 2005 wine grower of the year award and features some of the best wine in the city. Check out the cork collection; at 3500 pieces, it's the largest in Europe.

WEINGUT AM REISENBERG Map pp252-3
% 320 93 93; 19, Oberer Reisenbergweg 15;
h 5pm-midnight Mon-Fri, 1pm-midnight Sat & Sun
May-Sep, 6pm-midnight Wed-Sat Oct-Dec; bus 38A
A thoroughly modern premises with
huge windows and a styled, brick interior,
Weingut am Reisenberg is part of the new
generation of *Heurigen*. Instead of the
traditional Austrian buffet, Italian cuisine
and vegetarian dishes are offered, and best
enjoyed in its green garden overlooking
the expanse of Vienna. It's a good 10-
minute walk up a steep hill just north of
Grinzing village, first up Cobenzlgasse and
then Oberer Reisenbergweg; another 20
minutes further up Obere Reisenbergweg is
Cobenzl, where you'll find a café and even
better views of Vienna.

ZAWODSKY Map pp252-3
% 320 79 78; 19, Reinischgasse 3; h 5pm-mid-
night Mon & Wed-Fri, 2pm-midnight Sat & Sun
Mar-mid-Sep; j 38
Zawodsky is only a 15-minute walk from
the touristy haunts of Grinzing, yet light
years away in atmosphere. This stripped-

back setup features picnic tables sur-
rounded by apple trees and vineyards, and
a small selection of hot and cold meats
complemented by various salads. From
Grinzing, walk up Strassergasse, take tiny
Rosenweg on your left past the Maria
Schmerzen Kirche and Reinischgasse ap-
pears on your right.

STAMMERSDORF & STREBERSDORF ECKERT

% 292 25 96; 21, Strebersdorfer Strasse 158;
h from 2pm daily every odd month; j 26
Located in the heart of Strebersdorf, a
10-minute walk from the tram 26 terminus
(walk north on Russberg Strasse and right
at Strebersdorfer Platz), Eckert is a cross
between a traditional establishment and an
arts centre. Paintings by local artists adorn
walls, live music features once a month
(anything from jazz to rock and roll) and
readings are common. Tours of the wine
cellars are offered, and kids generally get
the run of the place.

GÖBEL

One of the few highly original *Heurigen* in Vienna is Göbel (% 294 84 20; 21, Stammersdorfer Kellergasse 151; h changes with the seasons; bus 228, 233), the creation of owner Peter Göbel. Combining his significant talent at both wine making and architectural design, Peter has fashioned a *Heuriger* that not only delivers quality produce (80% of his wine is red, some of which are among the best in Vienna) but also provides a traditional atmosphere amongst stylishly clean lines and a strong natural-wood finish. Peter has been responsible for the family's wine making since 1991 and Göbel since 1996, but the business is in his blood, three generations in fact. We asked him for his learned opinion on Vienna's *Heuriger* scene.

'Viennese people like *Heurigen* because not much changes. The attraction will always be a garden, a courtyard, a food-buffet, and wine from a local vineyard. *Heurigen* to the Viennese means spare time, weekends, recreation, a family outing – or sometimes simply a quick stop for a glass of wine.

'With an increase in restaurant choice and open-air events in the city, the attraction of a traditional *Heuriger* has waned. Accordingly, the *Heuriger* culture has begun to adapt and now tries to go with the flow – food specials are offered, and information is available on the internet. Nevertheless, traditional establishments still exist, and variations on the old *Heuriger* theme continue to open.

'When you go to a *Heuriger*, my advice is to drink everything, particularly the mixed varieties. Vienna has the advantage of diverse soils and a microclimate, which means a lot of varieties coexist, and every wine maker has special rarities, so it's best to ask. Eat anything that looks great – that's the advantage of a buffet – and what you're not familiar with. This is half the adventure.

'My favourite wine from my own production is the Alte Reben Zweigelt. It corresponds with my idea of a Viennese wine – not international, very autonomous, at the beginning quite distant and complicated, but with time and understanding for its qualities, a very personal wine. I also enjoy Grüner Veltliner from the Wachau and Kamptal (the Danube Valley).

'To experience traditional *Heurigen*, either visit places recommended here or drive to one of the wine areas on the city border and drop into every place that has a *Busch'n* hanging from its door. At the latter you should have no expectations of quality, just take it as it comes.'

SCHMIDT

% 292 66 88; 21, Stammersdorfer Strasse 105;
h 3pm-midnight Thu-Sun, closed Jul; j 31, bus
30A

A well-established Stammersdorf *Heuriger*, Schmidt stocks wonderful Muskateller and Grüner Veltliner and offers wine tastings of local vintages. In November, around the birthday of St Martin, you can also sample the traditional *Martinigansl* (goose). Schmidt is a few minutes' walk northwest of the tram 31 terminus, and the same distance southeast of the bus 30A terminus.

WEINGUT SCHILLING

% 292 41 89; 21, Langenzersdorferstrasse 54;
h 4pm-midnight Mon-Fri, from 3pm Sat & Sun
even months; j 26

With the spread of vineyards rising over Bisamberg hill in full view from its large garden, Schilling attracts many on warm evenings. It's reputation for quality wine also helps its popularity ranking and tours of the wine cellar are available for those who ask nicely. Schilling is a 15-minute walk from the final destination of tram 26; walk north along Russbergstrasse to Langenzersdorferstrasse and then west for a short distance.

WIENINGER

% 292 41 06; 21, Stammersdorfer Strasse 78;
h 3pm-midnight Wed-Fri, from noon Sat & Sun
Mar-mid-Jul & mid-Aug-Dec; j 31, bus 30A
Bus 30A stops a few minutes' walk east of
Wieninger, a family-run *Heuriger* in central
Stammersdorf. The food buffet, which
features organic produce and a healthy
smattering of vegetarian options, is exten-
sive, the wine from its own vineyard fruity
and light, and the atmosphere local and
relaxed. Cellar tours are also offered.

MAUER

ZAHEL Map pp252-3
% 889 13 18; 23, Maurer Hauptplatz 9; h 3pm-
midnight Tue-Sun; tram 60, bus 60A
One of the oldest *Heurigen* in Vienna, Zahel
occupies a 250 year-old farmer's house on
Maurer Hauptplatz. The buffet is laden with
Viennese and seasonal cuisine and wine is
for sale to take home. It sometimes closes for
weeks at a time; if so, head two blocks south
to Maurer Lange Gasse for more options.

STADTHEURIGEN

WEINSTUBE JOSEFSTADT Map pp258-9
% 406 46 28; 08, Piaristengasse 27; h 4pm-mid-
night, closed Jan-Mar; bus 13A
Weinstube Josefstadt is one the loveliest
Stadtheurigen in the city. Its garden is
a barely controlled green oasis amongst
concrete residential blocks, and tables are
squeezed in between the trees and shrubs.
Food is typical, with a buffet-style selection
and plenty of cheap meats (chicken wings go
for only €1). The friendly, well-liquored locals
come free of charge. The location is not well
sign-posted; the only sign of its existence is a
metal *Buschel* hanging from a doorway.

ESTERHÁZYKELLER

Map pp254-5
% 533 34 82; 01, Haarhof 1; h 11am-11pm Mon-
Fri, 4-11pm Sat & Sun; b U3 Herrengasse, bus 1A
Esterházykeller is tucked away on a quiet
courtyard just off Kohlmarkt. Its enormous
cellar is a tad claustrophobic, but after a
few glasses of excellent wine, direct from
the Esterházy Palace cellar in Eisenstadt, no
one seems to mind. The rustic decor, com-
plete with medieval weaponry and farming
tools, reeks of kitsch, but the individual
wooden booths are its saving grace. Unlike
most *Heurigen*, beer is offered.

ZWÖLF APOSTELKELLER

Map pp254-5
% 512 67 77; 01, Sonnenfelsgasse 3; h 4.30pm-
midnight; U1, U3 Stephansplatz, bus 1A
Even though Zwölf Apostelkeller (Twelve
Apostle Cellar) plays it up for the tour-
ists, it still retains plenty of charm, dignity
and authenticity. This is mostly due to the
premises themselves: a vast, dimly lit mul-
tilevel cellar. The atmosphere is often lively
and rowdy, helped along by traditional *Heu-
riger* music from 7pm Wednesday to Friday.

BARS & PUBS

It may not be massive, but Vienna has a
kicking nightlife. Many locations feature
DJs on a regular basis and begin to fill
from around 9pm onwards; some go on
until 4am or later depending on the day,
while others start to peter out around 1am
and are completely dead by 2am.

Concentrations of bars, pubs and clubs
are spread throughout the city, and due to
Vienna's compact size and its stellar public
transport system, getting from one to the

AUSTRIAN WINE & BEER AT A GLANCE

A few of the main wine varieties in Austria:

Blauer Burgunder Austria's version of Pinot Noir; a complex and fruity red found near the Neusiedler See.

Blaufränkisch Dry, light-bodied red rich in tannin; grows best in middle- and southern-Burgenland.

Grüner Veltliner Austria's largest grape variety; a strong, fresh white with hints of citrus and pear.

Müller-Thurgau Mild and often flowery white found in Lower Austria and Burgenland.

Riesling/Rheinriesling Fruity white with strong acidity; predominantly produced in the Danube Valley.

St Laurent Dark, velvety red originating in the Bordeaux village of the same name.

Weissburgunder Mainly grown in Burgenland, this rich white has a slight almond taste and piquant acidity.

Welshriesling Fresh, fruity white with a touch of spice; planted mainly in Burgenland and Lower Austria.

Zweigelt Full-bodied red with intense cherry fruit aromas, found throughout Austria's wine-growing regions.

While wine is the chosen drink of the Viennese, beer features heavily in the city's cultural make-up. Gösser, Ottakring, Puntigamer, Stiegl, Wieselburger and Zipfer are typical labels. These are the main beer types you're likely to find:

Bockbier Strong lager beer (sometimes as high as 12% alcohol volume) only available around Christmas and Easter. Can be dangerous stuff.

Dunkel Thick dark beer with a very rich flavour.

G'mischt A mixture of *Helles* and *Dunkel*.

Helles Clear beer; light hops taste and very common.

Märzen Red-coloured beer with a strong malt taste.

Pils Pilsner beer; very crisp and strong, and often bitter.

Weizen Also known as *Weissbier*; full-bodied wheat beer, slightly sweet in taste. Can be light or dark, clear or cloudy, and is sometimes served with a slice of lemon.

Zwickel Unfiltered beer with a cloudy complexion; should always be drunk fresh.

next takes little effort. While the Innere Stadt never seems to empty of people, its scene is small and limited to a few select bars. The Bermuda Dreieck (Bermuda Triangle) in the old Jewish Quarter is rammed with places, but most are unbearable pick-up joints. Leopoldstadt is the new darling of Vienna's night owls; its bars and clubs ooze 'underground' and attract a motley crew of students, artists, and drunkards. Collectively, the Naschmarkt and its close neighbours Wieden and Mariahilf contain the largest consolidation of bars – Schleifmühlgasse in particular has some good pickings. Around Josefstädter Strasse U-Bahn station on the Gürtel is yet another area sporting a profusion of bars, some of which are leaders in the electronica scene while others host live acts and clouds of smoke.

With the advent of summer, many revellers descend on outdoor venues. The bars and shady courtyard at Alte AKH (Map pp258–9) attract plenty, as does the urban market square Yppenplatz (Map pp258–9)

in Ottakring. The reinvention of the Danube Canal as a bar strip has to date been a huge success; Summer Stage (p128) and Flex (p164) are long-established locations, but the likes of Strandbar Herrmann (p155) has added an entirely new dimension to the waterway. Copa Kagrana and Sunken City (Map pp252–3), near the Donauinsel U-Bahn station, are crowded with outdoor bars and clubs, but most are tacky and uninviting.

Getting home is hassle-free; night buses start when the U-Bahn and trams stop, and taxis are cheap and plentiful.

INNERE STADT

ALT WIEN Map pp254–5

☎ 512 52 22; 01, Bäckerstrasse 9; h 10am–2am Sun–Thu, 10am–4am Fri & Sat; b U1, U3 Stephansplatz, bus 1A, 2A

Dark, Bohemian and full of character, Alt Wien is a classic dive attracting students

(Continued on page 155)

(Continued from page 146)

and arty types. It's also a one-stop shop for a lowdown on events in the city – every available wall space is plastered with posters advertising shows, concerts and exhibitions. The goulash is legendary and perfectly complemented by dark bread and beer.

AMERICAN BAR Map pp254–5

☎ 512 32 83; 01, Kärntner Durchgang 10; h noon–4am Sun–Wed, noon–5am Thu–Sat; b U1, U3 Stephansplatz

Designed by Adolf Loos in 1908 (it also goes by the name Loos-Bar), the American Bar is a tiny box with mirrored walls to trick the mind into thinking it's in a far bigger space. The cocktail list is lengthy and their mixing professional, which means the bar is often full to overflowing even on week nights.

FIRST FLOOR Map pp254–5

01, Seitenstettengasse 5; h 7pm–4am Mon–Sat, 8pm–3am Sun; U1, U4 Schwedenplatz, j N, 1, 2, 21 First Floor is a true barfly haunt, with cocktails galore, classic jazz tunes, professional, laid-back bartenders and a huge aquarium (empty of fish). It's a grand place to get soddenly drunk with a best mate, or spend hours flirting with the opposite sex.

RINGSTRASSE

CAFÉ LEOPOLD Map pp254–5

☎ 523 67 32; 07, Museumsplatz 1; h 10am–2am, till 4am Thu–Sat; b U2 MuseumsQuartier

The pick of the MuseumsQuartier bars, Café Leopold sits high at the top of the Leopold Museum (p76). Its design is sleek and smart – its conservatory overlooks the MQ's square – and the atmosphere is more club than bar (DJs feature Monday to Saturday). At times the air can become uncomfortably smoky.

STRANDBAR HERRMANN Map pp254–5

03, Herrmannpark; h 10am–2am Apr–early Oct & Dec; j N, 1, 2

This newcomer on the banks of the canal made a huge splash in Vienna's bar scene in 2006. Its beach-bar design, complete with beach chairs, sand and an open-air outlook, attracts hordes of Viennese on hot summer evenings and at times it's impossible to find a chair. Films occasionally feature, blankets are available on cooler

evenings, and *Glühwein* (mulled wine) is served in December.

PALMENHAUS Map pp254–5

☎ 533 10 33; 01, Burggarten; h 10am–2am;

b U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz, bus 3A

Housed in a beautifully restored Victorian palm house, complete with high arched ceilings, glass walls and steel beams, Palmenhaus occupies one of the most attractive locations in Vienna. The crowd is generally well-to-do, but the ambience is relaxed and welcoming. The outdoor seating in summer is a must, and there are occasional club nights.

URANIA Map pp254–5

☎ 713 30 66; 01, Uraniastrasse 1; h 9–2am Mon–Sat, 9am–midnight Sun; j 1, 2

Another addition to the canal's ever-increasing stock of bars, Urania occupies the first floor of a rejuvenated cinema and observatory complex. Its slick, clean decor, elevated position overlooking the canal and extensive cocktail selection are all big pluses.

VOLKSGARTEN PAVILLON Map pp254–5

☎ 532 09 07; 01, Burgring 1; h 11–2am May–mid-Sep; b U2, U3 Volkstheater, Volkstheater trams Volksgarten's second venue (after the club Volksgarten p165) is a lovely 1950s-style pavilion with views of Heldenplatz. On Tuesday nights its ever-popular garden is packed to the gulleys when it hosts 'Das Techno Cafe'; any other time entry is free.



Entrance to Urania bar & cinema complex (this page)



EAST OF THE DANUBE CANAL

A BAR SHABU Map pp258-9

02, Rotensterngasse 8; h 5pm-till late; bus 5A
A gorgeous little bar outfitted in '70s retro, Shabu welcomes all and sundry with an unaffected ambience and laid-back staff. Regular DJs provide an excellent backdrop of calming tunes, and the absinthe selection from around Europe is extensive. Don't miss the Japanese room, or should we say closet.

CABARET RENZ Map pp258-9

02, Zirkusgasse 50; h 8pm-late; b U1 Praterstern, bus 5A

A former brothel turned bar/club, Cabaret Renz occupies an innocuous corner in residential Leopoldstadt. The velvet-clad club, which hosts clubbing on Friday and Saturday nights, attracts a 20-something crowd and the best local DJ talent, plus a few international acts. Renz's grungy, red bar next door is typically Viennese, with resident boozers, table football and plenty of heated chatter.

FLUC Map pp258-9

www.fluc.at in German; 02, Praterstern 5; h 6pm-4am; b U1 Praterstern, j 0, 5

Located on the wrong side of the tracks (Praterstern can be uncomfortable at times) and looking for all the world like a pre-fab schoolroom, Fluc is the closest Vienna's nightlife scene comes to anarchy – without the fear of physical violence. Black-clad students, smashed alcoholics, 30-something freelancers and the occasional TV celebrity all share the stripped-back venue without any hassle, and DJs or live acts play every night (electronica features heavily).

INSIDE THE GÜRTEL

Wieden

CAFÉ ANZENGRUBER Map pp254-5

☎ 587 82 97; 04, Schleifmühlgasse 19; h 5pm-2am Mon, 11am-2am Tue-Sat; bus 59A

This corner café attracts an arty crowd and many of Vienna's jazz musicians. Both the décor and atmosphere are laid-back, and the food, which has a distinct Croatian slant, is highly recommended. There's also a pool table.

CLUB U Map pp254-5

☎ 505 99 04; 04, Künstlerhauspassage; h 10pm-4am; b U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz

Club U occupies one of Otto Wagner's Stadtbahn Pavillons on Karlsplatz (p89). It's a small, student-infested bar/club with regular DJs and a wonderful outdoor seating area overlooking the pavilions and park.

KUNSTHALLENCAFÉ Map pp254-5

☎ 587 00 73; 04, Treitlstrasse 2; h 10am-2am; b U1, U2, U4 Karlsplatz

The Kunsthallencafé carries plenty of 'cool' clout and attracts a relaxed, arty crowd with its DJs and close proximity to the Kunsthalle Project Space (p89). The big sofas go quickly, but there's plenty of small tables perfect for an intimate evening, and in summer the huge terrace (with more couches) is a big attraction. Thankfully, the building site surrounded this glass box has *finally* been cleared to let in the cityscape.

ORANGE ONE Map pp260-1

☎ 586 22 20; 04, Margaretenstrasse 26; h from 4pm; bus 59A

Once the haunt of down-and-outs and alcoholics, this former *Gasthaus* (guesthouse) received a complete make-over and reinvented itself as Orange One, a modern bar with a distinct retro feel and grown-up attitude. DJs play most nights and off-beat films are intermittently projected on the back wall. If smoke is a problem, it's best not to spend too much time here on winter nights.

SCHIKANEDER Map pp260-1

☎ 585 58 88; 04, Margareten Strasse 22-24; h 5.30pm-4am; bus 59A

Most of the colour in Schikaneder comes from the regularly projected movies

splayed across one of its white walls – the students and arty crowd who frequent this grungy bar dress predominantly in black. But that's not to detract from the bar's atmosphere, which exudes energy well into the wee small hours of the morning. Schikaneder also hosts movies most nights (p172).

Mariahilf

BAR ITALIA LOUNGE Map pp254-5

☎ 585 28 38; 06, Mariahilfer Strasse 19-21;

h noon-2.30pm & 6.30pm-3am Mon-Fri, 6.30pm-3am Sat & Sun; b U2 Museumsquartier

One of a growing number of lounge bars in Vienna, Bar Italia caters to the trendy set with its slick decor and sharp service. The bar fills the ground floor, while downstairs is occupied by the lounge, where late-night revelry on the dance floor takes place.

CAFÉ SAVOY Map pp260-1

☎ 586 73 48; 06, Linke Wienzeile 36; 5pm-2am Mon-Fri, 9-2am Sat; b U4 Kettenbrückengasse

Café Savoy is an established gay haunt that has a more traditional café feel to it, except for the feathers everywhere. The clientele is generally very mixed on a Saturday – mainly due to the proximity of the Naschmarkt – but at other times it's filled with men of all ages.

CAFÉ WILLENDORF Map pp260-1

☎ 587 17 89; 06, Linke Wienzeile 102; h 6pm-2am; b U4 Pilgramgasse, bus 13A

This is one of Vienna's seminal gay and lesbian bars. Housed in the pink Rosa Lila Villa (p226), it's a very popular place to meet for a chat, a drink or a meal. The lovely inner courtyard garden opens for the summer months.

ELEKTRO GÖNNER Map pp260-1

☎ 208 66 79; 06, Mariahilfer Strasse 101; h 6pm-2am, till 4am Fri & Sat; b U3 Zieglergasse

Elektro Gönner is an unpretentious bar opened by architects (and attracting plenty from the profession). Much of the interior is uncomplicated and bare, aside from the occasional art installation in the back room, and the music diverse. The bar hides at the back of a courtyard off Mariahilfer Strasse.

GAY & LESBIAN OPTIONS

- Café Berg (p160) – friendly, open and stocks gay books
- Café Savoy (left) – the atmosphere of a traditional Viennese café, plus a little pizzazz thrown into the mix
- Café Willendorf (left) – Rosa Lila Villa's house bar; always convivial and welcoming
- Mango Bar (below) – ever-popular bar open every night of the week

FUTUREGARDEN BAR & ART CLUB

Map pp260-1

☎ 585 26 13; 06, Schadekgasse 6; h 7pm-2am Mon-Sat, 9pm-2am Sun; b U3 Neubaugasse, bus 13A, 14A

With white walls, an open bar and basic furniture, it's hard to find a simpler place in Vienna. Its one piece of decoration – apart from the occasional art exhibition by local artists – is its rectangular disco 'ball', which swings from the ceiling. Futuregarden attracts a 30s crowd with a cool atmosphere and electric sounds.

MANGO BAR Map pp254-5

☎ 587 44 48; 06, Laimgrubengasse 3; h 9pm-4am; b U4 Kettenbrückengasse, bus 57A

Mango attracts a young, often men-only gay crowd with good music, friendly staff and plenty of mirrors to check out yourself and others. It usually serves as a kick-start for a big night out on the town.

PHIL Map pp254-5

☎ 581 04 89; 06, Gumpendorfer Strasse 10-12; h 10am-1am Tue-Sun, 5pm-1am Mon; bus 57A

A retro bar reminiscent of an East Berlin *Lokal*, Phil attracts a bohemian crowd happy to squat on kitsch furniture your Grandmother used to own. Half the establishment is store rather than bar; TVs from the '70s, DVDs, records and books are for sale, as is all the furniture. Staff are super friendly and the vibe as relaxed as can be.

TANZCAFÉ JENSEITS Map pp260-1

☎ 587 12 33; 06, Nelkengasse 3; h 9pm-4am Mon-Sat; b U3 Neubaugasse, bus 13A, 14A

The red-velvet interior that might be out of a '70s bordello is a soothing backdrop for a night out at Jenseits. The tiny dance floor

fills to overflowing on Fridays and Saturdays with relaxed revellers slowing moving around each other to soul and funk.

TOP KINO BAR Map pp254-5

☎ 208 30 00; 06, Rahlgasse 1; h 10am-2am;

↳ U2 Museumsquartier, bus 57A

Occupying the foyer of the cinema Top Kino (p172) is the Top Kino Bar, a pleasantly relaxed place that attracts a fashionable alternative crowd. The décor is highly retro, and there are tunes to match the furniture. Kozel, one of the Czech Republic's better Pilsners, is lined up against Austria's finest lagers.

Neubau

BLUE BOX Map pp260-1

☎ 523 26 82; 07, Richterergasse 8; h 6pm-2am Mon, 10-2am Tue-Thu & Sun, 10am-4am Fri & Sat;

↳ U3 Neubaugasse, bus 13A

Don't let the smoke and the run-down appearance of Blue Box put you off. These trademarks, which seem to have been around for generations, are an integral part of the Blue Box experience. It's too small to afford dance-floor space, and most guests groove to the regular DJ beats in their seats. Superb breakfasts are available from 10am to 5pm Tuesday to Sunday.

MÖBEL Map pp254-5

☎ 524 94 97; 07, Burggasse 10; h 10am-1am;

↳ U2, U3 Volkstheater, bus 48A

Das Möbel wins points for its furniture, consisting entirely of one-off pieces produced by local designers. Half the fun is choosing a spot that takes your fancy – whether it be a swinging chair or a surfboard bench. Light fittings, bags and various odds and ends complete the look, and everything is for sale.

EUROPA Map pp260-1

☎ 526 33 83; 07, Zollergasse 8; h 9am-5am;

↳ U3 Neubaugasse, bus 13A

A long-standing fixture of the 7th district, Europa is a chilled spot any time day or night. During the sunny hours, join the relaxed set at a window table for coffee and food, and in the evening take a pew at the bar and enjoy the DJ's tunes. Its breakfast, served between 9am and 3pm on weekends, caters to a hungover clientele.

SHEBEEN Map pp260-1

☎ 524 79 00; 07, Lerchenfelder Strasse 45;

h 5pm-2am Mon, 5pm-4am Tue-Fri, 1pm-4am Sat, 10am-2am Sun; j 46

Pub quizzes, darts, happy hours, live football, Guinness on tap, and locals wanting to practice their English – Shebeen is solidly un-Austrian, which is where the attraction for many lies. The dark wood-panelling and high ceilings are vaguely reminiscent of a Brit pub, while the boisterous clientele and lashings of beer are undisputedly Anglo-Saxon. The small garden is a blessing in summer.

SHULTZ Map pp260-1

☎ 522 91 20; 07, Siebensterngasse 31; h 9-2am Mon-Thu, 9am-3am Fri & Sat, 5pm-2am Sun; j 49

This lovely '60s-style bar mixes wonderful cocktails and attracts a laid-back and unpretentious crowd. During the day the glass walls allow daylight to flood the bar, while at night they provide ample room to watch the world roll on by outside.

WIRR Map pp260-1

☎ 929 40 50; www.wirr.at in German; 07, Burggasse 70; h 10am-2am Mon-Thu & Sun, 10-4am Fri & Sat; bus 48A

On weekends it's often hard to find a seat – particularly on the comfy sofas – at this colourful, alternative bar. Its rooms are spacious and open, the walls are covered in local artists' work, including a large (albeit bizarre) tie collection, and light snacks are available. Eclectic clubbings – which range from 60s pop to Balkan rhythms – are well attended in the downstairs club.

Josefstadt

B72 Map pp258-9

☎ 409 21 28; www.b72.at in German; 08, Hernalsner Gürtel 72; h 8pm-4am; ↳ U6 Alser Strasse, j 43, 44

Fringe live acts, alternative beats and album launches are the mainstay of B72's entertainment line-up, which collectively attracts a predominantly youthful crowd. Its tall glass walls and arched brick interior are typical of most bars along the Gürtel, as is the thick, smoky air and grungy appearance. Its name comes from its address, *Bogen* (arch) 72.

CHELSEA Map pp258-9

☎ 407 93 09; www.chelsea.co.at in German; 08, Lerchenfelder Gürtel 29-31; h 6pm-4am Mon-Sun; U6 Thaliastrasse, j 46

Chelsea is the old, ratty dog on the Gürtel and very much a favourite of the student/alternative scene. Posters and underground paraphernalia adorn walls, DJs spin loud sounds (usually indie, sometimes techno) when live acts aren't playing, and on weekends bouncers are required to control numbers. During football season, English premier league and Champions league football games are broadcast on Sundays and some other times during the week.

FRAUENCAFÉ Map pp254-5

☎ 406 37 54; 08, Lange Gasse 8; h 6.30pm-2am Tue-Sat, j 46

A strictly women-only café/bar, Frauencafé has long been a favourite of Vienna's lesbian scene. It has a homely, relaxed feel and is located away from the hub of gay and lesbian bars around the Rosa Lila Villa.

VIENNA'S MICROBREWERIES

Venues where the beer is always fresh and the atmosphere boisterous, Vienna's microbreweries make for a hedonistic evening out. Most offer a healthy selection of beers brewed on the premises (and proudly display the shining, brass brewing equipment) that are perfectly complimented by traditional Austrian food. It's not the most salubrious combination, but it's definitely satisfying.

1516 Brewing Company (Map pp254-5; ☎ 961 15 16; www.1516brewingcompany.com; 01, Schwarzenbergstrasse 2; h 11am-2am; j D, 1, 2, bus 3A) Unfiltered beers and a few unusual varieties, such as Heidi's Blueberry Ale. Large choice of cigars and frequented by city workers and UN staff.

Fischer Bräu (Map pp258-9; ☎ 369 59 49; www.fischerbraeu.at in German; 19, Billrothstrasse 17; h 4pm-1am Mon-Sat, 11am-1am Sun; j 38, bus 35A) A new beer every four to six weeks, and a *Helles* lager all year round. Large garden and live jazz on Sundays.

Ottakringer Brauerei (Map pp252-3; ☎ 491 00-0; www.ottakringer.at in German; 16, Ottakringerstrasse 91; j J, 9, 44) Tours are available of Vienna's largest brewery; its shop (h 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm Sat) sells a vast array of Ottakring merchandise.

Salm Bräu (Map pp262-3; ☎ 799 59 92; www.salmbraeu.com; 03, Rennweg 8; h 11am-midnight; j 71) Brews its own *Helles*, *Pils*, *Marzen*, *G'mischt*, and *Weizen*. Hugely popular, and has happy hour from 3pm to 5pm Monday to Friday and noon to 4pm Saturday.

Siebensternbräu (Map pp254-5; ☎ 523 86 97; www.7stern.at; 07, Siebensterngasse 19; h 10am-midnight; j 49) Large brewery with all the main varieties, plus a hemp beer, chilli beer, and smoky beer (the malt is dried over an open fire).

Wiedner Bräu (Map pp262-3; ☎ 586 03 00; www.wieden-braeu.at in German; 04, Waagasse 5; h 11.30am-1am Mon-Sat, 11.30am-midnight Sun; j 62, 65) *Helles*, *Marzen* and hemp beers all year round, plus a few seasonal choices, including a ginger beer. Happy hour 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

MAS! Map pp258-9

☎ 403 83 24; 08, Laudongasse 36; h 6pm-2am Mon-Sat, 10am-2am Sun; j 5, 33

A designer bar specialising in cocktails and Mexican food, Mas! attracts an affluent and well-groomed set. Choose from a high, wobbly stool at the long, shimmering bar backed by an enormous light installation, or for a more intimate evening, a low, dimly lit table. Its Sunday brunch – a mix of Cajun, English and American breakfasts between 1am and 4pm – is legendary, and happy hour is from 6pm to 8pm daily.

RHIZ Map pp258-9

☎ 409 25 05; 08, Lerchenfelder Gürtel 37-38; h 6pm-4am Mon-Sat, 6pm-2am Sun; ↳ U6

Josefstädter Strasse, j J, 33

Rhiz's decor of brick arches and glass walls is reminiscent of so many bars beneath the U6 line, but its status as a stalwart of the city's electronica scene gives it the edge over much of the competition. Black-clad boozers and an alternative set cram the interior during winter to hear DJs and live

acts, while in summer the large outdoor seating area fills to overflowing. Staff couldn't be friendlier and there's internet access.

Alsergrund

CAFÉ BERG Map pp258-9

☎ 319 57 20; 09, Berggasse 8; h 10am-1am; b U2 Schottentor, j 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, bus 40A

Café Berg is Vienna's leading gay bar, although its welcoming to all walks of life. Its staff are some of the nicest in town, the layout sleek and smart and the vibe chilled. Its bookshop, Löwenherz (h 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm Sat), stocks a grand collection of gay magazines and books.

CAFÉ STEIN Map pp254-5

☎ 319 72 41; 09, Währinger Strasse 6-8; h 7am-1am Mon-Sat, 9am-1am Sun; b U2 Schottentor, j 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44

During the day this three-level café is a popular haunt of students from the nearby university; come evening the clientele metamorphoses into city workers with a lot more money to spend. DJs control the decks in the evenings, and the all-day menu is extensive. During the summer there is outside seating, which enjoys superb views of the Votivkirche.

OUTSIDE THE GÜRTEL

BRUNNERS Map pp252-3

☎ 607 65 00; 22 fl, 10, Wienerbergstrasse 7; h 11am-2am Mon-Sat; j 65, bus 65A
 Brunner's major attraction is its view; from its elevated position on the 22nd floor of Vienna's Twin Towers, the entire city is laid out in all its grandeur. The best time to visit is just before the sun sets over the Vienna Woods to the west, after which the fluorescent lighting system kicks in and spoils the scene somewhat.

LO:SCH Map pp260-1

☎ 895 99 79; 15, Fünfhausgasse 1; h 10pm-2am Fri & Sat; b U6 Gumpendorfer Strasse, bus 57A
 This leather-fetish bar is normally strictly men only, but occasionally it hosts unisex parties on Saturday nights. Lo:sch sometimes opens during the week for special events.

SPARK Map pp258-9

☎ 968 57 02; www.spark.at; 18, Währinger Gürtel 107; h 6pm-2am Tue-Thu, 6pm-4am Fri, 7pm-4am Sat; b U6 Währinger Strasse, j 40, 41
 This chilled bar is a bit of a trek for most, but with a 1970s retro décor, comfy couches, and a daily dose of DJs, it's worth the effort. Live concerts are held once a month, and absinthe fans will be in heaven; Spark stocks 25 different varieties.

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