

Dear Reader,

June 6, 2007

We at Invent have been very busy organising wonderful events for our clients in the last weeks. I apologize for letting you wait for this latest newsletter quite long.

Here are interesting facts and news you may, or may not know:

From the **producers of "Crash"** and **starring Academy Award nominees Edward Norton and Paul Giamatti alongside Jessica Biel** and Rufus Sewell, **THE ILLUSIONIST** is a gripping mystery thriller, set in Vienna, in which nothing is as it seems.

**Vienna, 1900:** Eisenheim (Norton) is a brilliant stage magician, the greatest illusionist Vienna has ever seen. When his childhood friendship with Duchess Sophie von Teschen (Biel), now betrothed to the **power-hungry Crown Prince Leopold** (Sewell), is rekindled he finds himself a target for the Prince's anger. As the **clandestine romance** continues, Leopold orders the shrewd Chief Inspector Uhl (Giamatti), the head of the secret police, to close down the theatre and make Eisenheim vanish. But as the net tightens around him and tragedy strikes, Eisenheim prepares to execute his greatest illusion yet.



> DVD "The Illusionist" - Vienna in 1900

After much deliberating, Germany's 16 states (Länder) have agreed to introduce a **general ban on smoking in bars, restaurants and clubs**, except in separate smoking rooms. A last-minute compromise lets states allow smoking in small local pubs, or Eckkneipen. (Bavaria is pushing for an exception for beer tents as well.)

**The move follows similar action in several other EU countries.** Although the European Commission has welcomed the decision, which makes good sense in light of its crusade against smoking, some German politicians (including Klaus Wowereit, Berlin's mayor) have criticised the deal as too weak. In contrast, the managers of Berlin's bars and clubs said the ban would hurt the city's renowned nightlife. In 2005 bar- and restaurant-owners had attempted to avert legal restrictions by introducing voluntary measures which would have ensured that 60% of all seating would be reserved for non-smokers. But because only 10% of venues managed to stick to this pledge, legislators decided to step in. **The law is due to be implemented by January 2008 at the latest.**



> Hazy ground in Germany

> **Slovenia:**  
**Jazz Festival**  
**to Get**  
**Ljubljana into**  
**a Swing**

Selected **jazz music from all over the world** will get the capital into the swing once again as Ljubljana's 48th annual Jazz Festival gets under way **between 28 and 30 June** at the Cankarjev dom arts centre and the Krizanke open-air theatre.

The festival will feature artists such as bassist and producer Bill Laswell and his band Material, which includes electro-trumpeter Nils Petter Molvaer, pianist Bernie Worrell and percussionists Aiyb Dieng and Hamid Drake.

Another highlight will be German experimental artist Markus Popp and his **mixture of avant-garde classical music and innovative electronic beats**, and Cuban pianist and composer Omar Sosa with his Afro-Cuban trio.

Jazz buffs will also be able to listen to a nine-man band of saxophonists Lee Konitz, and Steve Coleman with his band Five Elements, whose approach to music is influenced by philosophy, history and religion of ancient cultures from around the globe.

The festival is considered to be **one of the smallest jazz festivals in Europe**; however it is also **one of the festivals with the longest tradition** and will be, as in previous years, held at different venues.

Ahead of the festival, jazz students from Ljubljana will be warming up the atmosphere with **jazz delights on the banks of the river Ljubljanica every night until the end of June**.



> **Prague -**  
**Charles Bridge:**  
**650th**  
**anniversary and**  
**extensive repairs**

At the end of June and the beginning of July **Charles Bridge** will come to life with a **grand celebration of the 650th anniversary** of its founding. Reconstruction work on the bridge will commence at approximately the same time. The celebrations, which are to last three weeks, will culminate on **Sunday, July 8**. On July 9, 1357 the Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV laid the foundation stone for Charles Bridge, which was to become one of the prominent symbols of Prague.

The celebrations will take place not only on the bridge but also in nearby Kampa, on Křížovnické Square, Novotného Lávka Street, or directly in the water. Organizers of the celebrations promise **concerts, street theatre performances, and events in period costume**.

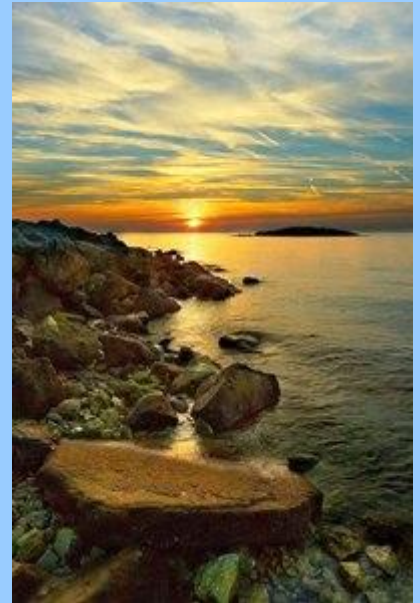
Renovations to Charles Bridge are set to begin in mid-June, though minor restorations occur on the bridge on a regular basis. Larger works are complicated by the fact that the bridge is **one of the most popular tourist destinations in Prague**.

A new security system was recently installed on the bridge and soon the bridge will again be **lit by gas lamps** after 170 years.



> **Tuscan Life-style in Croatian Istria**

Since the end of the civil war in the former Yugoslavia, the separate new states have experienced **financial and social revolutions**. Included in the equation is **Croatia**, which has turned into perhaps the **Balkan's biggest real estate market** outside of Greece. Furthermore, the **province of Istria** has become the **Croatian capital of real estate business**. There are 2 main reasons for this, firstly that it is cheaper than other main areas of Croatia, and secondly that Istria became the first area of Croatia to be served by western European budget airlines. Other positive factors for Istria are that it is a mere **5 hours drive away from Munich and Vienna** and that Croatia is generally thought of as the most prosperous country to emerge out of the former Yugoslavia. Istria is mostly Croatian, although some parts do belong to Italy and Slovenia. It was by 2005 the **most foreign-dominated area of Croatia**. In fact, 34% of it was already in non-Croatian hands, whereas only 10% of Dubrovnik belonged to foreigners. Although these figures have gone up since then, the ratio has very much remained the same. The reason is very simple: **properties in Istria are half the price of similar ones in Dubrovnik**. The properties of Istria are indeed **extremely attractive, blending the Slavonic stone-house style with the typical Mediterranean-style white villa**. Many foreigners even tend to buy houses and villas without having seen what they are buying. They simply expect the value of their investments to rocket, mirroring the situation in the Czech Republic and Bulgaria after their respective entrances into the European Union. Croatia is set to follow suit in 2009. The main customers for Istria's real estate market are the Germans. Istria offers German people the **chance to take short breaks in a relatively cheap holiday home**, allowing them **to feel that they are in Tuscany**, yet at a fraction of the price.



I am looking forward to hearing from you with feedback or group requests in the near future.

Kind regards,

*Birgit Kraus*

