

Dear Reader,

September 24, 2007

We are very much looking forward to incentive groups coming to our beautiful destinations in the next weeks.

They will experience great things including a **dinner at the Giant Ferris Wheel in Vienna**, visiting **Octoberfest in Munich**, a **private concert by the Vienna Boys Choir** and a **race on the Olympic Bob Sleigh Run** in Innsbruck.

You also might want to suggest **Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Slovenia, or Croatia** to your clients.

With the below information you will get a better idea of those countries. Here are interesting facts and news you may, or may not know:

The **Czech Republic's most popular singer, Karel Gott (translated into "Charles God")**, opened his **Gott Gallery Restaurant** in the **center of Prague** with a gala affair on Tuesday. The restaurant's interior will be decorated with an **exhibit of master paintings**. The christening of the new eatery was attended by a host of stars, including Miss World Taťána Kuchařová and singer Lucie Břilá.

**Karel Gott (born 1939, Pilsen) is a one-of-a-kind phenomenon in the Czech Republic.** Since 1964, when he took home his first **Golden Nightingale Award** – an annual prize given out to the country's most popular singer – he has **won the award a total of 32 times** and still remains in contention today. He is also very popular abroad, particularly in German-speaking countries, where he has been nicknamed the **Golden Voice of Prague** and **Sinatra of the East**. He has more than **120 albums** to his credit and has **sold 30,000,000 records with Polydor**, the German record company with which he has a **life-time recording contract**.

**> PRAGUE: Miss World opens Gott Gallery Restaurant**



The **five star luxury hotel, Corinthia Grand Hotel Royal**, has been granted the **Five Star Diamond Award by the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences**. This award is annually granted to hotels all over the world that provide the **highest quality services and are committed to maintaining superb quality**. The awarded hotels are characterized by exclusively high standard services. The winners are selected by a committee consisting of the most prestigious experts of the trade. A lot of first rate hotels apply for the 'Five Star Diamond' award, but it is **granted to only a few luxury hotels** fully satisfying all of the requirements. By the award Corinthia Grand Hotel Royal has **joined an elite club of hotels with members like Dorchester, Ritz or Burj Al Arab** Hotels that had formerly been awarded. The Hotel is soon celebrating the award by a palatial program with prestigious guests and also by a program organized for the staff.



**> Budapest: Hotel Corinthia Grand Royal has been granted the "Five Star Diamond" Award**

The **Zentralfriedhof, or Central Cemetery** is indeed a necropolis (city of the dead), and the **size of a small suburb**. Of Vienna's 50 cemeteries, this is the largest, one of the biggest in Europe. It covers **2.4 square kilometres** and contains **2 million graves**, so you have to know who you're looking for. Central, it isn't. It lies to Vienna's south-east and takes 20 minutes on a tram through suburban shopping streets. It is a **grand place** whose residents, long before they died, ensured their place in history by commissioning monuments more akin to grand houses or (in the case of family mausoleums) mansions. The Zentralfriedhof is divided into sections: **old and new Jewish cemeteries, Protestant and Islamic areas, Russian Orthodox, war graves and memorials**. The cultural section, a five-minute walk from the main entrance, is off to the left, just before the Secessionist wonder that is the Dr Karl Lueger Church. Most of the **musicians' graves** - although more modest than the mercantile monstrosities elsewhere - are not exactly simple. **Beethoven, Brahms and Schubert are buried next to each other**, each headstone outdoing the last. Mozart is here, too, in spiritual if not corporeal form, represented by a memorial. Nearby are musicians galore: **Hugo Wolf, Franz Suppe, most of the Strauss family, and Arnold Schoenberg**, whose austere gravestone is in the form of a cream-coloured cube.



**> AUSTRIA: Vienna's biggest cemetery is worth visiting!**

**> GERMANY:  
Mandarin Oriental  
Munich completes  
rooms renovation**

**Mandarin Oriental Munich** has completed a **comprehensive renovation of all 48 guest rooms and 25 suites** and an upgrade of the exterior facade, designed to maintain the hotel's dominant position in the marketplace.

Highlights of the refurbishment showcase elegant, **contemporary design using the finest woods and rich fabrics with touches of Asian style**. All guest rooms feature sleek cherry wood furniture in neo-Biedermeier style, with subtle Asian influences reflecting the Oriental heritage of the luxury hotel group. In addition, **state-of-the-art entertainment such as Bang & Olufsen flatscreen televisions with over 600 channels**, as well as seamless customer-centric technology systems, a hallmark of Mandarin Oriental hotels worldwide, is available throughout.

The **two exclusive Mandarin and Oriental Suites** benefit from new conservatories, created by incorporating the original patios, affording an airy, light-flooded atmosphere and unique views of the cityscape and landmarks. Each suite also contains a **variety of striking Asian pieces of art**.

Michael Ziemer, General Manager of Mandarin Oriental, Munich, commented on the refurbishment: "The **elegant and sleek design of the new interiors and the best of all modern conveniences**, combined with Mandarin Oriental's highly individualized service, provide our guests with a delightful experience."



I am looking forward to receiving your requests in the near future.

Kind regards,

*Birgit Kraus*