

**Where does the world's most expensive fridge come from? .. and other things you might (not) know**

**Last weekend, the Austrian Christmas Season started!**

The heart of the Magic of Advent is the Christmas Market, which has enchanted old and young alike for 700 years. The aromas of candied fruits, cotton candy and other delicacies like Christmas punch and roasted chestnuts (called Maroni in Vienna), wafting around the small wooden stalls of the market, still retain their magical power. Market stalls offer a tasteful array of Christmas decorations, objets d'art, handicrafts and toys.

**Magic of Advent in Vienna** offers numerous attractions for visitors of all ages: from fairy-tale gateways where young and old alike can listen to wondrous stories, pony rides, a merry-go-round and a Christmas Express. To shorten the wait until Christmas children can create their own presents at the "Santa's Workshop" in the City Hall. The "Wolkenpostamt" is a special post office for sending greetings with special Christmas stamps to friends and family all over the world. At weekends during the Advent season, choirs from all over the world will perform the most beautiful Christmas songs in the Festival Hall of the Vienna City Hall. The main Christmas Market in Austria's capital city is held **in front of Vienna's City Hall**, running through to December 24th, from 9 am to 9 pm daily.

**For a list of Christmas Markets in Vienna and Salzburg, please send us an e-mail.**



**> Christmas Markets in Austria**

**> Results at the Conde Nast Traveler 19th Annual Readers' Choice Awards**

Over 21,000 travellers voted in this year's annual Readers' Choice Awards for Conde Nast Traveler. Buckland Manor in the Cotswolds, England, gained the distinction this year for being the highest-scoring hotel in Readers' Choice history by receiving perfect scores for Rooms, Service, Food, and Location. Another property to receive 100s in Rooms, Service, Location, and Design in the Hotels category was **Budapest's Four Seasons Gresham Palace**.

The November issue of Conde Nast Traveler has a comprehensive list of winners of the awards.



**> Kennedy Family Museum to Open in Berlin**

A museum paying tribute to John F. Kennedy and his family will open in Berlin on Nov. 11. Located on Pariser Platz, close to the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag, the museum is said to have an "impressive private collection of artefacts once belonging to the Kennedys." "To this day, John F. Kennedy's famous 'Ich bin ein Berliner' speech is seen as one of the strongest and most memorable declarations of friendship and solidarity between the citizens of Berlin and the United States," says Hanns Peter Nerger, CEO and president of Berlin Tourism Marketing. "I'm delighted that our newest museum will pay tribute to President John F. Kennedy and his iconic family."



> The world's most expensive fridge comes from Slovenia

**Slovenian household appliance maker Gorenje** recently sold one of its Premium Touch refrigerators for a record 110,000 dollars. The **fridge** was sold to Russian millionaire Rustam Tariko at an auction held in Moscow's elite Dagilev night club. Gorenje donated the money to a charity that helps homeless Russian children. The exclusive one of a kind fridge is covered with **7,000 crystals supplied by** top Austrian crystal maker **Swarovski**. Two similar fridges have already been sold in auctions – and in both cases the Slovenian company donated the money to charity. The fourth in a series of five unique black refrigerators was meanwhile sold at London's department store Harrods for a "budget" price of 9,999 pounds.



> Economy Class passengers receive exclusive 'Austrian Snack Box' containing delicious Austrian treats

Austrian Airlines offers Economy Class passengers on short-haul flights a new, high-value and free service. Together with top Austrian chef Helmut Österreicher, a unique in-flight culinary product has been developed that impresses with its high level of quality and seasonal diversity. On all international flights (those between 65 and 150 minutes in flight time), passengers will be served a freshly prepared breakfast or daytime meal in the newly developed 'Austrian Snack Box'. Austrian is also offering a diverse selection of alcoholic, non-alcoholic and hot drinks. On all domestic and 'ultra-short-haul' flights (up to 65 minutes in flight time), passengers in Economy Class will be able to enjoy a 'refreshment service' consisting of sweet and savoury snacks from the basket. Coffee, tea and water will be served as refreshments. Austrian Chief Executive Officer Alfred Ötsch made the following statement on the quality offensive: 'This innovative form of free catering makes us the only airline to offer free snacks created by a prize winning chef in Economy Class on short-haul flights. With this move we are making an uncompromising statement that we are the Austrian quality carrier.'



> Witness a victory which went down in history

One of the greatest battles to ever be fought in the Czech lands took place near the South Moravian town of Slavkov (known around the world as **Austerlitz**). It was here that on December 2, 1805 Napoleon's troops defeated the allied Russo-Austrian forces. The Battle of the Three Emperors can now be found in every history textbook, and this year you can also mark the occasion in the very place it was fought. Celebrations to mark the 201st anniversary of the famous battle will take place in Slavkov **December 1 – 3, 2006**. Before the decisive battle of Austerlitz French troops had occupied Brno, the largest city in Moravia, in November of 1805, and so the celebrations will begin December 1 there. A **battalion of soldiers numbering 300 will march through the city in period uniforms** and the climax of the event will be the taking of the well-known fort in Brno, Špilberk. The following morning (2. 12.) a gala inspection in Šlapanice and then a march to Tvarožná u Brna awaits the soldiers. This is where the **battle will take place involving 1,000 re-enactors armed with 600 guns and 30 cannon**. Those who don't want to be directly beside the turmoil of battle can visit the **military fair and market in Šlapanice** or take a look round the military camp on the



village green in Tvarožná. The evening programme in Šlapanice will celebrate Napoleon's famous victory. The victors and the defeated will show off their period uniforms and weapons to visitors during a march through the town centre. On Sunday December 3, those who fell in the battle will be remembered and honoured at a memorial service at the Peace Monument. As you will soon discover, the events of 1805 aren't only remembered in the Slavkov area with the annual re-enactment of the battle. The camps of both armies and the battlefield are linked by a special Battle of the Three Emperors Walk. Information boards along the way use illustrations to acquaint visitors with the various stages of the battle and the most important commanders.

The Battle of Austerlitz is also the subject of a new exhibition called The Battle of the Three Emperors. Slavkov/Austerlitz 1805, put together at the Peace Monument by the Brno Regional Museum. The Multimedia exhibition is divided into 4 parts: Before the battle, The Battle, About the Battle and After the Battle. The emphasis here is not on gathering together as much information as possible, but rather evoking the atmosphere and emotions of the time.

The main attraction of the Christmas in Budapest is the traditional Christmas Craft Fair in Vörösmarty Square, which has been a favourite amongst people preparing for the Christmas festivities. The aim of the fair has always been to make one of the most beautiful squares of Budapest into a scene worthy of the festival, where instead of cheap goods the people of Budapest and foreign visitors can buy **high-standard folk art and unique craft products**. On the fair **folk artists and craftsmen** offer their Christmas-themed goods made by original craft techniques and of natural materials. The pieces they sell are equally suitable as Christmas presents or festive decorations. The quality of the products on sale on the almost **100 stalls** is assured by the panel of experts of the Union of Folk Art Associations. Almost 150 colourful programmes are provided by **puppet theatres, folk music bands, folk dance groups**; children and visitors with skilled hands can prepare their own festive decorations in heated areas designated for craft activities. During the whole of the Christmas Craft Fair visitors can see the wooden Nativity Crib and the Holy Family made by a folk artist wood sculptor. From 21-23 December a really special feature can be seen: visitors are welcomed by a real nativity play, where actors reproduce the arrival of Jesus Christ. The smell of gingerbread, cinnamon, mulled wine and pine trees will fill the air of the square. Traditional Hungarian flat-bread will be cooked in the clay oven (from Tök) built on the square. Pastry-horn, strudel, grilled meat, mulled wine, traditional Hungarian food cooked in clay oven and friendly snack-bars offering Christmas drinks await visitors.

> **Budapest  
Christmas Fair  
25th November  
– 24th  
December 2006  
Vörösmarty  
square**

