# The Legacy of the Salzburg Prince-Archbishops in 2019

# UNESCO World Cultural Heritage | Mozart and Music | City of Churches

*Salzburg City has been a proud member of the UNESCO World Heritage List for over 20 years, making it one of the most popular travel destinations in Europe. The city owes much of its elegance and uniqueness to the prince-archbishops, their architectural and artistic legacy encountered around practically every corner. Renowned musical events do their part, too, including the Salzburg Festival as well as Mozart Week, whose new artistic director in January 2019 will be Rolando Villazón. Compelling exhibitions such as “DomQuartier Salzburg” are dedicated to the lives and accomplishments of the prince-archbishops.*

They were absolute rulers and enjoyed very special privileges: The Salzburg prince-archbishops governed for almost 1000 years and, until 1803, presided as sacred and secular rulers over a prosperous state whose wealth derived from vast deposits of salt, minerals and precious stones. In the second half of the 14th century, the Salzburg archbishopric achieved its greatest territorial extent, reaching out far beyond the boundaries of the Austria we know today. The prince-archbishops were members of the best noble families and enjoyed a broad education, much of which they completed abroad. Over the centuries, they turned a place which had previously merely served as a seat of power into one of the most beautiful Baroque cities in the world, and one of the most sought-after travel destinations in Europe to this very day.

The Salzburg prince-archbishops and their legacy in 2019

The vision of Prince-Archbishop Wolf Dietrich zu Raitenau was to transform Salzburg into the resplendent “Rome of the North”. Many years on, the five city squares in the historic district –Residenzplatz, Domplatz, Mozartplatz, Kapitelplatz and Alter Markt – remain the most beautiful in Salzburg: Together with Hohensalzburg Fortress, they represent **the heart & soul of this UNESCO-listed city**. Likewise contributing to the uniqueness of Salzburg is the topography of this city on the northern edge of the Alps, a combination of craggy mountainsides along with numerous broad green spaces: Nature in Salzburg is always just a few minutes’ walk away. On the verdant outskirts of the city, you will also discover Schloss Hellbrunn, which Archbishop Markus Sittikus von Hohenems had built in just three years. Under Archbishop Maximilian Gandolph Graf von Kuenburg, Salzburg became the European epicenter of Baroque music. He also commissioned construction of Maria Plain Pilgrimage Basilica along with the Cajetan Church and St. Erhard’s Church.

* ***Getting married at Schloss Mirabell:*** *Wolf Dietrich zu Raitenau had a female companion at his side for 22 years; Salome Alt bore him 15 children. For his part, he had Schloss Mirabell built just outside the city walls for the use of her and their shared progeny. During his lifetime, the Prince-Archbishop was unable to legitimize his liaison. Today, the registry office at Schloss Mirabell is regarded as one of the most beautiful in the world, providing an idyllic backdrop for couples of all nationalities and confessions to “tie the knot”. www.standesamt-salzburg.at*
* ***Exhibition “GrandDelight – The unexpected world of Markus Sittikus”:*** *The interactive permanent exhibition at Schloss Hellbrunn offers unusual insights into the life of this prince-archbishop. 400 years on, Hellbrunn – with its trick fountains, the Monatsschlössl, Rock Theater and zoo – is a magnet for visitors.* [*www.hellbrunn.at*](http://www.hellbrunn.at)
* ***Special exhibition at “DomQuartier Salzburg” from 08.12.2018 to 27.05.2019 “Prince-Archbishop Maximilian Gandolph Graf von Kuenburg”****: This special exhibition casts light on four different aspects of the man, politician, patron and archbishop. On an enormous exhibition area of 15,000 m², “DomQuartier Salzburg” impressively illustrates the grandeur and power that the Salzburg prince-archbishops once enjoyed.* [*www.domquartier.at*](http://www.domquartier.at)
* ***New exhibition at Hohensalzburg Fortress:*** *The freshly remodeled Fortress Museum will open its doors in June 2019. The thematic span of the exhibition will encompass the history behind the fortress’s construction, weapons and armor, as well as “Life in the Middle Ages”. Particular attention will be given to Archbishops Leonhard von Keutschach and Matthäus Lang von Wellenburg.* [*www.salzburg-burgen.at*](http://www.salzburg-burgen.at)

**Salzburg City of Churches: with a concentration of churches comparable to Rome**

With the help of Italian architects, the Salzburg prince-archbishops commissioned construction of the cathedral as well as numerous churches, chapels, abbeys and cemeteries. In so doing, they laid the foundation stone for what we recognize today as **Salzburg City of Churches**. With sensitivity for worshipers and people of faith, visitors can now take a walking tour “Behind the Church Doors of Salzburg”: The churches selected are home to unique features, art treasures and mysterious details. Throughout the year, Salzburg’s churches also serve as venues for various events such as the concert series of sacred music known as “Musica Sacra Trinitatis Salisburgensis” which takes place every Saturday in summer, and also the “Ouverture Spirituelle” within the framework of the Salzburg Festival.

**Salzburg City of Music – W. A. Mozart, Salzburg Festival and “The Sound of Music”**

Salzburg’s prince-archbishops were great patrons of the arts, thereby laying the foundation for Salzburg to become a city of music and a world-famous festival, the home of the world-famous Christmas song “Silent Night” as well as the inspirational backdrop for “The Sound of Music”.

Over the centuries, the music performed at the Salzburg court measured up with the very best in all of Europe. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s father Leopold came to Salzburg to pursue his own career as a professional musician. As for Wolfgang (1756 – 1791), he was quickly recognized as a *wunderkind* and would become the city’s most famous son: The Mozarteum Foundation was established in 1880, while the Salzburg Festival has existed since 1920. The city also boasts internationally acclaimed ensembles including Camerata Salzburg as well as the Mozarteum Orchestra, and hosts around 4500 music and cultural events every single year.

* ***Special exhibition “Leopold Mozart: musician – manager – man”:*** *Marking the 300th birthday of Leopold Mozart, this exhibition will take place at the Mozart Residence from April 5, 2019 to February 9, 2020.* [*www.mozarteum.at*](http://www.mozarteum.at)

Mozart Week at Mozarteum Foundation Salzburg: January 24 to February 3, 2019

In 2019, for the first time Mozart Week will be under the artistic direction of internationally acclaimed star tenor Rolando Villazón. The five Mozart Weeks until 2023 will be dedicated exclusively to the works of W. A. Mozart. The program features more than 60 events, including stage productions, orchestral concerts, chamber music and dance. Musically, the focus is on **Mozart’s choral works**. In 2019, audiences will be able to enjoy an array of artists highlighted by Cecilia Bartoli, Daniel Barenboim, Christiane Karg, the Vienna Philharmonic, the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

**Festival City Salzburg: Three renowned music festivals on the calendar**

* During the **Salzburg Easter Festival from April 13-22, 2019**, the central production will be Richard Wagner’s opera “The Mastersingers of Nuremberg”. Over the course of 10 days, the program will include concerts as well as two stage premieres. The Easter Festival was added to the Salzburg festival calendar in 1967. It was founded by star conductor Herbert von Karajan. [www.osterfestspiele-salzburg.at](http://www.osterfestspiele-salzburg.at)
* The Salzburg Whitsun Festival from June 7-10, 2019, entitled "Voci celesti - heavenly voices", is dedicated to commemorating the voices of the great castrati. This music festival opens with George Frederick Handel’s opera "Alcina", with festival director Cecilia Bartoli performing in the lead role. The festival comes to an extraordinary conclusion with a concert in Salzburg Cathedral by the Papal Choir of the Sistine Chapel – Cappella Musicale Pontificia SISTINA – one of the world’s oldest, most famous and most exclusive musical ensembles. [www.salzburgerfestspiele.at](http://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at)
* In summer, the **Salzburg Festival from July 20 to August 31, 2019** is one of the most important festivals of classical music and the performing arts worldwide. In 2020, the Festival will celebrate its centennial. However, even one year prior to this big anniversary, the program created under the artistic direction of Markus Hinterhäuser will, as usual, feature grandiose operatic and theatrical productions with a cast of international stars along with concerts by the great orchestras of this world. The highlight, which has been the case ever since the Festival was founded, will be Hugo von Hofmannsthal’s “Jedermann” performed on Cathedral Square. [www.salzburgerfestspiele.at](http://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at)

Musical Advent and Farewell to the Old Year: a melodious winter in Salzburg

Cathedral Square and the Residenzplatz in the heart of the Salzburg historic district are the focal point of the famous “Salzburger Christkindlmarkt”, one of the oldest and most enchanting Christmas markets in the world. This is accompanied by other Advent markets such as those at Hohensalzburg Fortress, in the Sterngarten, on Mirabellplatz as well as “Hellbrunn Advent Magic”. Also during Christmastime, music plays an important role in Salzburg: In fact, the world’s most famous Christmas song “Silent Night” was actually written very close to Salzburg. “Advent Singing” at the Grosses Festspielhaus is attended by thousands of people from around the globe every year, a beloved tradition which has spread and been imitated throughout the Alpine world. [www.christkindlmarkt.co.at](http://www.christkindlmarkt.co.at) | [www.hellbrunneradventzauber.at](http://www.hellbrunneradventzauber.at) |

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