# Salzburg: A Vibrant Start to Spring 2019

*In spring 2019, visitors to Salzburg will be presented with a wealth of marvelous opportunities to rediscover the most beautiful aspects of this unique city: While a number of stages will be dedicated to “high culture” in the form of the Easter and Whitsun Festivals, others will cast the spotlight on modern dance, literature or culinary experiences. And while the museums focus their exhibitions on intriguing and idiosyncratic characters, a unique balloon festival promises a colorful array of “instagramable” impressions.*

**Music Mecca Salzburg**

**“Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg” at Easter Festival 2019**As we are accustomed to expect, the **Salzburg Easter Festival (April 13-22, 2019)** will present an exceptional program and a cast of performers second to none. In the center of this year’s festival will be Richard Wagner’s opera “Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg”, which originally premiered in 1868. Christian Thielemann, the artistic director of the Easter Festival, will be conducting, while German opera and theater director Jens-Daniel Herzog directs. The 2019 Herbert-von-Karajan Prize will be awarded to internationally acclaimed conductor Mariss Jansons. Jansons is one of the few conductors who relates to Karajan practically as a musical “foster parent”. [www.osterfestspiele-salzburg.at](http://www.osterfestspiele-salzburg.at)

**Salzburg Whitsun Festival commemorates an extraordinary phenomenon**The program of the **Salzburg Whitsun Festival from June 7-10, 2019** revolves around a rather unique theme, under the header“Voci Celesti – heavenly voices”: an hommage to the great castrati. Cecilia Bartoli, artistic director of this music festival since 2012, offers the public a unique opportunity to explore the history and story behind the castrati. In the process, audiences can draw a direct comparison between, for example, George Frederick Handel’s opera “Alcina” on the one hand, and a semi-staged production of Nicola Porpora’s semi-staged “Polifemo” on the other. The Whitsun Festival reaches an extraordinary climax with a concert performed by the Sistine Chapel Choir – the Cappella Musicale Pontifica SISTINA – in Salzburg Cathedral. [www.salzburgerfestspiele.at](http://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at)

**Creative Salzburg**

**Contemporary dance, literature and a culinary festival in the historical district**

In addition to high culture and classical music, Salzburg also provides a stage for astonishingly creative events. Over Easter, for example, in parallel to the actual Easter Festival itself, the events’ program takes a more modern twist: The **29th Easter Dance Days (April 13-18, 2019)** is held, as it is every year, during Holy Week. By expanding upon the program’s main focus “Ethnic Dance” and adding courses in tango, Cuban dance and salsa, along with a number of dance-related seminars, since 2000 Easter Dance Days has developed into one of the most acclaimed festivals of its kind in Central Europe.

Since 2001, Easter Dance Days has also been complemented by **Salzburger Performance Days – per.form>d<ance (also April 13-18, 2019)**. Artists will present contemporary performance at ARGEkultur Salzburg. The start of the dance festival is marked by “The Long Night of Dance” on April 13, 2019. [www.tanzimpulse.at](http://www.tanzimpulse.at)

At the **Literature Festival (May 22-26, 2019)**, Salzburg celebrates its significance as the home of great literary figures and authors. Now for the twelfth time, for a few days the written word will be brought vividly to life through small events and an array of great names. Guest readers and musical programs are integral to the event, as are popular excerpts displayed in shop windows throughout city, each year dedicated to quotations from a different literary icon. [www.literaturfest-salzburg.at](http://www.literaturfest-salzburg.at)

The Salzburg historical district provides an ideal backdrop for the **“eat & meet” culinary festival,** which can be counted on for a surprise or two from **March 1 to 31, 2019**. In various event formats, hosts and restaurateurs take center stage, offering their guests a mixture of delectable experiences and good conversations with producers, philosophers, vintners and chefs. Program details will be published at the end of January 2019. [www.salzburg-altstadt.at](http://www.salzburg-altstadt.at)

**Salzburg City of Culture**

**Exhibitions in spring: Mozart, the Habsburgs and Austrian masters**

Salzburg’s top-caliber museums greet springtime visitors with a whole series of exhibitions dedicated to strong personalities. For example, the Mozart Residence on Makartplatz celebrates the 300th birthday of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s father with its exhibition **“Leopold Mozart (1719 – 1787). Musician-Manager-Man” (April 5, 2019 to February 9, 2020)**. [www.mozarteum.at](http://www.mozarteum.at)

Standing at the center of a new exhibition in the DomQuartier is an extraordinary figure: **Archduke Ludwig Viktor (January 18 to June 30, 2019)**. The brother of Emperor Franz Josef has close ties to Salzburg City due to his extended periods of residence at Schloss Klessheim. For the first time, the DomQuartier presents important details of the Archduke’s life as well as a series of artworks once part of Ludwig Viktor’s personal collection. [www.domquartier.at](http://www.domquartier.at)

In springtime, the Salzburg Museum will be dedicated to two extraordinary artists. The exhibition **“Arik Brauer: Destinies of Women” (February 22 to April 22, 2019)** casts a spotlight on existential questions of destiny, given artistic interpretation by Austrian painters. In the Salzburg Museum’s Kunsthalle, some 100 works by famous Austrian artist **Alfred Kubin** will be on display **from March 8 (until June 16, 2019)**. Kubin spent large portions of his childhood in Salzburg, which is why the works on exhibition are dedicated to his biographical and artistic links to the city of Mozart. [www.salzburgmuseum.at](http://www.salzburgmuseum.at)

At Museum der Moderne – Rupertinum, the exhibition **“Humanity in Photograpsh”** **(April 6 to 16 June, 2019)** presents new acquisitions from the National Photo Collection. This collection has been housed in Salzburg since 2013 and comprises around 12,000 pieces. The exhibition gives visitors an opportunity to gauge recent developments within this fascinating photo collection. [www.museumdermoderne.at](http://www.museumdermoderne.at)

**Special Tip: balloon festival replaces arriving and departing flights**

**Salzburg Airport will be shut down from April 24 through May 28, 2019, in order to conduct major renovations and maintenance work.** Between those dates, of course, travelers will be able to make use of the airports in Vienna, Linz and Munich, all of which are within easy reach of Salzburg. The closure of Salzburg Airport also represents an exciting opportunity to host an attention-getting alternative: **From 11 to 18 May, 2019,** a **balloon rally** will be held in and around Salzburg, during which some 50 balloons from across the globe will rise into the air above the city of Mozart. In fact, depending on the wind and weather conditions, some of the balloons might even launch from the heart of the Salzburg historical district.

**Additional Information:**

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