

VIENNA

Vienna on the Danube River is the capital and largest city of Austria. The city's roots lie in early and Roman settlements that transformed it into a Medieval and Baroque city. In 1440, Vienna became the resident city of the Habsburg dynasty. It eventually grew to become the *de facto* capital of the Holy Roman Empire (1483–1806) and a cultural center for arts and science, music and fine cuisine. Hungary occupied the city from 1485–1490 when it then became the capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The city is well known for having played an essential role as a leading European music center, from the great age of Viennese Classicism through the early part of the 20th century. The historic center of Vienna is rich in architectural ensembles, including Baroque castles and gardens, and the late-19th-century Ringstrasse lined with grand buildings, monuments and parks. The Ringstrasse was formed in 1857 when the huge star-shaped Baroque fortification walls were demolished.

Concert, Lobby of the
Natural History Museum





Central reflective mirror
in the ceiling, Lobby of the
Natural History Museum



Maria Theresa Walburga Amalia

Christina was the only female ruler of the Habsburg dominions and the last of the House of Habsburg. She started her 40-year reign when her father, Emperor Charles VI, died in October 1740.

Maria Theresa and her husband, Francis I, Holy Roman Emperor, had sixteen children, including the Queen of France, the Queen of Naples and Sicily, the Duchess of Parma and two Holy Roman Emperors, Joseph II and Leopold II. Of the sixteen, ten survived to adulthood. She had eleven daughters and five sons.



Hofburg Palace is the former imperial palace in the center of Vienna.

Part of the palace forms the official residence and workplace of the President of Austria.

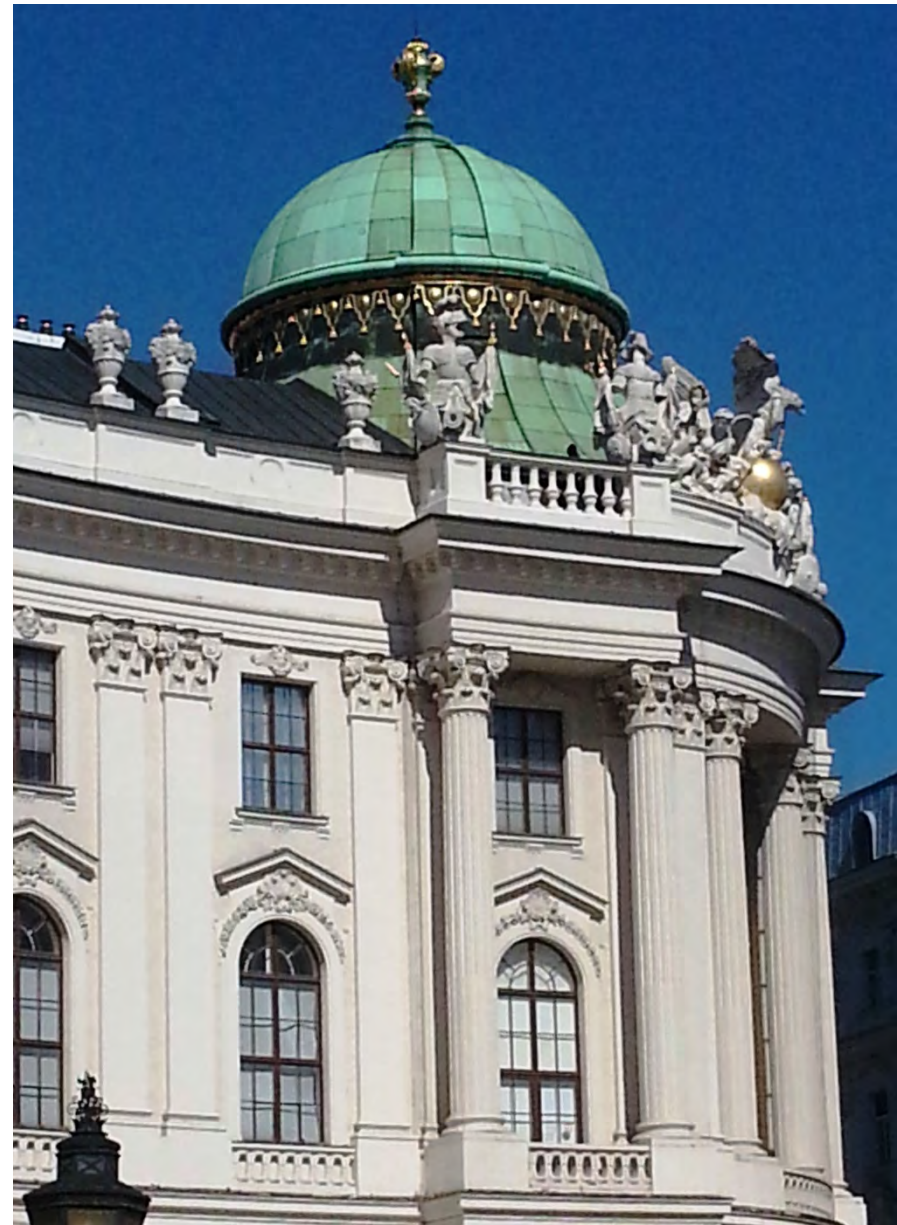
Built in the 13th century and expanded in the centuries since, the palace has housed some of the most powerful people in European and Austrian history, including monarchs of the Habsburg dynasty, rulers of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.



Hofburg Palace



Hofburg Palace





Hofburg Palace



These sculptural figures were executed by the Italian sculptor Lorenzo Mattielli (1678 – 1748)



Hofburg Palace



Sculptural figures of Hercules by the Italian sculptor Lorenzo Mattielli (1678 – 1748)



More Herculean feats!

Hofburg Palace





CONSTANTIA ET FORTITUDINE

(By Perseverance & Bravery)



VIRIBUS - UNITIS

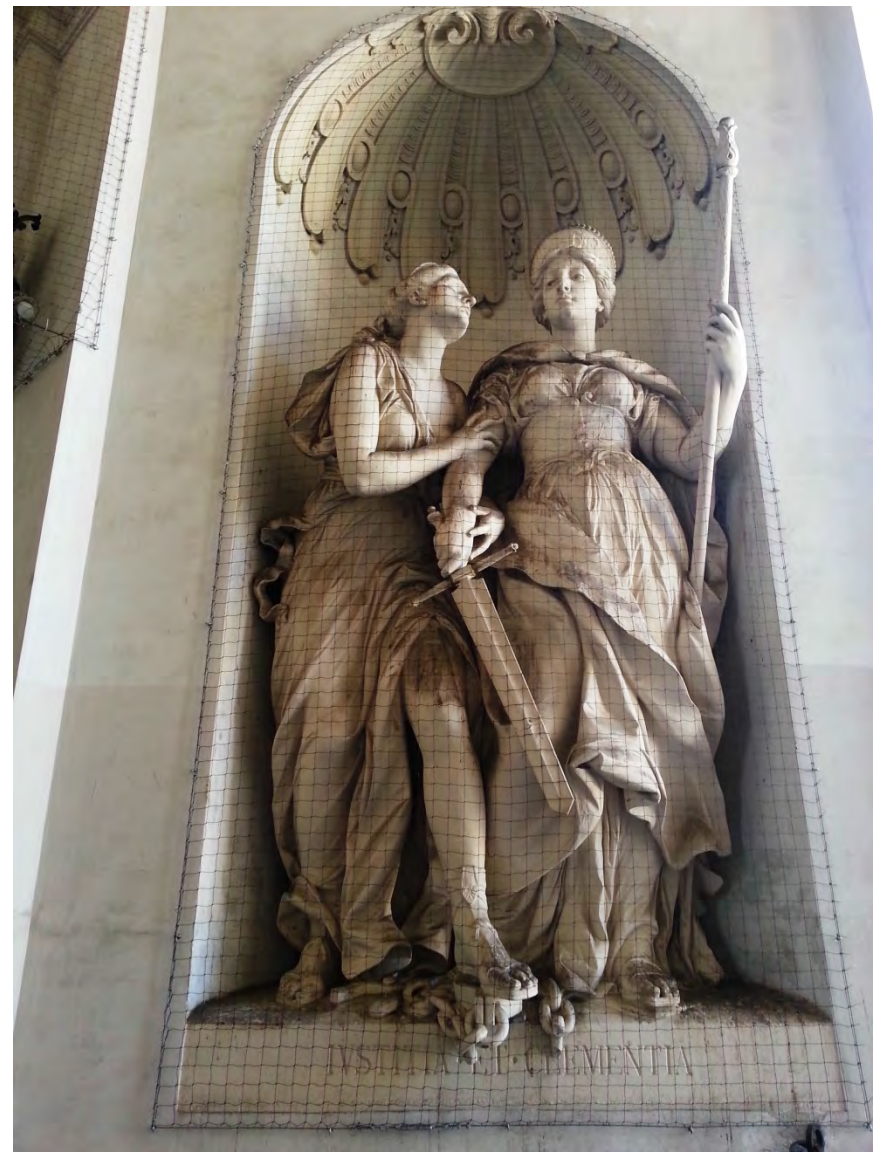
(With United Forces)

Sculptures in Palace courtyard depicting
Mottos of Emperor Joseph I (1765 – 1790)



VIRTUTE ET EXEMPLO

(By Virtue and Example)



IUSTITIA ET CLEMENTIA

(By Justice and Mercy)



Austrian National Library building, Josefsplatz (Joseph's Square)

The Italian sculptor, Lorenzo Mattielli placed a statue of Pallas Athene riding on a quadriga above the main entrance (1726).



On the left portion of the roof, Matielli situated Atlas, supporting the celestial globe, flanked by Astronomy and Astrology, and on the opposite side, Gaia with the terrestrial globe, flanked by allegories of Geometry and Geography.





St. Michael's Church is one of the oldest churches in Vienna. Above the entrance pediment stands a group with winged angels and St. Michael slaying Lucifer with Hebrew letters on his shield.





The **Spanish Riding School** is a traditional riding school for Lipizzan horses performing classical dressage.





Lorna, Yoram, & Emily





St. Stephen's Cathedral's

Romanesque and Gothic form of the cathedral, seen today in the Stephansplatz, was largely initiated by Duke Rudolf IV (1339–1365) and stands on the ruins of two earlier churches, the first a parish church consecrated in 1147.



[POSTCARD]

The glory of St. Stephen's Cathedral is its ornately patterned, richly colored roof, covered by 230,000 glazed tiles. The eagles depict the coat of arms of the City of Vienna and the Republic of Austria.







Josefsplatz is centered on a full-sized equestrian statue and monument of Emperor Joseph II, erected between 1795 and 1807.

Modelled on the statue of Marcus Aurelius on Capitoline Hill in Rome, the statue was commissioned by Emperor Francis II who, from the age of 16, had been raised under the supervision of his uncle, Joseph II.

The depiction of Joseph II as a Roman conqueror, dressed in a toga and a laurel wreath, reflects the Habsburg belief that they were descendants of the ancient Roman emperors