

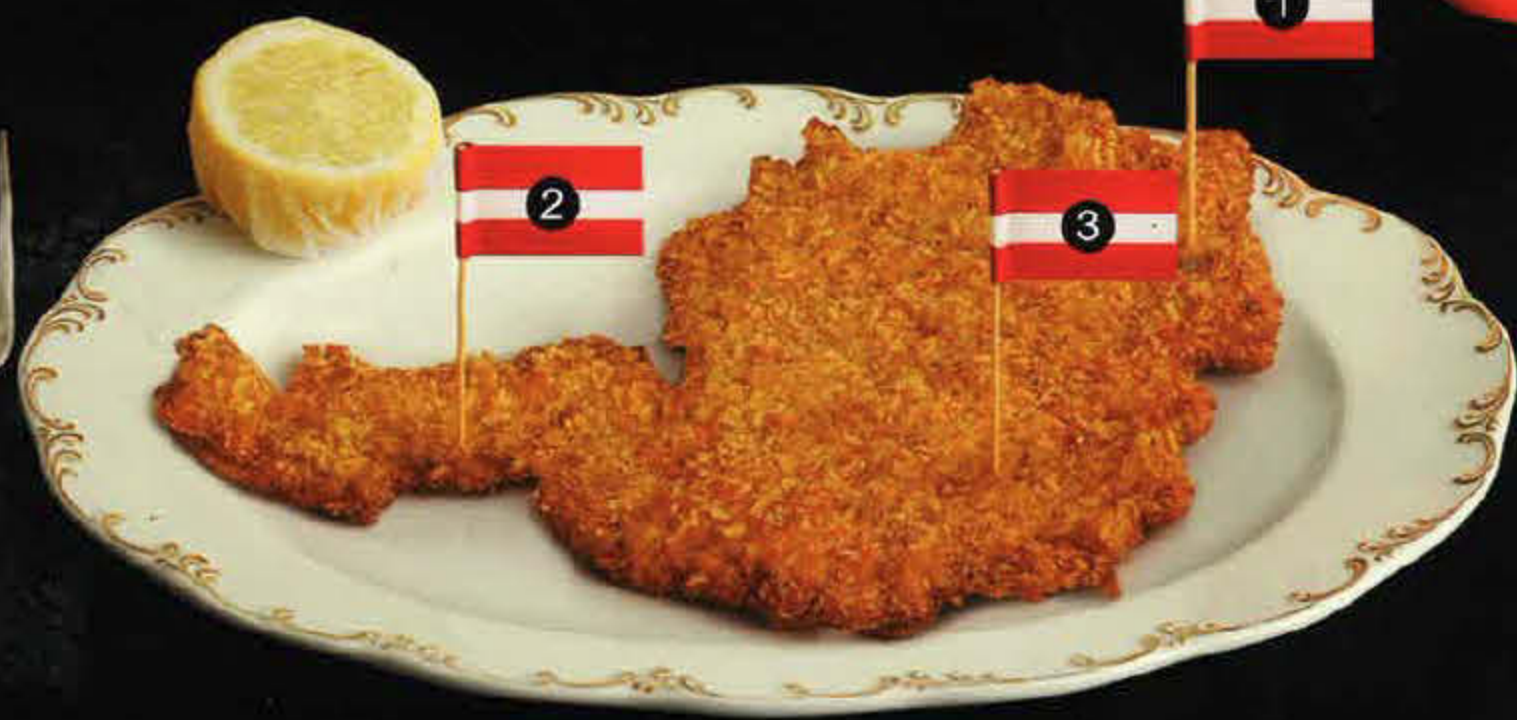
MONOCLE

INSIDE: REBELS AND ROYALS A TASTY TORTE-OLGY
BIG BALLS THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL CARPARK

A to F AFFAIRS: Why the old empire still has friends **BUSINESS:** Power-mad Vorarlberg **CULTURE:** Radio makes a move
DESIGN: Thonet to Neutra, die Meister der Designwelt **ENTERTAINING:** Buns and wine (aka heaven) **FASHION:** Nice brands

Raindrops on Rosa Mosas,
Whiskers on Wolfram,
Bright colourful DJs and warm woollen Wolfords,
Bruch-designed packages tied up with string...

These are a
few of our
favourite things!



1. Sink your teeth into Vienna's decadent cultural streak
2. Get a taste for Innsbruck
3. Savour every last crumb of Graz. Yum.

MOZART AND MORE A guide to Salzburg that goes beyond its famous musical maestro **LINZ EFFECT** An industrial centre delivering a cultural punch **SEA CHANGE** A city that thinks it's in the Med **PLUS** Charming Austrian takehomes

TRAVEL BRIEFING
Global
Key openings

A launch in Kuala Lumpur, an art-filled guesthouse in Geneva, and an Austrian hotelier on the up – here is our selection of intriguing new places to lay your head.



Maximilian Hotel
PRAGUE

When it opened in 1995, the Maximilian Hotel was one of the first small and smart hotels in Prague and it's recently been given a thoughtful facelift by London's Conran and Partners. Its 71 rooms are a short stroll from Charles Bridge and Wenceslas Square. The guest rooms are rather grand, with arched ceilings, while the woven headboards nod to traditional basket-making. The hotel's artwork celebrates the Czech avant garde movement and the reconfigured space now has an additional bar and café plus a brasserie, library and courtyard garden. There's also a basement spa for those looking for a little respite. — sz maximilianhotel.com



Austin Proper Hotel
TEXAS

Los Angeles designer Kelly Wearstler has brought her deft touch to Texas for the Proper brand's first hotel outside California. Every dreamy room is finished with tiles by ceramicist Rick Van Dyke, art by Magda Sayeg and Texas-named travertine. The food options include The Peacock, the hotel's Mediterranean flagship; La Piscina, a Mexican-inspired poolside affair; The Mockingbird Café, a bakery; and Goldie's Sunken Bar, a cocktail joint. Bottoms up. — SR properhotel.com



Q&A
FLORIAN WEITZER
Hotelier
Weitzer Hotels, Graz and Vienna

Florian Weitzer is a member of the fourth generation of a family of hoteliers from Austria's second-largest city, Graz. Since taking over the group in 2003, he has expanded into Vienna with the Hotel Daniel and Grand Ferdinand Hotel, while also overhauling and updating the family's three Graz mainstays. He talks about Austrian hospitality, buoying a brand and a new opening outside the capital. — AKO

What does Austrian hospitality mean to you and what makes it unique?
There's a line in the Austrian national anthem that goes: "A nation blessed with beauty". So we strive for high standards when it comes to hospitality.

How is it changing?
You have to be unique to survive. For my part, each of my locations has its own distinct identity. This appeals to our guests and, of course, this is what helps to create a brand.

Tell us about your latest openings.
We recently opened a new restaurant, Salon Marie, at the Grand Hôtel Wiesler in Graz. Dating from 1909, the hotel itself is quite special. We will also open our first standalone restaurant this summer in Salzburg.

How did you make them feel new and keep your fingerprint on them?
I love reinterpreting highly atmospheric old buildings in a contemporary way, so while we celebrate tradition, we do it in a forward-looking manner.

Are there many opportunities in the Austrian market and what are they?
You could say that there are still many places in Austria that are waiting to be kissed and awoken. I believe that my new project is one of them. I purchased a historic spa hotel in a beautiful area just outside Vienna; it will be opening in a few years as the Grand Semmering. It had its heyday before the First World War when important Austrian writers and artists came to visit. I was inspired by the charm of the building. weitzer.com

The Chow Kit
KUALA LUMPUR

Kuala Lumpur's Chow Kit neighbourhood doesn't have the best reputation but hotelier Gareth Lim of the Ormond Group is eager to change that with the opening of two hotels. "This neighbourhood isn't what it used to be," says Lim. "Now there's a great community and great food. We want to be the hotel that changes its narrative."

The end of last year saw the launch of The Chow Kit, designed by New York-based Studio Tack, followed by smaller sister hotel Momo's next door. Beyond the interiors that were finished by Malaysian craftsmen, the key for both properties is a sense of place.

While The Chow Kit is more refined and sheltered, Momo's has a lively lobby with a taco bar and an events space that hosts musicians, comedians and pop-ups. — MSS thechowkit.com



Artist Residence Bristol
UK

Charlie and Justin Salisbury have transformed an abandoned boot factory in the St Pauls area of the city into a homely new hotel adorned with art. "The real appeal is the opportunity to bring a corner of this historic square back to life for the community," says Justin of the space on Portland Square. Other than its 23 guest rooms, the duo's fifth UK property has a bar, café, garden, restaurant and events space, and makes an excellent springboard from which to dive into the city. — MSS artistresidence.co.uk



The Hamlet
GENEVA

It took Tara Wondraczek and her family 10 years to turn a beautiful 18th-century townhouse in the cobblestoned streets of Geneva's Old Town into a guesthouse. The former London-based brand manager hadn't worked a day in hospitality before inheriting the property and transforming it into The Hamlet with her husband Christoph.

Today the house has 16 apartments available for short and long-term lets, some with room for four or more. "We realised that home is a sense of belonging and a space to host and bring people together," says Wondraczek. "It's our living room and we call this area 'the square' – because every hamlet should have one."

"The square" includes an *épicerie* and a living room furnished with a solid walnut table where guests eat and work. There's also a pantry for self-service drinks and treats, a well-stocked library and a gallery for exhibitions by artists including Wondraczek's mother, Lynne Hacking.

The Hamlet has a number of Vitra pieces (the Swiss furniture firm recently opened a shop downstairs) that are mixed with vintage finds from flea markets. "We want to bring life to the building and connect it with the neighbourhood," says Wondraczek. — MSS thehamlet.com



Pantechnicon Powys
BUILTH WELLS, WALES

A pantechnicon van – once used to haul antiques and later as a storage cabin – has been transformed into an unlikely holiday home in the grounds of Farmers', one of the few lavender farms in Wales. "The truck was an eyesore that became something we loved," says Nancy Durham, who founded Farmers' with her husband William Newton-Smith in 2002. (MONOCLE liked it so much that we collaborated with the brand.) "We have a lot of visitors to the farm and people have been asking for years whether we have a place to stay. At last we do."

Durham and her team harvest and distil the fragrant lavender plants and use them to make everything from body creams to



cakes. The Farmers' shop, where these handmade goods are sold, is close to the van, which is fitted with large windows and a spacious deck overlooking the landscape and nearby swimming pond.

The interior is furnished with polished oak floors, custom shelves and cabinets containing ceramic tableware by local maker Tim Lake and all you need to self-cater. Upon arrival guests are greeted with freshly baked bread, a bottle of wine, coffee, tea and condiments, as well as eggs from the farm next door. A wooden staircase leads to a cove with a king-sized bed but if you have time to kill before turning in for the night, you can make yourself comfortable in the Bauhaus-style chairs at the foot of the stairs and admire the rolling hills. — MSS welshlavender.com/stay

