

BELVEDERE: Spring Festival to Celebrate the Belvedere's 300th Anniversary

On May 13 and 14, the Belvedere will host a Spring Festival.

Admission is free.

April 26, 2023

To celebrate the Belvedere's 300th anniversary, events are planned in all three museums and throughout the Baroque park. The museums and gardens will offer a wide range of programs for visitors to enjoy. Families and children can explore exciting creativity stations in the former menagerie. The Upper Belvedere will host performances by Verena Dengler, Thomas Geiger, and Kateřina Šedá. The Spring Festival will also feature a special post office and a variety of culinary treats.

General Director Stella Rollig: *In challenging times, festivals give people the strength to endure them. As part of the anniversary celebrations, we have declared that this year be a 'golden spring', a year of optimism, unity, and joy. In celebration of Belvedere's 300th anniversary, we invite you to join us at the Spring Festival to celebrate with our visitors and to look forward to what lies ahead.*

Tickets can be booked online in advance for free

All three Belvedere locations – the Upper Belvedere, Lower Belvedere, and Belvedere 21 – will be open to the public during regular opening hours with free admission. Starting May 2, visitors will be able to reserve a time slot ticket in advance for the museum of their choice to guarantee admission. Meeting points for performances and guided tours will be signposted on-site. There will be no charge for attendance, and reservations will not be required.

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Experience 300 years of the Belvedere

During the Spring Festival, visitors are invited to tour the current exhibitions in the Lower Belvedere and Belvedere 21, participate in guided strolls through the gardens, and explore the *Public Matters* sculpture exhibition. In the menagerie area, families will playfully discover Prince Eugene's animals that once roamed there, while the Austrian Federal Gardens will offer the opportunity to try their hands at gardening. A guided tour through the palace chapel of the Upper Belvedere, which is usually closed to the public, represents yet another unique opportunity. During Sunday's program, the Belvedere 21 will take center stage. As part of the exhibition *On the New*, concerts, films, and performances will be offered in the Blickle Kino, the Sculpture Garden, and the area surrounding the Belvedere 21.

Artistic Performances

From May to September 2023, an ambitious contemporary sculpture project will complement the Baroque sculptures scattered across the Belvedere's three sites. Presented under the title *Public Matters*, works by 33 international and local artists will connect all areas of the museum's gardens.

For his *Bust Talks* on May 13 at 4 pm, Thomas Geiger has selected unexpected discussion partners: *Atlas*, *Sphinx*, and *Doctor*, the three title-giving protagonists, are two sculptures in the Belvedere garden and a relief in the Schweizergarten. In 30-minute "interviews," the artist investigates the historical significance and appearance of these three figures.

Verena Dengler has conceived a performance, which will be realized in collaboration with a group of actors on May 13 at 5 pm. In the style of an "opera buffa," the actors will ceremoniously enter the Upper Belvedere, pass through the Marble Hall, the site of the State Treaty signing, and then finally stage a musical performance from the balcony that questions Austria's uncritical handling of its history.

A two-day action led by Kateřina Šedá (May 13 and 14, 10 am–6 pm) will see museum employees transformed into works of art. Living sculptures and audience participation are the hallmarks of the Czech artist's work. The collaborative action entitled *Come Closer!* aims to facilitate encounters between people who normally would just pass by each other in the Belvedere gardens.

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Gastronomic options abound

The Spring Festival will offer its visitors a wide selection of culinary options that, at the same time, will encourage them to spend more time in the gardens. On both days of the festival, the café at the Upper Belvedere will have a large outdoor dining area set up. On the Upper Belvedere's north side, food trucks will also be serving up delights.

Special post office – the 300th-anniversary Belvedere stamp

As part of the Spring Festival, the Austrian Post is releasing a commemorative stamp to mark the 300th anniversary of the Belvedere. Visitors may send springtime greetings from the Upper Belvedere thanks to a dedicated post office that will cancel the new stamp with the official first-day-of-issue postmark.

For more information and press images, click [HERE](#).