



BALL INFORMATION

October 2019

2019 HOFBURG Silvesterball – Time to Celebrate

A panoply of artistic expression, enjoyment and dancing

The first ever New Year's Ball at the Hofburg took place on 31 December 1969. 50 years later we will be staging a one-of-a-kind anniversary celebration. And we certainly know how it's done: inspired by the theme of Time to Celebrate, the jubilee event will get this year's Viennese ball season off to a dazzling start. First-class entertainment and a sumptuous gala dinner set the scene for the epitome of Viennese ball culture in the unique state rooms of Vienna's imperial Hofburg palace.

This year's experience features no end of inspired ideas from the organisation committee led by the ball's artistic directors, **Christof Cremer** and **Herbert Fischerauer**. Guests will experience a blend of history, the present day and the future in the Hofburg state rooms.

50 years young and still going strong

The beautiful floral decorations, the popular Silvesterball fanfare and the formal ceremony performed by the dancers from the Vienna State Ballet, never fail to work their magic on guests at the official opening of the magnificent Grand staircase.

*"It gives me great pleasure to get the world-famous Viennese ball season off to a swinging start at the Hofburg with its beautiful state rooms," said Managing Director **Alexandra Kaszay**.*

For the opening of the state rooms, the debutantes from the Elmayer dance school make their entrance to the Festsaal and Zeremoniensaal decked out in dazzling headwear from Mühlbauer.

*"I am especially looking forward to the world premiere of Happy Birthday HOFBURG Silvesterball by the internationally-acclaimed composer Pavel Singer. The piece is a unique homage to this year's anniversary ball," **Herbert Fischerauer** explained.*

Pavel Singer draws on all colours of the musical spectrum from Baroque to rap. It will be performed by the well-known **Divertimento Viennese** orchestra and the band **Stereoparty** under the baton of **Vinzenz Praxmarer**. And before the floor is opened up to all comers with the words "Alles Walzer", the audience will be treated to a performance by the acclaimed opera soloists **Ilona Revolskaya** and **Boris Pfeifer** accompanied by the dancers of the Vienna State Ballet, who will be wearing costumes specially created for the occasion by **ART for ART**.

*"Staging a new artistic spectacle for the opening ceremony and the midnight show that captures the hearts of visitors from 50 different nations all over the world time and again always presents a fresh challenge," said **Lukas Gaudernak** about his creation for the dancers of the Vienna State Ballet.*



Midnight and the big New Year's Eve show

An unforgettable scene awaits our guests at midnight, when we will ring in the New Year together with breathtaking views of spectacular firework displays above the old town, the sounding of the Pummerin bell at St. Stephen's Cathedral and the traditional Blue Danube Waltz. Highlights such as the stage show in the Festsaal and Zeremoniensaal at midnight are broadcast to screens throughout the venue. The soprano **Tanja Petrsek** and tenor **Boris Pfeifer** will perform a retro medley themed Congratulations and Celebrations, with number one hits from 1969 and 1970 – the first two years of the HOFBURG Silvesterball – interwoven with the overture from the operetta Die Fledermaus.

Let's waltz!

In all, 13 bands and orchestras will provide swinging ballroom sounds in the various salons. At the **Strictly Waltz Room** in the Geheime Ratstube – a new addition this year – a waltz ensemble and master of ceremonies will ensure a great atmosphere all night long. As the name suggests, everything revolves around waltzing here: deftly switching between waltzes to the left and to the right in a flurry of footsteps, or simply gliding sedately across the dancefloor at a more leisurely pace. And it is not just younger ballgoers who will take to the floor of the **Silver Sparkling Disco**.

Public quadrille

The ever-popular New Year's Eve quadrille in the imperial state rooms – led by the Elmayer dance school – just keeps getting faster and faster. These spaces, where the monarchs once hosted formal dances, now provide the backdrop for a more relaxed kind of merriment – and are an experience in their own right for ballgoers.

Culinary delights and champagne moments

Motto Catering will provide the perfect culinary accompaniment for a lavish New Year's Eve celebration. The four-course dinner, accompanied by selected Austrian white and red wines, has already been perfected:

Appetiser

Marinated tiger prawn | kohlrabi carpaccio | walnut cream

Soup

Duck consommé | porcini mushroom ravioli | salsify

Main course

Fillet of beef in Swiss chard mantle | vitelotte potato purée | pickled nuts | Swiss chard confit | carrots

Dessert

Chestnut bombe glacée | cranberries | homemade coffee ice cream

Typical Viennese treats and traditional pastries are available at the **Viennese Heuriger** wine tavern and the **Viennese coffeehouse**. Cocktails and champagne drinks are served at the **Birthday Lounge** and the **Champagne bar**.



The Hofburg scores a perfect 10

The HOFBURG Silvesterball promises a mix of traditional and modern elements in the historic state rooms of the former imperial palace, coupled with no end of charm and esprit. The venue's state-of-the-art fixtures and technical equipment shows that the HOFBURG Vienna lives and breathes history and innovation.

*"Miss PomPom, Miss Congratulation and Miss Ball will all carry themselves with a blend of humour and elegance. HOFBURG Silvesterball visitors will just love them as an unusual addition to their photos!," said **Christof Cremer**, who created three enchanting gowns for the walking acts especially for the 50 anniversary.*

Sustainability is a topic that affects us all, which is why the Hofburg Vienna has its very own green policy. Working with our long-standing partners at **Fahnen-Gärtner** we ensure that existing decoration elements can be reused in different ways to maximum effect.

HOFBURG Silvesterball trail and gifts for our guests

Follow our lucky ball trail into the New Year:

- Pick your own **lucky clover** in a sea of four-leaf clovers
- Thousands of New Year's wishes on our **wish tree** – just add yours
- Let **Foto Fayer** take a memento of your event in the photo studio and send your selfie out into the world
- Chimney sweeps, four-leafed clover, horseshoes – a traditional selection of **lucky charms** to bring you good fortune in the New Year
- Stylish party favours as a memento of the 50th HOFBURG Silvesterball:
 - Exclusive Mon Guerlain fragrance in a flacon from **Guerlain** for the ladies
 - Handmade pralines from **XOCOLAT** for the gentlemen
 - Exquisite HOFBURG Silvesterball branded **champagne flute**
 - Luxury ladies' hand fans from the HOFBURG collection in gold – perfect for flirtations flutters

Festsaal sold out

Numerous bookings for the state rooms have already been made via the new-look website. And the Festsaal has already sold out! The new **360° panoramic tour** gives guests a chance to explore the state rooms before the ball:

<https://www.hofburgsilvesterball.com/de/programm/360gradtour/>

*From the Zeremoniensaal, which was once the Habsburg throne room, to the Rittersaal where Maria Theresa was baptised, every room tells its own story, casting a spell on visitors with its unique charm," said Managing Director **Alexandra Kaszay**.*

Join us as we celebrate and bid farewell to the year gone by and welcome in the new one. Time to Celebrate – celebrate the HOFBURG Silvesterball with us!



Click here for information on the various ticket categories: <https://www.hofburgsilvesterball.com/de/tickets>
<https://www.hofburgsilvesterball.com/en/tickets>

Click here for information on programme highlights and the timetable: <https://www.hofburgsilvesterball.com/de/programm>

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2018 HOFBURG Silvesterball video link <https://youtu.be/3mCXuGIWLTQ>