



Dazzling start to the Advent season – the Vienna Christmas Dream and Christmas Market at City Hall Square open their doors to the public on 16 November

- **From handicrafts to delicacies – 152 Christmas market stands offer an enticing variety**
- **3,000 m² of shimmering parquet floor – romantic ice-skating at the Little Ice Dream**
- **The little ones are the main focus – arts & crafts workshop in the Volkshalle and a Christmas World in the park**
- **New highlight – nativity path through the park with 12 hand-crafted exhibits**

(Vienna, 8 November 2018) The countdown at Vienna’s City Hall Square has begun: the grand Christmas tree is already standing tall, the sales stands of the Christmas Market are being decorated and assembled, the ice at the Little Ice Dream moulded into a mirror-like finish, and the children’s attractions polished to a shine. Just a couple more nights’ sleep and everything will be ready for the opening of the Vienna Christmas Dream and the start of the fabulous Advent time in the federal capital.

Christmas is just over six weeks away, and there’s hardly a more pleasant way to get in the seasonal spirit than at the Vienna Christmas Dream. The unique combination of the Christmas Market, ice-skating rink and special children’s world, embedded in the unparalleled flair of the Vienna City Hall Square and the Burgtheater, offers an utterly unforgettable, romantic and atmospheric experience for young and old alike with a multitude of artistic and fairytale-like attractions.

The Vienna Christmas Dream and Viennese Christmas Market are important landmarks for the embodiment of culture in the federal capital, as Mayor Michael Ludwig emphasises: “Once again this year, the city of Vienna is providing this unique festive offering at City Hall Square, which represents an important economic factor with its approximately 3.5 million visitors last year, and is broadcast throughout the entire world via media coverage. But the Vienna Christmas Dream and Viennese Christmas Market also symbolise the contemplative, unifying Christmas season in Vienna. A city that enables all people and cultures to coexist in harmony and enjoy Christmas in peace.”

Twinkling lights and the scent of punch and roasted almonds – magical Viennese Christmas Market

This year, once again, 152 stands offer an exquisite selection of handicrafts, traditional customs and delicious culinary delights for all visitors from both home and abroad. To the delight of the young guests, the Viennese “Christkindl” will be stopping by every now and then to listen to their wishes. But grown-up visitors can also look forward to heavenly pleasures: from 1 to 23 December, a wide range of choirs will be singing the most beautiful Christmas carols and more on the stage in front of the Christmas tree daily at 6:00pm. The famous trumpeters will also be performing on the stage at 8:00pm every day in December.

Size is relative: Little Ice Dream – giant fun

The Little Ice Dream in the festively lit City Hall Park with an ice surface of 3,000 m² is a wonderful Christmas highlight that will captivate even the most unsporty of visitors. Dreamy pathways that lead through the trees across the park to then join up at the end in one large space – in the midst of this magnificent scenery and with atmospheric music playing in the background, the romance of Christmas time can be enjoyed to the full.

Ice skates and helmets are available for hire on site. Thanks to an initiative of the city of Vienna, Viennese kindergartens, day cares and schools enjoy free admission in groups from Mondays to Fridays (excluding public holidays) from 10:00am – 4:00pm. As part of this offer, ice skates are available for hire at a reduced



rate of €3.50 per pair. Double-bladed ice skates (sizes 4.5 to 7.5) and helmets for children are available free of charge (while supplies last).

There is also a separate area of 100 m² for ice-skating beginners who would like to practise their first steps on the slippery ice without paying admission.

Getting creative and having fun – the Christkindl’s baking and crafting workshop in the Volkshalle is open once again

The best gifts are those that are handmade with love. After the completion of renovations to the City Hall façade, the Christkindl’s baking and crafting workshop at the Viennese Christmas Market will once again be held in the Volkshalle. It offers a broad range of opportunities for creative children and young people to make wonderful presents with minimum costs and maximum joy – the littlest ones can join in on the fun by cutting out biscuits. While the kids get creative, the rest of the group or family can take a delicious break at the on-site coffee shop. This Christmas, parents, grandparents, relatives and friends can look forward to the artwork of their youngest ones: elaborately hand-crafted Christmas tree decorations, dreamcatchers made of pipe cleaners and beads, and guardian angels made of tassels will be bedazzling Austrian Christmas trees this year. The delicious handmade biscuits usually don’t make it out of the workshop.

New but tradition-bound highlight – the nativity path

A new addition awaits the visitors in the Christmas World this year: the nativity path in the City Hall Park with exhibits that were all handmade by the Vienna Krippenverein.

For over 1,500 years, there have been nativity scene representations all over the world, and Austria itself has a long tradition of making them – reason enough to incorporate this popular custom into the Vienna Christmas Dream.

This year’s topic for the nativity path is “traditional Viennese nativity scenes”. Various nativity scenes that have been created with painstaking precision are lovingly nestled in the City Hall Park just waiting to be discovered. The little works of art, which are partly based on old photos and images, depict an impressively detailed representation of daily life: the clothing of the figures as well as numerous everyday objects are clearly discernible. The visitors can discover a total of twelve nativity scenes while taking a leisurely stroll through the City Hall Park - taking pictures and a closer look is expressly permitted!

Fun, games and adventures await at the Christmas World in the park

Wait a moment – an Advent season of fun and adventure? Absolutely! Enjoyable and exciting attractions such as a reindeer train, Ferris wheel and historical merry-go-round are waiting to be explored in the northern section of the park at the Vienna Christmas Dream, so that even the youngest visitors can join in on the playful action. A tour with the “City Hall Express” is not to be missed – a ride through the dazzling Christmas World will amaze young and old alike.

Tradition as the foundation for a well-rounded experience

In addition to the bright lights and cheer, silent reflection and contemplation of tradition are also important cornerstones of the Vienna Christmas Dream. The Advent wreath of the Diakonie will be shining its light in the City Hall Park once more this year as a symbol for the original meaning of Christmas, while Advent singing can be enjoyed on the Advent weekends in the festival hall of Vienna City Hall.

**Vienna Christmas Dream and Christmas Market at City Hall Square
From 16 November to 26 December 2018
www.wienerweihnachtstraum.at / www.wien-event.at**



Viennese Christmas Market at City Hall Square

16 November to 26 December 2018
Sunday to Thursday from 10:00am to 9:30pm
Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00am to 10:00pm
24 December from 10:00am to 7:00pm
25 and 26 December from 11:00am to 9:30pm

Little Ice Dream

16 November 2018 to 6 January 2019
Open daily from 10:00am to 10:00pm
24 December from 10:00am to 6:00pm
(Closed on 31 December 2018)

Baking and crafting workshop in the Volkshalle

16 November to 24 December 2018
Daily from 9:00am to 7:00pm
24 December from 9:00am to 3:00pm

Lighting of the Christmas tree

17 November 2018 at 5:30pm

Advent singing / Festival hall City Hall

Every Advent weekend starting 1 December up to and including 24 December 2018
Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 3:30 to 7:00pm
24 December from 3:30 to 4:30pm

Trumpeters / Stage Viennese Christmas Market

1 December to 23 December 2018
Daily from 8:00 to 8:30pm

Choirs / Stage Viennese Christmas Market

1 December to 23 December 2018
Daily from 6:30 to 7:00pm

Blessing of the Advent wreath

1 December 2018 at 2:30pm

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