



Great Knights' Ball

The Christmas social ceremonial spectacular at the Hofburg Palace
December 12-15, 2010, Vienna, Austria



The Ball will take place at the 'Zeremoniensaal' stateroom of the imperial residence on December 14, 2010 during the Christmas season. The Knights' Ball will be themed 'Ad gloriam' (In praise of glory!)

PROGRAMME

DRAFT

12 December, Sunday. Arrival to Vienna

Check-in at the Astoria 4* Hotel

Karntner Strasse 32-34, 1010 Wien

19:30 Attendance at Giuseppe Verdi's 'Un ballo in maschera' (A Masked Ball) at the Vienna State Opera (*optional*)

13 December, Monday. Free time.

14 December, Tuesday. Great Knights' Ball.

*Dress code: gentlemen – tuxedo, coat tails, uniform or dark suit
ladies – long evening/ball dress*

15:00-16:00 **Gathering in the lobby of the Astoria 4* Hotel**

Karntner Strasse 32-34, 1010 Wien

16:00-16:25 **Admission for guests.**

According to ceremonial tradition, the guests will be welcomed by four troubadours at the grand staircase. To the accompaniment of enchanting music of Strauss and Mozart, the appetizer will be served. Time for making new contacts and renewing old ones.

16:25-17:30 **Ad gloriam! Ceremony**

With solemn fanfares four troubadours will announce the beginning of the awarding ceremony, where achievements of prominent figures of today's business, education and art will be put into recognition.

Knighting to the International Order of Grand Master La Valette

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| 17:30-19:40 | <p>Banquet in honour of the laureates and guests of the ball. Accompanied by the classical orchestra, liveried waiters will serve an exclusive five-course banquet.</p> |
| 19:40-20:00 | <p>Viennese Operetta Show Virtuosic musicians and opera singers will present the show of Viennese charm with rousing melodies of waltz and polka, arias and duets, tunes from operettas and solo concertos.</p> |
| 20:00 | <p>Opening of the ball With solemn fanfares four troubadours will announce the beginning of the ball. You will be introduced to the dancing teacher. Together with couples he will show you the basic pas and only after that the dancing master will welcome all guests of the ball to dance.</p> |
| 22:30 | <p>End of the ball With solemn fanfares four troubadours will announce the end of the night. The classical orchestra performs the last compositions of the night. At the grand staircase four lackeys will follow the guests of the ball.</p> |
| | <p><u>15 December, Wednesday</u></p> |
| | <p>Departure</p> |

Welcome to Vienna!

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