



PALAIS DAUN-KINSKY WIEN

PRESS RELEASE

Palais Daun-Kinsky: envied by all – even the Emperor

Count Wirich Philipp von Daun, Prince of Teano not only stood out because of his long name. Between 1713 and 1716 he built what must be the most impressive of any of Vienna's palatial Baroque-era mansion houses. No other imperial residence can boast anything like as many opulent flourishes. The heart of Palais Daun-Kinsky (Freyung 4, first district) is the Ovaler Festsaal, the city's only oval banqueting hall, which was the envy of even the imperial court.

Interesting facts about Daun-Kinsky...

- The architect Lukas von Hildebrandt only invited the best and most sought-after artists to work with him on the palace. At the time, the imperial household could only dream of such luxury.
- Not content with having the city's sole oval banqueting hall, Palais Daun-Kinsky was also the only residential property in the old town to have its own burial place.
- There was no such thing as too much opulence in the Baroque era, which is why Count Daun and the Kinsky family – the property's subsequent owners – were keen to add their own marks to the Palais for posterity.
- The oft-heard rhyming couplet of "Ich bitte um Verzeihung, ich bin nicht von der Freyung" (You'll have to forgive me, I'm not from the Freyung) was coined by Count Adalbert Sternberg, a nobleman who was always jealous of the Kinskys.

Its architect Lukas von Hildebrandt was so proud of the building that he completed in just four years that he went out of his way to inform the Emperor in a letter that he was its lone creator. And rightly so, since Palais Daun-Kinsky on the Freyung square is anything but ordinary: Extending for more than two floors, the grand staircase leads to the unique Ovaler Festsaal, leaving a lasting impression on visitors with its Baroque artistic lavishness.

The who's who of the Viennese art scene would meet at Palais Daun-Kinsky

It is said the Count Daun gave the property to his wife Count Maria Barbara Herberstein for their 20th wedding anniversary – a gesture that left Viennese high society open-mouthed. Hildebrandt, later Prince Eugene's official court master builder, only worked with the best and most in-demand artists. Superstars such as Marcantonio Chiarini and Carlo Innocenzo Carlone were responsible for the impressive Window to Heaven ceiling painting in the Ovaler Saal, Alberto Camesina created the intricate stucco work, and Antonio Beduzzi was responsible for the grand staircase which is a work of art in its own right. At that time the imperial court could only dream of commissioning such master craftsmen.

Palais Ferstel / Café Central / Palais Daun-Kinsky / Börsensäle Wien

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The owner's motto at the time was: no half measures

Both Count Daun and the subsequent owners, the Kinsky family, were highly regarded members of the nobility. Daun, a successful military man, had his achievements immortalised in the architecture and the interiors of the building. The Doric columns and Atlas figures at the main entrance which symbolically bear the weight of the building in a display of strength and power, the beautiful wall and ceiling paintings, and the fresco above the main staircase featuring the count experiencing an apotheosis are just a few of numerous examples that reveal a great deal about how Count Daun wanted to go down in history.

Many members of the Kinsky family were also high-ranking military figures and part of the most influential nobility of the land, and the world for that matter, for centuries. Prudentia and Justitia – prudence and justice – are two of the attributes that the Kinsky were particularly keen to be associated with. The two statues of the same name watch over the Kinsky family's impressive coat of arms at the main entrance: three wolf's teeth framed by the nation's most important order – the Golden Fleece.

Celebrate like the Kinskys

For many years Palais Daun-Kinsky was the place to be for the Viennese nobility. The oval dance salon was synonymous with perfectly shaped beauty. Unlike a perfect circle, which was the expression of divine presence, choosing an oval was one way for a worldly sophisticate to make a statement about who he was. To this day there is no more beautiful oval salon anywhere in the capital. This magnificent state room is complemented by an opulent reception room, a gentlemen's salon, a ladies' salon and the Yellow Salon.

Even a run-of-the-mill princely dinner was immensely lavish and had a distinctly opulent flavour to it: at least eight courses, consisting of six dishes each were commonplace.

"Luckily these days there is no need for a personal invitation from the owner before people can come to enjoy everything that Daun-Kinsky has to offer. Today our in-house catering service and the Café Central patisserie takes care of the culinary delights, while our service team stages events at the very highest level," confirms **Kay Fröhlich, Managing Director of Palais Events Veranstaltungen GmbH**. Whether it is a meeting, dinner or wedding, the opulent rooms at Daun-Kinsky provide the ideal setting for unforgettable top-class events for 20 to 180 people.

Visit www.palaisevents.at for further information.

About Palais Events Veranstaltungen GmbH

Palais Events – part of VERKEHRBUERO since 2011 – has around 2,500m² of prime historic event space in its portfolio, the second largest of its kind in Vienna. Each year our 100-strong team plays host to around half a million guests at around 300 events at Palais Ferstel, Café Central Wien, Palais Daun-Kinsky and the Wiener Börsensäle. The 180-seat historic Café Central, one of the best-known Viennese coffee houses, was added to the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2011. Its in-house patisserie is among the best in the city.

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