

August 24th, 2018



Hi everyone,

I've just returned from my Berlin, Bonn, Vienna exploration, getting everything ready for next year — this is going to be a wonderful trip.



Not least, because I've engaged a wonderful tour operator on the ground, the Viennese native Annika Ulla Schmid. Here she is, on my first day, in a traditional heurigen, this one where Beethoven had an apartment. Beethoven's fondness for the juice of the grape is well documented.



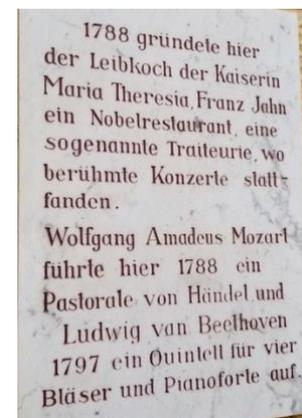
Vienna is, of course, wonderful. For me it was a significant experience to walk the same streets as did Beethoven,

(and Mozart and Haydn) stopping in the coffeeshops and restaurants he frequented.

Perhaps, as I'm immersed in Beethoven research, it's my own projection, but I sensed the scale of his task, as he sought to conquer this city ... ultimately successfully as Napoleon never was! Annika walked me around the grand city and its central first district. We

reviewed a number of hotels, and have decided

to stay at the Ritz Carlton, beside the Musikverien, the Opera House and the Beethoven memorial. It's address? 1 Schuberting ☺.



It was easy to imagine how Beethoven would occasionally want to get out of the city, so we visited Heiligenstadt, Mödling and Baden where he'd retreat for rest and recuperation. Today they're somewhat consumed by the city but, again, it's a moving experience to be on the ground where the 3rd symphony was written, or the 9th, or the Hammerklavier sonata. To truly experience the countryside though, Annika took me into the Wachau Valley, following the Danube as it headed towards Vienna. Oh my goodness how beautiful. We strolled around the small town of Krems and stopped for a glass of Austrian wine at the Nikolaihof winery and later had a tour of the Loisium



winery. Austrian wines are very different to most of what we experience in California, so early on our trip we'll have, "An Introduction to Austrian Wines". Trying not to be offensive, Annika also gently explained to me that most Americans, (how did I get included in that group?), have no idea about coffee, while the Viennese are very particular about their coffee. Annika has a coffee-sommelier friend, so one morning we'll have "An Introduction to Viennese Coffee"!

With the author Jan Swafford leading us in Bonn and Vienna, it will be easy to imagine the composer really brought to life. It's not lost on me too, with regard to that city, Jan has also published a biography of Brahms and is currently working on one of Mozart.

For both the Berlin & Vienna Philharmonics it is absolutely impossible to get tickets for regular season concerts. However, I have a connection with the Berlin Phil who thinks he can get me tickets, and Annika has a connection with the Vienna Phil who can get us into a rehearsal. We're working to confirm these. Meanwhile, we'll be making arrangements to attend the Vienna State Opera, (Tosca or Aida), and our trip finale will be the Vienna Phil's epic



Sommernachtskonzert with Dudamel and Yuja Wang on the grounds of the Schönbrunn Palace. We've got other little musical tricks up our sleeve too.

I was struck by the complete difference in feel between Vienna and Berlin. Much of Berlin was completely destroyed during the war so there are many fewer historical buildings, and most of those have been repaired or completely rebuilt after reunification. Berlin's 20th century history is, of course, notable and we'll spend a day exploring that.



However, we came to Berlin on the trail of Frederick the Great — the flute player king! Annika sourced the best Berlin tour guide — an Israeli guy called. Very smart and knowledgeable. Ronen walked us around the centre of the city, showing us how the medieval nonentity that it was began its development to the Berlin we know today through the efforts of Frederick the Great (a self awarded title, by the way) and his father. I'd always thought my particular connection with Friedrich was because he was a flute-player, however, I've learned that it's more probably because he commanded all of his landowners to devote 5% of their estates to the cultivation of potatoes. That's a man I can respect!



We're beginning our Beethoven tour in the right place, for while Beethoven never visited Vienna it was the philosophy of Frederick the Great, his enlightened absolutism, that would exert so much influence over subsequent generations. Frederick was a Francophile and built a palace in the French style in Potsdam, Sanssouci, which we'll visit. He much preferred to be there than attending to affairs of the court, and his wife, in Berlin. While he adored all things French however, the French Enlightenment and German/Austrian Enlightenment were quite different. This is a topic we'll continue to explore through the Camerata season.



Our hotel in Vienna is the wonderful, ideally situated, Hotel de Rome. (I have to tell you, we visited 5 hotels in Berlin, and most of them really don't live up to their reputation. It was very surprising.)

A very special evening was the 4 hours it took to have dinner at the 2 Michelin-starred Horváth restaurant which I'm hoping will be the venue for our welcome dinner. Head Chef, Sebastian Frank was just awarded the Best European Chef for 2018.

And so Annika and I parted company, with lots of ideas and excitement for next summer. I still had one visit left, so I headed to Bonn, checked out Beethoven's birthplace and then went to visit a friend in the village of Engers on the Rhine. In 1989 I presented my first ever concert in Santa Barbara, a recital of Bach with Patricia Mabee, harpsichord, Anke Schittenhelm, violin and Alexander Huelshoff, cello. I met Anke and Alex at the Aspen Festival. Alex is now the Director for Villa Musica, and the best way I can describe it is a music program much like the Music Academy of the West, with the addition of a major concert series. Like the Music Academy, Villa



Musica was gifted an estate, a Schloss, which has become its base of operations. We're going to spend a couple of nights there, and enjoy a concert being developed specially for us, to be performed in this hall. Now, this is no 5 star accommodation — it's lovely but it's simple, however you'll be in good company for guests there have included Lynn Harrell, Steven Isserlis, Pinchas Zukerman ...

From Schloss Engers we'll head to Vienna, but first with another highlight. The Schloss is near the start of the Middle Rhine, reportedly the most beautiful part of that river, populated with the most castles and home of the legendary Lorelei. We're going to cruise along that section of the Rhine, as part of our journey to Frankfurt to take our flight to Vienna.

There's your update. This is going to be a great trip. Annika and I are furiously working to confirm all of the arrangements. It seems the cost will be around \$8,250, exclusive of airfare, but including concert tickets, museum admissions, internal flights, breakfast every morning and

a few dinners. If you've been with us before, you'll know most everything is included. 10 people have already placed deposits with us, and the maximum we can take is 18.

It's going to be great fun!

Adrian

