



## THE BEST OF AUSTRIA

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Explore the Wachau, Wagram, Kremstal, Burgenland, Vienna, & more!

**June 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2025**

— Hosted by James Cluer MW & Katharina Leshikar —

**US \$4,995** *per person*

Join us for an extraordinary journey through Austria, where you'll discover exceptional wines while indulging in the finest Austrian cuisine and warm hospitality. Explore renowned wineries that have earned international awards, and meet the dedicated families behind these celebrated producers. Throughout the tour, you'll stay in a historic castle transformed into a luxurious five-star hotel, nestled in the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Wachau region.

The experience continues with exquisite dining at Michelin-starred restaurants, a scenic cruise along the Danube River, and a refined stay at the iconic Imperial Hotel in Vienna—where the tradition and elegance speak for themselves.

Adding an exclusive touch to this tour, your host will James Cluer MW, owner of Fine Vintage, supported by Katharina Leshikar, a native of the region with relationships that grant us access to wineries typically closed to the public.

We invite you to join us on this exceptional journey to experience Austria as few ever will.

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## COME AND DISCOVER

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**WACHAU** – Embark on an insider's journey through this UNESCO World Heritage site, with exclusive access to prestigious wineries and private tastings hosted by winemakers and owners.

**KREMSTAL & WAGRAM** – Explore these hidden gems, home to centuries of winemaking tradition, where you will enjoy some of Austria's most celebrated wines paired with authentic regional cuisine.

**BURGENLAND** – Step into history at the Esterházy Palace and Royal Winery and taste exceptional wines from their very own vineyard.

**VIENNA** – Conclude your adventure in Austria's grand capital with privileged access to the Royal Bakery inside the Imperial Palace, and a special tasting of extraordinary sparkling wines crafted in Vienna itself.

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## YOUR HOSTS

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**JAMES CLUER, MW**

James has 30 years of experience in the wine trade and now spends his time running Fine Vintage which operates in 15 countries. Since 2010, James has personally designed each Fine Vintage tour, paying meticulous attention to the smallest detail. He has hosted all of them for several years. Today, James oversees every tour, directing the itineraries and ensuring the quality standards are at the highest level on every single trip.

**KATHARINA LESHIKAR**



Born and raised in Austria's most famous wine region, Katharina grew up surrounded by vineyards and quickly completed her WSET Diploma. In her view, nothing compares to a glass of Grüner Veltliner enjoyed at sunset over the Wachau vineyards. Katharina is delighted to welcome you to her home country and provide exclusive insider access to places only a true local would know.

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## PRICE

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**US \$4,995**

The cost is per person, based on double occupancy at the hotels. This price includes all accommodation, visits and tastings at wineries, all meals unless during the free time, all wine at meals, local transport, and taxes. Flights and travel arrangements to/from Vienna, items of a personal nature, and travel insurance are not included. We recommend that you contact your travel agent to



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arrange travel insurance. If you are travelling by yourself there will be a single supplement of US \$500.

The payment schedule per person is:

At Time of Booking: \$250 non-refundable booking administration fee. The price (US \$4,995) includes the non-refundable deposit.

120 days before start: Remaining deposits (plus single supplement if applicable)

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## ARRIVAL | DAY 1

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### SUNDAY JUNE 7TH – ARRIVAL

Our journey begins at the legendary Hotel Imperial in Vienna, where we gather before setting off at 12.00 PM on a scenic drive of less than an hour into the heart of the Wachau Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

### HOTEL DÜRNSTEIN CASTLE

We are delighted to begin the tour at the magnificent Dürnstein Castle, now a luxurious five-star hotel set within the castle walls overlooking the Danube River. The hotel offers both indoor and outdoor pools as well as a superb spa—everything you need for a relaxing and indulgent start to the trip.

[Learn more about Schloss Dürnstein ›](#)

After settling into your rooms, your hosts, James Cluer MW and Katharina Leshikar, will welcome you with a glass of Austria's iconic Grüner Veltliner in the castle's historic wine cellar. Here you'll enjoy a first taste of what's to come while getting an overview of the Wachau region as well as of our tour program.

[View the castle wine cellar ›](#)

### GRAND WELCOME DINNER – LANDHAUS BACHER

In the evening, we gather for a spectacular Welcome Dinner at the acclaimed Landhaus Bacher, holder of two Michelin stars. Enjoy an unforgettable six-course gourmet menu, each dish perfectly paired with some of Austria's finest wines. This elegant evening sets the tone for the exceptional experiences ahead.

[Discover Landhaus Bacher ›](#)



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## ITINERARY | DAY 2

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### MONDAY JUNE 8TH – THE GRAND ESTATES OF THE WACHAU

#### 10:00 AM – DEPART HOTEL

This morning we remain in the Wachau Valley, where the famed vineyard “Lagen” (crus) are clustered closely together. Despite their proximity, you will be amazed at how distinctive each vineyard tastes—even when side by side.

#### F.X. PICHLER – TOUR AND TASTING

Our first visit is to the legendary F.X. Pichler estate, celebrated worldwide for its Grüner Veltliner and Riesling. This family-owned winery has produced exceptional wines for more than a century. Their iconic “Unendlich” (“Endless”) is renowned for its mesmerizing, seemingly never-ending finish.

We will enjoy an exclusive tour of the winery, followed by a tasting overlooking their vineyards, personally hosted by a member of the Pichler family.

[Learn more about F.X. Pichler ›](#)

#### WACHAUERSTUBE – LUNCH

Next, we step off the tourist path and into one of the Wachau’s most authentic gems. Wachauerstube is a traditional Austrian “Stubn”—literally translating to “living room.” Here, it feels as though you are dining in someone’s home.

We will enjoy hearty Austrian specialties such as Schweinsbraten (slow-roasted pork) and classic dumplings, all paired with the region’s finest wines.

[Discover Wachauerstube ›](#)

#### KNOLL – PRIVATE TASTING

In the afternoon, we visit the iconic Knoll estate. This revered winery rarely opens its doors to visitors, but for our group, Emmerich Knoll himself will host an exclusive tasting. The estate is renowned for its elegance, precision, and rare varieties such as Traminer and Gelber Muskateller.

So sought-after are Knoll’s wines that they sell out before release, making them a true cult favorite.

#### DOMAINE WACHAU – TOUR AND TASTING

Our day concludes at Domaine Wachau, the celebrated cooperative that showcases the diversity of the region’s terroirs. Here, we will enjoy a masterclass led by Roman Horvath MW, who directs the estate. You will taste an impressive spectrum of wines, including single-vineyard “Lagen,” several



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ranked among the Top 50 Vineyards in the World, surpassing even some of Bordeaux's most famous names.

[Explore Domaine Wachau ›](#)

We return to Hotel Schloss Dürnstein in the late afternoon. The evening is at your leisure to relax or explore the charming town. Should you wish for recommendations or reservations, your host Katharina will be delighted to assist.

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## ITINERARY | DAY 3

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### TUESDAY JUNE 9TH – HIDDEN GEMS – KREMSTAL & WAGRAM

#### 10.00 AM – DEPART HOTEL

After a delicious breakfast, we leave the Wachau and head north on a short drive of only 20 minutes to the Kremstal and Wagram. These two regions boast centuries of winemaking tradition and produce some of Austria's most prized wines.

#### JURTSCHITSCH – TOUR AND TASTING

Our morning begins with a visit to the Jurtschitsch estate, a family-owned and operated winery dedicated to producing terroir-driven wines of elegance and purity. All wines are certified organic, crafted with minimal intervention to let the vineyards speak for themselves.

We will enjoy a private tour and tasting with Alwin Jurtschitsch, one of Austria's most respected winemakers.

[Visit Jurtschitsch ›](#)

#### NIKOLAIHOF – TOUR, TASTING AND LUNCH

Next, we travel back in time at Nikolaihof, Austria's oldest winery with over 2,000 years of history. The estate is also among these, who have received a perfect 100-point score from Robert Parker.

During our tour, we will see the world's oldest working grape press, followed by a tasting led by the owner. We then enjoy a seasonal lunch prepared from recipes created by Mrs. Saahs, the matriarch of the estate. Her cooking focuses on regional produce, herbs, and traditional Austrian flavors.

[Explore Nikolaihof ›](#)

#### OTT – TOUR AND TASTING

In the afternoon, we are welcomed at Weingut Ott, where charismatic owner and winemaker Bernhard Ott will personally guide us through his pioneering approach to biodynamic viticulture. Known for



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redefining and elevating Grüner Veltliner to new heights, Ott's wines are considered benchmarks of the variety worldwide.

[Discover Weingut Ott ›](#)

## DINNER AT OUR HOTEL CASTLE DÜRNSTEIN

Join us at the end of this exciting day for a warm and inviting dinner at our hotel's restaurant, boasting stunning views over the Danube. Delight in delicious Austrian cuisine expertly paired with local wines, making for a memorable and relaxing finish to an incredible day.

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## ITINERARY | DAY 4

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### WEDNESDAY JUNE 10TH – A SPARKLING DAY ON THE RIVER

**10:00 AM** – Depart and check out of hotel

#### BOAT TOUR AND TASTING

This morning we bid farewell to the Wachau. While your luggage is loaded onto the coach, your host James and Katharina will accompany you on a short stroll down to the banks of the Danube, where a private boat awaits. We embark on a spectacular cruise north toward Vienna, enjoying an unforgettable journey along the river. As we pass by renowned vineyards, we will taste their wines on board.

#### BRÜNDLMAYER – TOUR AND TASTING

Following our tranquil river voyage, we visit the celebrated Weingut Bründlmayer. World-renowned for both still wines and sparkling Austrian Sekt, Bründlmayer has triumphed over Champagne in international blind tastings. Our tour includes a behind-the-scenes look at the winery, followed by a sparkling tasting hosted by Andreas Wickhoff MW, one of Austria's most respected Masters of Wine. His expertise will guide us through an unforgettable lineup of Bründlmayer wines.

[Discover Bründlmayer ›](#)

After the tasting, we enjoy a traditional Austrian Jause—a casual yet indulgent lunch of regional meats, cheeses, and specialties.

#### HOTEL IMPERIAL VIENNA

In the afternoon, we continue to Vienna and check in at the legendary Hotel Imperial, a true symbol of timeless elegance. Located in the heart of the historic 1st District, this iconic property embodies the grandeur of Vienna and offers an extraordinary stay in regal surroundings.

[Explore Hotel Imperial ›](#)



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## FREE EVENING

The evening is free to explore Vienna's vibrant cultural life. We recommend making dinner reservations at one of the many outstanding restaurants that are in walking distance from the Hotel like the Restaurant Figlmüller, home of the city's legendary Wiener Schnitzel.

[Figlmüller Restaurant ›](#)

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## ITINERARY | DAY 5

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### THURSDAY JUNE 11TH –ROYAL – BURGENLAND

#### 09:30 AM – DEPART

This morning we set off south towards Burgenland, home to the magnificent Esterházy Palace and the famed Lake Neusiedl. Our scenic one hour drive offers beautiful views of the rolling countryside as we make our way to the wine heartland of the region.

#### ESTERHAZY PALACE & WINERY – WINE MUSEUM, TOUR, TASTING AND LUNCH

Our day begins at the extraordinary Esterházy Palace, once the summer residence of Austrian royalty, including the legendary Empress Sisi. Dating back to the 14th century, the palace today houses a remarkable wine museum.

After an exclusive guided tour of the castle and museum, we continue with a short transfer to the palace's own winery. Here, we enjoy a tasting with a lineup that includes distinguished reds such as Blaufränkisch, a variety unique to Austria, as well as elegant Pinot Noirs. The wines will be perfectly paired with artisanal sausages from their own production, local cheeses, and fresh garden vegetables.

[Esterházy Palace ›](#) | [Esterházy Winery ›](#)

#### PALAIS COBURG – SILVIO NICKOL – DINNER AND CELLAR TOUR

This evening, just a five-minute walk from the hotel, we enjoy the grand finale of our Austrian adventure at Palais Coburg.

Our evening begins with a private tour of their legendary wine cellar, holding over 60,000 bottles. Highlights include every vintage of Château d'Yquem since 1893 and one of the world's oldest drinkable wine from 1727.

Following this once-in-a-lifetime experience, we dine at the two-Michelin-starred Silvio Nickol restaurant. A magnificent five-course menu, paired with rare and meticulously chosen wines, ensures that this evening will be a truly unforgettable finale.

[Silvio Nickol at Palais Coburg ›](#)



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## ITINERARY | DAY 6

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### FRIDAY JUNE 12TH – VIENNA

#### 9:30 AM – DEPART AND CHECK OUT OF HOTEL

#### SCHÖNBRUNN PALACE – BAKING DEMONSTRATION AND TASTING

We continue our enchanting series of “Mornings in Castles” at Austria’s most iconic imperial residence: Schönbrunn Palace. Here, the former royal court bakery will host a special demonstration of how Austria’s beloved Apfelstrudel is made, which of course we will get to taste.

[Learn more about Schönbrunn Palace ›](#)

#### MAYER AM PFARRPLATZ – TASTING AND LUNCH

Our final lunch together takes us to Mayer am Pfarrplatz, one of only a handful of wineries located within Vienna itself. The city is internationally recognized for its unique Gemischter Satz (“Field Blend”), a traditional method where multiple grape varieties are fermented together.

We’ll enjoy a guided tasting of Vienna’s finest wines, followed by a family-style lunch—a fitting way to end the tour, as by now you will surely feel like part of an Austrian family. Adding to the charm, our lunch venue is housed in the former residence of Ludwig van Beethoven, who composed some of his greatest works here.

[Discover Mayer am Pfarrplatz ›](#)

#### SCHLUMBERGER – TOUR AND TASTING

For our last but certainly not least stop we will continue our journey with a visit to Schlumberger, Austria’s most esteemed sparkling wine house. Hidden beneath Vienna’s streets are their historic underground cellars, where we will enjoy a tour and a final tasting of elegant Austrian Sekt—a sparkling conclusion to an unforgettable week.

[Explore Schlumberger ›](#)

After our tour has come to an end we are going to drop you off at the Hotel Imperial by around 5.00 PM.



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