

3 quick trips

Arty city breaks

For a generous serving of culture and cuisine, we've selected three cities that offer fine arts, food and music in equal measure, from Lyon's adventurous Cité Internationale de la Gastronomie, to classical music and comfort food in Vienna





O boufés' rustic, trendy interior

Vienna

With grand baroque palaces, a collection of the world's most revered art galleries and concert halls on practically every corner, it's clear to see why Vienna is often touted as Europe's capital of culture.

As the home of Mozart and Schubert, Vienna is inseparable from classical music, and the city remains one of the best places in the world to see operas and classical performances, with thousands of events happening each year. This reaches something of a peak in 2020, with many performances celebrating the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth (musik2020.wien.info).

Although famous venues such as the Musikverein and Konzerthaus are the standout options for large orchestral shows, it's at the city's concert cafés where two of Vienna's best traditions collide: music and coffee houses. The city's coffeehouse culture has been a part of daily life here since the 19th century, offering a social meeting place with a hearty dose of coffee and cake. Many of the best, such as the nearly 160-year-old [Café Schwarzenberg](http://cafe-schwarzenberg.at) (cafe-schwarzenberg.at) and the elegant [Café Sperl](http://cafesperl.at) (cafesperl.at) also offer regular live music in more relaxed surrounds than the grand opera houses.

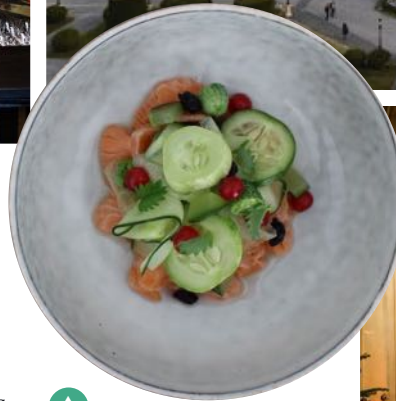
Food and culture come together at Vienna's best galleries. Top of most visitors' agendas is the [Kunst Historisches Museum](http://khm.at) (khm.at), a stunningly ornate building dedicated to fine arts in the heart of the MuseumsQuartier. Along with its formidable collection of renaissance artworks by the likes of Bruegel and Titian, the museum café is well worth a visit, too. Set in a glorious octagonal room, the menu features comforting Viennese classics such as schnitzel and apple strudel (mains from £12).

Located in an old Habsburg royal residence, [The Albertina](http://albertina.at) (albertina.at) is another of Vienna's cultural gems, with a collection of modern artworks by French impressionists as well as the city's native son, Gustav Klimt. There's also the smart [Do & Co](http://doandco.com) restaurant, which has chocolate-coloured leather booths and patterned ceilings worthy of royalty. The menu features sachertorte cakes from [The Demel](http://demel.com) (demel.com), a baking landmark since the 1700s.

Vienna has a nascent and exciting dining scene centred around natural and biodynamic wines, of which there are several excellent producers in Austria. Newly opened [Bar Krawall](http://krawall.at) (krawall.at) offers an



The Kunst Historisches Museum



Try the six-course set menu at Mast wine bar



Enjoy a coffee under some beautiful architecture



Sip on biodynamic wines at Bar Krawall

“
The city remains one of the best places to see operas
”

excellent introduction to Austrian grape varieties beyond the classic grüner, such as the red blaufränkisch.

Sleek wine bar [Mast](http://mast.wine) (mast.wine) wouldn't look out of place in London or Paris with its whitewashed walls and modern furniture. The food is some of the best in the city, with creative dishes such as sprouts with lardo & fried shallots and black pudding dumplings with cabbage, as part of a six-course set menu (£55). Then, there's [O boufés](http://konstantinfilippou.com) (konstantinfilippou.com), the relaxed sibling to Konstantin Filippou's eponymous two-Michelin-starred restaurant nextdoor. Here, natural wines from Austrian producers are served alongside inventive dishes such as ox tartare with egg, dashi, hazelnut & cauliflower (mains from £19).

Set within the MuseumsQuartier, the 25hours Hotel is perfect for sightseeing. There's bold design throughout – huge murals, bright colours and neon lights – plus a rooftop bar, and breakfast buffet stocked with Austrian cheese and charcuterie. *Joel Porter*

How to do it

25hours has doubles from £78 a night. 25hours-hotels.com

Assistance for this feature was provided by the Intercontinental Hotel Dieu in Lyon; 25 Hours Hotel in Vienna; and Hotel Indigo in Dundee.