



Contemporary imperial flair in Vienna: Imperial Riding School opens Elstar restaurant and The Farrier bar

Vienna, May/June 2024 – A contemporary interpretation of imperial Viennese cuisine, an idyllic garden, and a distinctive atmosphere that blends historical elegance with unconventional charm: the opening of the Imperial Riding School Hotel in Ungargasse, with interiors styled by London design studio Goddard Littlefair, adds two new destinations to Vienna’s culinary scene.

While **Elstar** and its kitchen team led by Executive Chef Sandro Balogh reinterprets the city’s culinary heritage with Eastern and contemporary influences, **The Farrier** lends itself as an inspiring space for the hours in between as both a coffeehouse and a classic cocktail bar. The former orchard, which Emperor Franz Joseph I had planted with apple trees, can be found behind the magnificent original façade of the former military riding school and now features an inviting **garden terrace and bar** – the perfect location for barbecues and drinks with plenty of space for weddings and private parties.

Elstar | Open Daily: Lunch 12 noon – 5:00 p.m., Dinner 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. (Garden 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.)

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The Farrier | Open Daily 5:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. (kitchen open until 11:00 p.m.)

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Cameo | Open Daily 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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www.imperialridingschool.com

ELSTAR THE GARDEN

A contemporary interpretation of imperial Viennese cuisine, an idyllic garden, and a distinctive atmosphere that blends historical elegance with unconventional charm: as a tribute to the fruit trees planted here by Emperor Franz Joseph I and named after the Elstar apple variety, the opening menu of the new restaurant at the Imperial Riding School Hotel combines Vienna’s culinary heritage with Eastern and modern influences. The result is a contemporary imperial cuisine with predominantly locally sourced ingredients. Inspired by the rich history of the location, Executive Chef **Sandro Balogh** drew a circle around Vienna extending to the Hungarian border in

order to reinterpret the classics of the region together with Peruvian Sous-Chef **Claudia Chiarella Abecasis**. Directly adjacent to the 140-seat restaurant, managed by Director of F&B **Felix Fischer** and styled by London design studio **Goddard Littlefair** with elegant equestrian accents, is the idyllic 2,000 m² garden with outdoor terrace and bar, where guests can enjoy summer barbecues, picnics and a variety of festive events as well as winter markets beneath the Old Lady, one of Vienna's oldest trees.

Year-round fixtures on the opening menu include the Elstar's Garden Salad (vegan, with apple & pear, mushrooms, nuts, mixed chards and carrot dressing) as well as Szegedin Goulash from Mangalitsa Pork Cheeks (with pointed cabbage, Bohemian dumplings and pork cracklings), complemented seasonally by savoury Hortobágyi Palacsinta (vegan, with beluga lentils, leaf cabbage and chijaukay seitan) or Roasted Green Asparagus (vegan, with strawberry sofrito, pistachio hummus and fennel crunch). To top it all off, the pâtisserie team led by **Erika Stein** and **Alex Mansutti** will entice you with tempting sweets including their signature dessert, a layered caramelised apple strudel with vanilla cream and Marchfeld strawberries.

In addition to a business lunch, the Elstar Restaurant & Garden Sharing Menu features a sharing concept with four or five courses (for two or more people), with advice and recommendations provided by Restaurant Manager **Fanny Majohr** and her service team. The beverage menu includes a Wiener Dirndl Spritzer as an aperitif or a plum eau-de-vie from the Hans Reisetbauer distillery as well as a selection of mainly Austrian but also French, Italian and Spanish white and red wines.

Reservations are now being accepted at elstar@imperialridingschool-vienna.com or at [Imperial Riding School | Restaurants — Eat & Drink](#).

Open daily: Lunch 12 noon – 5:00 p.m., Dinner 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. (Garden 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.)

THE FARRIER

A stylish and yet unpretentious bar in the former riding hall, which transitions from a coffeehouse during the day to a cocktail bar in the evening: that's The Farrier, named after the traditional occupation of a horseshoeing blacksmith. Here, Bar Manager **Piotr Krejza** oversees a laid-back setting for aperitifs, nightcaps and everything in between. The focus in the afternoons is on specialty coffees and teas, hot chocolate and sweet pastries, followed later on by fruity signature drinks such as the Fresh and Cloudy (ginger lemongrass infused vodka, elderberry, apple juice, lemon) or the Pferdebändiger, literally "Horse Tamer" (Reisetbauer gin, grapefruit juice, Ramazzotti Rosato, peach). The choices also include non-alcoholic cocktails and a selection of Austrian and international wines as well as Austrian and Czech beers – accompanied by bar food such as homemade sourdough lángos with a choice of salsiccia & shallots, pastrami & cabbage, or mushrooms & mountain cheese. Guests looking to combine their drinks with a meal can choose between The Farrier's Beef Burger with apple and onion chutney, bacon and mountain cheese or the vegan Green Equerry Burger with a sweet potato and lentil patty, oyster mushrooms, snow peas and lemon curd. Open daily 5:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. (kitchen open until 11:00 p.m.)

CAMEO

A small yet elegant shop with something for everyone, tourists and locals alike: Cameo offers sweet and savoury delicacies as well as small gifts and a hand-picked assortment for your time on the road or to bring home.. Named after cameo appearances in film and TV, this little take-away, located on the way to the S-Bahn station, recalls the building's brief role as one of Vienna's largest cinemas. Open daily 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Further information:

www.imperialridingschool.com

Picture gallery:



The Farrier encourages visitors to enjoy an aperitif as they leave their everyday routine behind for a while.

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A place in which to slow down, unwind and relax with a refreshing drink: The Farrier.

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The 140-seat Elstar officially opened at the end of May.

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Elstar The Garden

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Imperial Riding School, Autograph Collection

In the new Imperial Riding School Hotel, the historical elegance of the former imperial and royal Military Riding School is just as obvious as the courage to be creative. Steeped in history, the hotel allows the past to live on with great charm in a modern design concept and uses inspiring flair to create a new lightness. Private and business guests are offered premium comfort, top facilities and first-class service in the heart of Vienna's third district. 342 rooms and a varied gastronomic offering with regional and international specialities, as well as a pool, wellness area and hotel garden, make your stay a unique experience. The Imperial Riding School is the first [Autograph Collection](#) hotel in Austria and is therefore part of the [Marriott International](#) brand. The main owners are [Northwood Investors](#) and the hotel is operated by co-owner [Event Hotels](#). [Imperial Riding School](#)

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About Event Hotels

Event Hotels, headquartered in Cologne, operates 60 business and city hotels at over 40 locations in Europe under the names of well-known international hotel brands. The motto: Hospitality at heart. Event hotels are the leading white label hotel operator in Europe, and as such not only manage the operational business of its hotels, but also take an investment stake in real estate and operation together with partners, work out potential for sustainable growth and thus shape the landscape of hotels and hospitality. www.eventhotels.com

About Northwood

Northwood Investors LLC ("Northwood") is a vertically integrated real estate investment advisor that was founded in 2006 by John Z. Kukral, former President and CEO of Blackstone Real Estate. Northwood is headquartered in Denver, Colorado and has 14 offices across the U.S. and Europe. Northwood seeks to acquire well-located real estate through tactical sourcing and subsequently maximize its value through hands-on value creation at the asset level. Northwood's team of more than 260 dedicated real estate professionals possess expertise in acquisitions and asset management, providing the firm a competitive advantage to source investments and create high-quality real estate projects. Northwood's experience is evidenced by the team's \$20 billion of real estate acquisitions since inception. Link to website: [Northwood Investors](#)

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