

But now open up the trees,
Curving semicircular round;
Moonlight-frosted, on the ground
Gleams Titania's castle of dreams.

Elisabeth on her arrival
at Hermes Villa, 16 May 1887



Empress Elisabeth with her dog Houseguard, 1865, photo: Emil Rabending

WIEN MUSEUM HERMESVILLA

1130 Vienna, Lainzer Tiergarten (Lainz Game Reserve), Tel.: (+43-1) 804 13 24

How to get there:

Underground line U4 to Hietzing station, trams 60 or 62 to Hermesstrasse, bus 60B from there to the main gate (Lainzer Tor)

Opening hours:

From Palm Sunday to 1 November: Tuesday to Sunday and public holidays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Please note that the Hermes Villa closes 30 minutes before closure of the Game Reserve Gates. Opening times are shorter in the fall. For up-to-date information visit www.wienmuseum.at.

Admission:

General Admission	EUR 7
Discounted Rate	EUR 5
Visitors under 19 years of age	FREE ENTRY
First Sunday of every month (all visitors)	FREE ENTRY

Guided tours:

Sundays and public holidays, 3 p.m.

Visitor information:

Tel.: (+43-1) 505 87 47-85173, service@wienmuseum.at

Registration for special tours:

Tel.: (+43-1) 505 87 47-85180, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., service@wienmuseum.at

Illustrations: Hertha Hurnaus/Wien Museum
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WIEN MUSEUM HERMESVILLA



SISI'S PALACE OF DREAMS

“Sisi’s Sanctuary in the Vienna Woods”

The Hermes Villa in the Lainz Game Reserve is the Wien Museum’s largest branch location and a place of remembrance which more than any other brings to mind the romantic figure of Empress Elisabeth of Austria.

In the summer of 1881, Emperor Franz Joseph decided to have this residence built away from the two official imperial palaces, Hofburg and Schönbrunn, as a quiet retreat to give to his wife, bringing her home from her frequent travels to spend their old age together there. The Hermes Villa was duly completed in 1886, and in May 1887 we find Elisabeth, now nearly 50 years old, living for the first time in what she would call her “palace of dreams” in one of her poems.

The building takes its name from the statue of Hermes, messenger of the gods, which was created by the sculptor Ernst Herter from Berlin and placed in the garden, in front of the main entrance to the building.



Sisi’s palace of dreams



dining hall

Empress Elisabeth, 1865,
photo: Emil Rabending



Empress Elisabeth’s
gymnastics
room



Empress Elisabeth’s bedroom

Famous artists

Franz Joseph commissioned his favourite architect Carl von Hasenauer to develop the Hermes Villa project. Sculptor Viktor Tilgner designed the garden fountains and decorations for the dining hall, and Hans Makart, Vienna’s leading painter at the time, was asked to decorate the bedroom. When he died in 1884, a team of painters – Carl Rudolf Huber, Julius Berger, Hugo Charlemont and Pietro Isella – took over and executed the paintings on the basis of Makart’s drafts. The ceiling of Elisabeth’s salon is decorated with the allegorical painting “Spring” which was created in 1885 as a collaborative project by Franz Matsch and the brothers Gustav and Ernst Klimt.

Elisabeth had a gymnastics room for her daily workout, complete with balance beam, climbing poles, rings and a scale to check her weight. The wall paintings by August Eisenmenger, Hugo Charlemont and Adolf Falkenstein imitate models from Pompeii.