



Celebrating the maestro



GENIUS PORTRAYED A rare painting of Mozart

In the beginning there was sound. And then, when Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart was born on January 27, 1756, there was music. The kind the world had never heard.

The stories about Mozart's prodigious genius abound — how he wrote his first symphony when he was five, how as a six-year-old he jumped onto Empress Maria Theresa's lap after a concert and how at 12 he had a two-hour audience with the empress...

Vienna is celebrating Mozart's 250th birth anniversary in grand style with an exhibition at the Albertina from March 13 to August 13.

The house in which Mozart spent his happiest days (Domgasse Number 5) will be open to public and Mozart's operas will be played at the Vienna Volksoper from January 27 to December 10. The celebrated producer Peter Sellars will stage the New Crowned Hope festival.

There will also be Mozart films between July 1 and September 3 and the Vienna Festival will be on from May 12 to June 18.

The good news for music buffs is that the Austria Hotels International has joined in the celebrations and is offering two nights in a double room inclusive of breakfast, lunch and dinner with an added attraction of the Mozart Dream Birthday surprise package.

This includes entry to the puppets and toy museum at Baden, entry to the Schloss Esterhazy and wine museum at Eisenstadt, a three day complimentary card for all public transport in Prague and entry to the Burg Spielberg at Brno.

The offer is valid till the end of 2006. For further details log on to www.Austria-hotels.at or call toll-free on 000 800 6501160.