



## POPLAR DEMAND

When Toronto's Royal York hotel opened in 1929, the city was well rooted in greenery. (Indeed, Hogtown is still known for its large ratio of parks to buildings; 20 per cent of the city is covered by trees.) In keeping with its commitment to being "green" as well as in observance of UNESCO'S 2011 International Year of Forests designation, the hotel introduced the Urban Forest package that extends to Dec. 31.

Weekend guests can tour with Toronto arborist Kent Nielsen, who shares his knowledge of oaks (they grow in their own savannahs or are sometimes found with other species), the weaknesses of Norway maples, and Ginkgo bilobas, the first and toughest tree introduced to the urban landscape. After winding through the financial district and neighbouring parks, Nielsen leads the group to the hotel's rooftop garden and apiary for a bird's-eye view of the city. The one-night weekend package price of \$259 for two includes a \$10 donation to Tree Canada, which encourages Canadians to plant and care for trees ([fairmont.com/royalyork](http://fairmont.com/royalyork); click on "Packages").

ARRIVE IN LOW SEASON AND ENJOY THE WARES OF VIENNESE VINTNERS

## Waltz INTO VIENNA

What's great about Vienna in the off-season? Autumnal strolls along leafy paths once beloved by the likes of Beethoven and Mozart. Tourists are few and far between, so it's easy to rub elbows with locals and get a taste of their *gemütlichkeit* (friendliness) — especially at the nearby *heurige* (wine taverns) with fresh-out-of-the-cask *sturm*, a cloudy semi-fermented grape juice that comes from the first harvest and is available for only a few weeks each year. Situated on vintners' property, these watering holes (there are more than 170) are most famous in the traditional village of Grinzing, a tram ride away from the city centre. Look for pine boughs draped over wooden doors and the sign *Ausg'steckt* that indicates the *heurige* are open for business and also serving buffets of sausages, cheeses and black breads ([wien.info/en](http://wien.info/en)).

Vienna also offers a few just-opened affordable hotels: Wombat's (modern hostel with a kitchen), 25hours Hotel Wien (near the museum quarter with interiors influenced by the circus) and Motel One Wien-Westbahnhof (next to the train station) — all of which means more money left for Sachertorte (chocolate cake with jam filling) and *sturm*. ([b2b.wien.info/en/viennatourism](http://b2b.wien.info/en/viennatourism))



### ON LOCATION

Ever wanted to actually visit Hogwarts? Maybe you've dreamt about the lake where Mr. Darcy took a dip in *Pride and Prejudice* or wondered whether the gardens in Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland* were real. England's National Trust has the answers. From the organization that protects everything from "buildings to bats" in England, Wales and Northern Ireland comes a movie map with more than 100 film locations.

With the help of its website ([nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk); click on "Movie Map"), you can also tailor a vacation to include artifact exhibits or haunted dwellings such as Blickling Hall in Norfolk where Anne Boleyn's ghost is said to wander the grounds. The National Trust has listed 10 top romantic spots and, of course, a walk in royal footsteps.