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Main image: The right sweets for every occasion. Top right: Owners Christian Mayer and Maria Scholz.

Sweets, sweets, sweets

The Zuckerwerkstatt in the heart of Vienna is a lot more than an ordinary sweet shop. Ever wanted to design your very own sweet? This is certainly the place to be.

TEXT: MARILENA STRACKE | PHOTOS: ZUCKERLWERKSTATT

There is a sweet scent in the air in Vienna's historic Herrengasse street. It can be tracked to a peculiar shop with a striking glass front at number 6-8. Peering through the window, you will not only see tempting sweets of all shapes and colours, but you can also marvel at how they are made by hand right there in the shop. Welcome to the magical Zuckerwerkstatt, Austria's very first traditional sweet factory. Owners Maria Scholz and Christian Mayer have turned the artisan craft skills of sweet-making into a mesmerising live performance. It is fascinating to watch them lasso the gooey mixture repeatedly over the sugar-hook to allow air to enter the mixture, or see them cut the finished mixes into tiny pieces, all of which bear a heart in the middle.

It is hard to imagine that a year ago Scholz was a lawyer and Mayer a singer. For them

the Zuckerwerkstatt is a dream come true. Their honest passion is instantly contagious and somewhat reminiscent of a modern Willy Wonka. "Our dream developed into an idea, which turned into a concept for a modern sweets manufactory in Vienna. It is an incredible feeling to continue with these old sweet-making traditions and to see how amazed everyone who watches us is," says Scholz. Some of the recipes and techniques are over 150 years old!

Mayer adds: "Naturally, we are very proud of all our creations, but we especially like the Viennese Seidenzuckerl (Silk sweets). Very popular is our mint-vanilla version, filled with real cocoa. A true explosion of flavour!"

Since the Zuckerwerkstatt opened its doors in October 2013 its fan base has con-

tinued to grow. The customized sweets, for example, are fabulous giveaways at weddings and events. The two confectioners love watching their customers' delighted faces as they taste the sweets and lollipops or create signature sweets during workshops. Scholz smiles: "We are so happy that our Zuckerwerkstatt is successful. Every day we are working on new creations, flavours and concepts. Recently we have started to offer our sweets for resale in hand-picked stores across Austria."

A great eye for detail, a heart-felt passion for anything sweet, and a big portion of creativity, have turned the unique Zuckerwerkstatt into a walk-in fairytale!

www.zuckerwerkstatt.at



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