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AND BALKAN STUDIES

Invitation to the book presentation

The Prague Belvedere. Imperial Lusthaus of Ferdinand I

By Jan Bažant and Renate Leggatt-Hofer

March 19, 2026
Start: 5.30 pm

Austrian Academy of Sciences
Postal Savings Bank building
3th floor, room 3
Georg-Coch-Platz 2
1010 Vienna



Program

Welcome

Katrin Keller, Director of the Institute for Habsburg and Balkan Studies

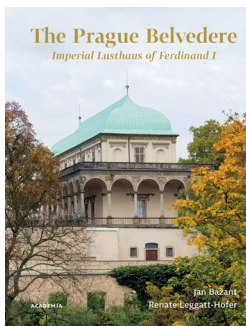
Doris Gruber, Head of Research Unit Art History

Short presentations by the authors followed by discussion

Moderation: Richard Kurdiovsky, Research Unit Art History

This book is the first monograph to place Prague's Belvedere, one of the early examples of Renaissance architecture north of the Alps, in the context of its patron's legacy. It thus gives this architectural and sculptural masterpiece its rightful place in the context of 16th-century European art. In the 1530s, at a time when he had consolidated his position as ruler of Central Europe, Ferdinand I of Habsburg began work on a new garden and "Lusthaus" in Prague. According to his vision, it was to be a dynastic memorial and monumental testimony to his humanistic world view. Masterfully executed and adorned with numerous antique-style reliefs, it was congenially realised by Paolo della Stella and Bonifaz Wolmut during the long construction period from 1534 to 1564. Contemporarily referred to as a 'Lusthaus', it served as a venue for festivities and also to illustrate the transfer of the imperial title from the Spanish to the Austrian Habsburgs, one of Ferdinand's political goals, which was achieved with his proclamation as emperor in 1558 after a long political struggle.

Afterwards, we invite you to join us for bread and wine.



Jan Bažant, Renate Leggatt-Hofer:
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REGISTRATION

Please register by 13 March 2026 at:
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