

Part 16 Europe 2025 for Cathy's blog

Saturday 19th April 2025 continued

After our morning walk, we sailed on to Krems (some energetic people cycled the 15km along the riverbank).

Then we were bused to Gottweig Abbey. Founded in 1083, it is a working Abbey with anything from about 15 members to about 30 at any given time. They make wine (and sell tickets to tours and sell touristy things as well as wine).

This first picture shows the lid of a wine barrel, that holds 26 000l of wine! Imagine that on your bar at home.



It was another beautiful sunshiney day which makes the pictures just perfect. The Abbey never quite had enough money to finish things the way they were designed. Look carefully at the church towers and you may see two “financial shortcuts”.



The interior of the room that holds some of the museum pieces is another example of careful deceit. The ceiling is not partially domed; it is clever painting (done in 1739). The whole picture is beautiful though.



The characters on the painting have been deliberately chosen (the Emperor Charles VI as Apollo in the centre and the seven Muses, the ladies in different coloured dresses).

The sculptures coming up the stairs represent the four seasons. Here are two of them.



**And the statues under the ceiling line are the painters :
Michaelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and Raphael and the
portrait painters : Rembrandt, Reubens and Durer.**



You will just have to go to better see them for yourselves!

The chapel in the Abbey is magnificently decorated. Lavish or opulent are the terms I think of. But even two hundred years ago, the rich and famous (and politically powerful) people would come to spend a week in well outfitted rooms and attend services in the the church.







The relics (bones of the founder of the Abbey, Saint Altman, who died in 1091) are kept in a gold case (and are now protected by glass).

The Abbey burnt down in 1818 and the monks were able to save the collection of books. So from then on, they were running a business (to raise money for rebuilding).

Then it was sailing on to Oh! Vienna.