

## The magic of the allotment garden - 26th Allotment Garden Prize of Vienna

On 21 October, around 500 invited guests gathered in the large ballroom of Vienna City Hall for the 26th Allotment Garden Award Ceremony of the City of Vienna.

The allotment garden family had been invited in advance to send in entries for the creative competition with this year's motto "*The magic in the allotment garden*".

The jury anonymously assessed the 179 entries in four categories and awarded the prizes. The award winners were duly celebrated in the festive setting of the gala event.

Welcome to the 26th Allotment Garden Prize of the City of Vienna

The evening was hosted by the well-known Radio Wien presenter *Alex Jokel*. After a musical intro, the numerous guests of honour were welcomed. This time, they included several district heads who wanted to personally congratulate the award winners from their districts. *Kathrin Gaál*, Deputy Mayor and City Councillor for Housing, Housing Construction, Urban Renewal and Women, welcomed those present and emphasised the importance of allotment gardeners for the city.



Representing the allotment gardeners, an interview followed with the president of the central federation of allotment gardeners and settlers of Austria, *Ing. Wilhelm Wohatschek* and the president of the regional federation of Vienna, *Helmut Bayer*. Both spoke about the current challenges of the allotment garden movement and thanked the guests and organisers.

The award ceremony was hosted by *Gerhard Spitzer*, Member of Parliament and local councillor. He has not only been chairman of the Viennese allotment garden advisory board since 2012, but was also a member of the jury that evaluated the prizes submitted.

### The 2023 award winners

This year, the jury awarded a joint children's prize, three children's prizes for children up to the age of 14 and three children's prizes for children up to the age of 6, as well as the three main prizes.



### Supporting programme

After the award ceremony, the extensive buffet was opened with culinary delicacies from the Vienna City Hall cellar.

The prizewinners' works could be admired up close at the Nordbuffet. The liquid delicacies from the ladies of the *Floridsdorf district organisation's women's group* were particularly popular. Their home-made liqueurs and schnapps were very popular and invited visitors to linger.



The creative and elaborate gourmet decorations from the Viennese nurseries are particularly noteworthy this year. After the event, guests were free to help themselves to these. This year, not only delicacies but also works of art could be taken home. On the one hand, a photo wall invited guests to have their personal memories taken, and on the other hand, the quick-drawing artist and caricaturist *Ray van Stift* was very well attended this year.





The evening was musically enriched by the *Zuckerwatte Combo* with a rousing pop revue from the 50s and 60s. Young and old sang and danced in front of the stage until the evening drew to a close at around 9 pm. In keeping with the music programme, there was also a candyfloss stand in the north buffet for young and old.

*We would like to thank all guests and organisers for the successful evening and hope to see you again next year for the 27th allotment garden award ceremony.*









