

Chapter 8

VINOHRADY AND VRŠOVICE

8

Updated by
Joseph Reaney



 Sights

★★★★☆

 Restaurants

★★★★☆

 Hotels

★★★★☆

 Shopping

★★★★☆

 Nightlife

★★★★★

NEIGHBORHOOD SNAPSHOT

TOP EXPERIENCES	QUICK BITES
<p>■ Fine Dining: Enjoy a meal in one of Prague's top-drawer restaurants, such as Vinohrady's Equilibrista or Vršovice's Benjamin.</p> <p>■ St. Wenceslas Church: Stroll around this weird and wonderful 20th-century church, with its sky-high clock tower visible from far and wide.</p> <p>■ Craft Beer: Set off on an epic pub crawl around the countless craft beer bars and microbreweries in this part of town.</p> <p>■ Indie Boutiques: Shop for boho vintage clothes and wonderfull accessories in a host of small, independent boutiques.</p> <p>■ Slavia Prague: Watch one of the country's most famous soccer teams in full flow during a game at the Sinobo Stadium.</p>	<p>■ La Focacceria. Take your pick from dozens of different focaccias, as well as delicious <i>arancini</i>, (small balls of rice stuffed with a savory filling) fresh ciabattas, and crispy Italian biscuits. ☒ <i>Krymská 30, Vršovice</i> 📍 <i>Tram 22, 4 to Krymská</i></p> <p>■ Cafefin. This popular Vietnamese-Czech coffee shop is the perfect place for people-watching; come on the weekend for the excellent brunch. ☒ <i>Nám. Jiřího z Poděbrad, Vinohrady</i> 🌐 <i>www.cafefinvpraze.com</i> 📍 <i>Line A: Jiřího z Poděbrad</i></p> <p>■ The Conductor. Famed for its soft and squishy cinnamon rolls (the best in town), this takeout spot also serves perfect pulled-pork sandwiches and lip-smacking vegan wraps. ☒ <i>Francouzská 78, Vršovice</i> 🌐 <i>www.facebook.com/streetfoodmaestro</i> 📍 <i>Tram 22, 4 to Krymská</i></p> <p>■ Pavilon Grébovka. This historic pavilion in pretty Havlíčkovy sady (Havlíček Gardens) serves sweet and savory breakfasts, tasty lunches, and all-day snacks. There's also a grill in summer. ☒ <i>Havlíčkovy sady 2188, Vinohrady</i> 🌐 <i>www.pavilongrebovka.cz</i> 📍 <i>Tram 13 to Ruská</i></p>
GETTING HERE	
<p>Metro Line A bisects Vinohrady, so most sights are within easy reach of three stations: Náměstí Míru, Jiřího z Poděbrad, and Flora. Vršovice does not have any Metro stations, but Tram 22 offers a direct connection to Nové Město (New Town), Malá Strana (Lesser Quarter), and Prague Castle. There is limited (mostly paid) parking available in both neighborhoods.</p>	
PLANNING YOUR TIME	
<p>As they are mainly residential, Vinohrady and Vršovice make for pleasant, quiet neighborhoods to visit during weekdays. But if you want to make the most of the restaurants and nightlife—and meet some locals—come during evenings and weekends.</p>	

Dotted with pretty green parks, charming turn-of-the-20th-century houses, and some of Prague's best cafés and restaurants, Vinohrady and Vršovice are two of Prague's most appealing—yet mercifully crowd-free—neighborhoods.

Vinohrady is centered on Vinohradská, the main street that extends eastward from the top of Václavské náměstí (Wenceslas Square) to a belt of enormous cemeteries. Named for the vineyards that once dominated the area, it retains an air of upper crustiness thanks to its splendid 19th-century apartment buildings, pleasant tree-lined streets, and handsome church- and market-filled squares, as well as its extraordinarily high concentration of upmarket cafés and restaurants. Vinohrady also boasts two of Prague's most popular green spaces: the English garden-style Riegrový sady (Rieger Park) and the Italian Renaissance-style Havlíčkovy sady (Havlíček Gardens).

Neighboring Vršovice, to the south and east of Vinohrady, is equally charming, if a little rougher around the edges. Its art nouveau town houses may be a little more faded and its hip coffee shops less frequent, but its incredible choice of bars (from craft beer hangouts to down-to-earth *hospody*, or traditional Czech pubs), its quirky modernist churches, and its buzzing atmosphere during Slavia Prague match days more than make up for it.

Vinohrady

Sights

Havlíčkovy sady (*Havlíček Gardens*)
NATIONAL/STATE PARK | Arguably Prague's prettiest park, Havlíček Gardens is best known for its Italian-style grotto and its rows of verdant vineyards. But the park also manages to pack in plenty of other attractions, from placid lakes to cascading fountains, and expansive green lawns to narrow woodland trails. It also has two excellent drinking and dining options: the charming garden café Pavilon Grébovka and the hilltop gazebo wine bar Viniční Altán. The latter also offers stunning views of the surrounding area. Getting to the park involves a short walk, either from tram stop Krymská (five minutes) or Metro stop Náměstí Míru (10 minutes). ☒ *Vinohrady* ☎ *236-044-111* 🌐 *www.pavilongrebovka.cz* 🆓 *Free* 📍 *Line A: Náměstí Míru.*

Kostel Nejsvětějšího Srdce Páně (*Church of the Most Sacred Heart*)
RELIGIOUS SITE | If you've had your fill of Romanesque, Gothic, and baroque, this church offers a startlingly modernist alternative. Designed in 1927 by Slovenian architect Josip Plečnik (the same architect commissioned to update Prague Castle), the art deco edifice of this church—topped by a tower with an enormous glazed clock—resembles



Vinohrady is home to many of the capital's best restaurants. The neighborhood has two main dining hubs: the area surrounding Náměstí Miru, particularly south along Americká ulice; and the streets around the Metro station Jiřího z Poděbrad. However, you'll find some of the very finest dining experiences tucked away on less well-trodden avenues. For tasty, down-to-earth Czech food, you're better off heading to a pub.

a luxury ocean liner more than a place of worship. The effect was purposeful, as during the 1920s and 1930s the avant-garde imitated mammoth objects of modern technology. The interior decor is equally striking, particularly the altar, overlooked by a 10-foot-high gilded figure of Christ, flanked by six Czech patron saints. It's hard to miss the structure, which looms as you exit the Metro.

■ TIP→ While the front door (with a view of the interior) is open 9 to 5 every day, entrance is allowed only 45 minutes before and after mass. ☒ *Nám. Jiřího z Poděbrad, Vinohrady* ☎ 222-727-713 🌐 *srdecpane.cz* 📺 **Free** 📺 **Line A:** *Jiřího z Poděbrad.*

CEMETERY | In this, the newest of the city's half-dozen Jewish burial grounds, you can find the modest **tombstone of Franz Kafka**, which seems grossly inadequate to Kafka's fame but oddly in proportion to his own modest sense of self. The cemetery is usually open, although guards sometimes inexplicably seal off the grounds. Men may be required to wear a yarmulke (you can buy one here if you need to). Turn right at the main cemetery gate and follow the wall for about 100 yards. Kafka's thin white tombstone lies at the front of section 21. City maps may label the cemetery "Židovské hřbitovny." ✉ *Izraelská 712/1, Vinohrady* ☎ 226-235-248 🌐 www.kehilaprag.cz 📄 *Free* 🗺 *Line A: Želivského.*

\$\$\$ | ITALIAN | Gracious, gregarious, and extremely confident, Aromi is easily among the top tier of Italian restaurants in the city and proud of it. Classic pastas made in-house and fresh seafood shown off tableside are two of the crowd favorites, as are the superb salads and well-chosen Italian wines. **Known for:** sumptuous seafood dishes; faultless service; cooking courses available.

☑ Average main: 480 Kč ☒ Nám. Míru 6,
Vinohrady ☎ 222-713-222 🌐 aromi.lacollezione.cz 📠 Line A: Náměstí Míru.

\$\$ | FRENCH | Open since 2012 and still going strong, this appealing Vinohrady restaurant serves up innovative, high-quality cuisine in a business-casual setting of blond woods, white walls, and inoffensive artworks. The seasonal menu is a little tricky to pin down geographically—expect a mix of contemporary French and Czech dishes, accompanied by mainly Austrian wines—but everything is unfailingly fresh, flavorful, and filling.

Known for: outdoor seating in summer; phenomenal chocolate fondant dessert, atmosphere a little spoiled by Muzak.

☎ **Average main:** 400 Kč ☒ **Uruguayská 19, Vinohrady** ☎ 222-561-378 🌐 **www.bluewagon.cz** ☺ **No lunch Sun.** 📠 **Line A: Náměstí Míru.**

\$\$ | BELGIAN | Czech beer is facing increasing competition these days as younger Praguers set out to forge new traditions. Belgian ales, often tinged with fruit or nut flavors, served alongside kettles of mussels and golden frites with mayo sauce, are winning over not just locals but an upscale international clientele. **Known for:** Belgian beers on draught; fine fish and seafood dishes; outdoor seating in summer. **☎ Average main: 400 Kč ☒ Nám. Miru 9, Vinohrady ☎ 224-250-404 ☗ www.bruxx.cz ☑ Line A: Náměstí Míru.**

Dish

\$\$ | BURGER | One of Prague's best burger joints, Dish has a menu of 11 burgers, including the house "Dish" burger with bacon and cheddar cheese, a pulled duck confit burger with red cabbage, and a veggie-friendly portobello mushroom burger with smoked mozzarella and spinach. The interior is warm, with exposed-brick walls, and an appealing terrace blossoms in mild weather. **Known for:** an array of excellent burgers; ironically named "fitness fries" topped with bacon and maple syrup; extensive gin and tonic menu. **☎ Average main:** 225 Kč **✉ Římská 29, Vinohrady** **☎ 222-511-032** **🌐 www.dish.cz** **📍 Line A:** *Náměstí Míru.*

★ Equilibrista

\$\$\$ | ITALIAN | Simply put, you won't find a better Italian restaurant and wine bar in Prague. Owners Simona and Eric spent 20 years living in Italy and have brought their passion for—and expertise of—the local cuisine to the Czech capital. **Known for:** sumptuous thick-cut tenderloin carpaccio; sophisticated but unconceited ambience; fresh burrata (Italian cow milk cheese). **☎ Average main:** 495 Kč **✉ Budečská 10, Vinohrady** **☎ 602-228-523** **🌐 www.equilibrista.cz** **🕒 Closed Mon. No lunch Tues.** **📍 Line A:** *Náměstí Míru.*

Lal Qila

\$\$ | INDIAN | Vinohrady has several very good Indian restaurants, but this corner restaurant along one of the area's prettiest streets may just be the best. Those familiar with Indian cooking can expect all of the standard curries, tandoori dishes, samosas, naans, and other staples of Indian cuisine. **Known for:** delicious lamb dishes; fast and friendly service; lunch buffet available for 150 Kč. **☎ Average main:** 275 Kč **✉ Italská 30, Vinohrady** **☎ 774-310-774** **🌐 www.lalqila.cz** **📍 Lines A and C:** *Muzeum.*

Pho Vietnam Tuan & Lan

\$ | VIETNAMESE | Prague's large and long-established Vietnamese community means the city is littered with cheap Southeast Asian dining options, but this cellar restaurant is one of the very best. While it's certainly no-frills—order at the counter and then find a table; in a few minutes someone brings around your food—the dishes are unfailingly fresh and delicious. **Known for:** satisfying fare in big portions; excellent value; can get very warm inside. **☎ Average main:** 140 Kč **✉ Anglická 15, Vinohrady** **☎ 606-707-880** **🌐 photuanlan.com** **📍 Line C:** *I. P. Pavlova.*

★ The Tavern

\$\$ | BURGER | A hopping burger bar on the fringe of Riegrovy Park in Vinohrady, the Tavern arguably serves the city's best hamburgers and cheeseburgers. The restaurant began as the dream of an American couple to use classic U.S. combinations, like bacon-cheddar or blue cheese and caramelized onion, and then re-create them with locally sourced beef and toppings. **Known for:** the city's best burgers; intimate cellar setting; extensive cocktail menu. **☎ Average main:** 220 Kč **✉ Chopinova 26, Vinohrady** **☎ No phone** **🌐 www.thetavern.cz** **📍 Line A:** *Jiřího z Poděbrad.*

🏨 Hotels

With its excellent restaurants and pretty tree-lined streets, ideal for meandering after an exhausting day in the center, Vinohrady is the perfect place to stay for those looking to avoid the crowds.

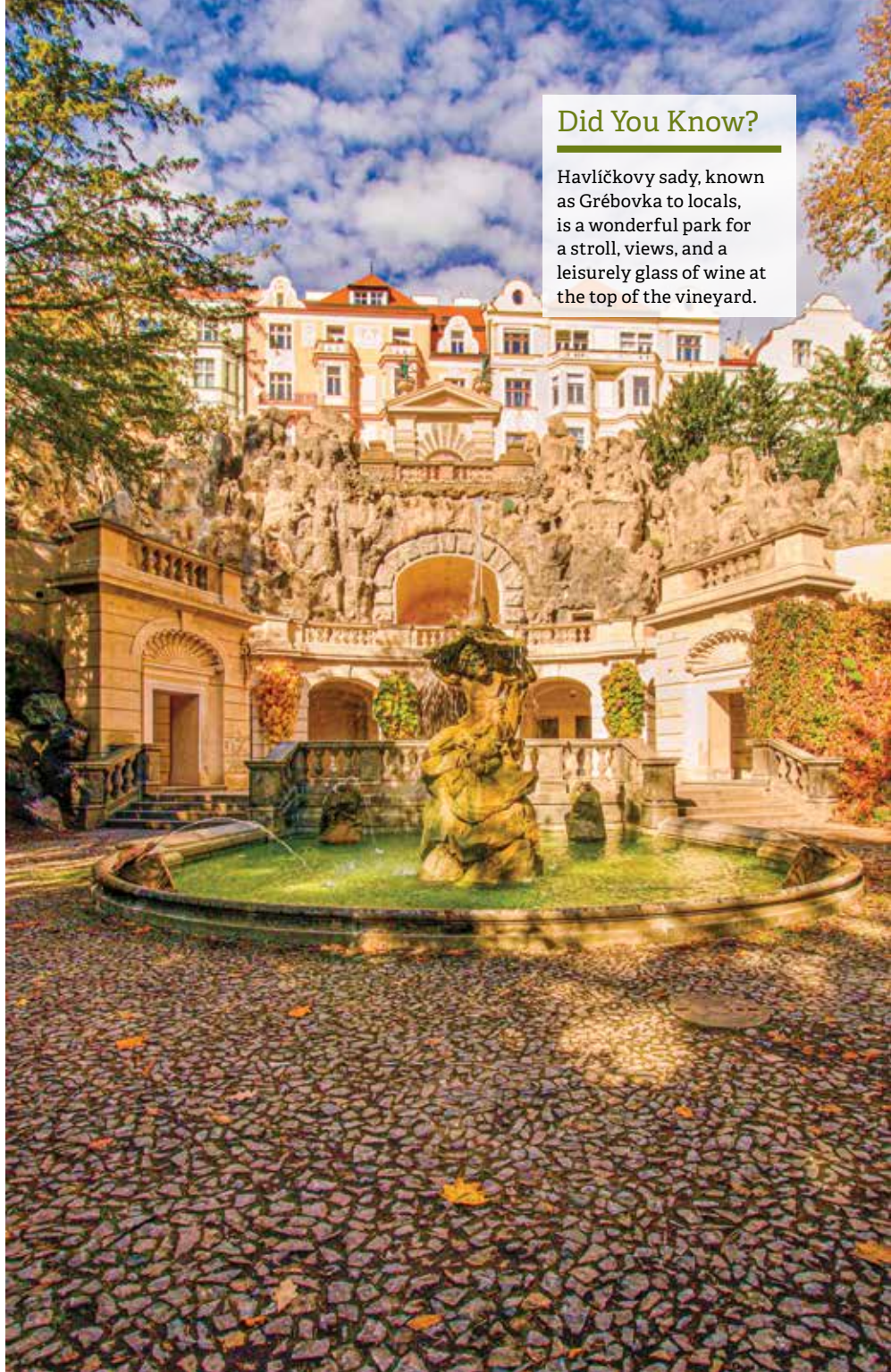
Hotel Anna

\$ | HOTEL | The bright neoclassical façade and art nouveau details have been lovingly restored on this 19th-century building on a quiet residential street.

Pros: top-floor suites have views of the historic district; helpful English-speaking staff; affordable for city center. **Cons:** some guests find walls to be thin; very small elevator; parking fee. **☎ Rooms**

Did You Know?

Havlíčkovy sady, known as Grébovka to locals, is a wonderful park for a stroll, views, and a leisurely glass of wine at the top of the vineyard.



from: 1750 Kč ☎ Budečská 17, Vinohrady
☎ 222-513-111 🌐 www.hotelanna.cz ➡ 24 rooms 🍳 Breakfast 📄 Line A:
Náměstí Míru.

★ Le Palais Art Hotel Prague

\$\$ | HOTEL | This venerable 19th-century mansion served as the home and shop of Prague's main butcher. **Pros:** gorgeous hotel in nice neighborhood; some rooms have fireplaces; excellent breakfast. **Cons:** requires public transit to get anywhere; basic rooms are quite small; beds a little hard for some. 📄 Rooms from: 4500 Kč ☎ U Zvonářky 1, Vinohrady ☎ 234-634-111 🌐 www.lepalaishotel.eu ➡ 72 rooms 🍳 Free Breakfast 📄 Line C: I. P. Pavlova plus Tram 6 to Zvonářka.

🍷 Nightlife

Vinohrady has a great local scene of trendy bars and clubs, as well as laid-back traditional pubs, popular with locals and expats alike.

BARS AND PUBS

★ BeerGeek Bar

BREW PUBS/BEER GARDENS | This popular craft beer bar serves uncommon brews from the Czech Republic, across Europe, and the United States. It has an impressive 32 taps, with the choice of beers changing daily (though usually including at least one from its in-house Sibeeria Brewery label). There's also a good selection of beer snacks; opt for the excellent chicken wings. If you don't have time to stop, there's also a BeerGeek Pivotka (bottle shop) nearby, which stocks more than 500 bottled beers. ☎ Vinohradská 62, Vinohrady ☎ 776-827-068 🌐 beer-geek.cz 📄 Line A: Jiřího z Poděbrad.

Bonvivant's

BARS/PUBS | The cocktail maker's cocktail bar of choice in Prague, and still probably one of the absolute best, Bonvivant's has a nostalgic feel and fantastic staff, who ask you what drinks and tastes you like and then whip you up something bespoke. Upmarket but not

pricey, this is a perfect place for an adventure in mixology and some tasty tapas in a refined setting. ☎ Mánesova 55, Staré Město ☎ 604-958-311 🌐 www.bonvivantsprague.com 📄 Line B: Jiřího z Poděbrad.

Vinohradský Parlament

BARS/PUBS | Located a short walk beyond Wenceslas Square, Parliament is a modern take on a traditional Czech pub, with everything that implies: tasty food, great beer (they serve Staropramen), and good times. ☎ Korunní 1, Vinohrady ☎ 224-250-403 🌐 www.vinohradskyparlament.cz 📄 Tram 10 to Náměstí Míru.

Vinohradský pivovar

BREW PUBS/BEER GARDENS | This popular Vinohrady hangout brews a range of traditional and well-regarded Czech pilsners, including unpasteurized and unfiltered versions, as well as increasing number of IPAs and other ales. You can pop in for a beer or two, or make a whole evening of it with a meal in the restaurant (expect classic Czech pub food at good prices) followed by some live entertainment in the music hall (expect anything from big band concerts to improv comedy). ☎ Korunní 106, Vinohrady ☎ 222-760-080 🌐 www.vinohradskypivovar.cz 📄 Line A: Flora.

CLUBS

Retro Music Hall

DANCE CLUBS | With its location just a bit out of the center, this fun club provides an escape from the hassle of downtown. The street-level part is a pleasant functionalist-style café with outdoor seating, and the lower level houses a club with a big dance floor. The name is a bit misleading; there are some '80s nights, but the bulk of the schedule is hip-hop and other more contemporary sounds. ☎ Francouzská 4, Vinohrady ☎ 222-510-592 🌐 www.retopraha.cz 📄 Line A: Náměstí Míru.

LGBTQ

Club TERMIX

DANCE CLUBS | It claims to be the largest gay club in the Czech Republic, and with three floors that's probably right. There's a disco, multiple bars, seating areas with Wi-Fi, and other attractions for a male crowd. It's open only on Friday and Saturday night, but the party continues right through til 6 am. Not to be confused with the similarly named Club TERMIX, another gay club situated nearby. ☎ Vinohradská 40, Vinohrady ☎ 222-710-462 🌐 club-max.cz.

★ The Saints

BARS/PUBS | This small British-owned pub and cocktail bar is centrally located near several other gay and gay-friendly establishments in Vinohrady. The owners also run a gay-friendly travel and accommodations service. ☎ Polská 32, Vinohrady ☎ 222-250-326 🌐 www.praguesaints.cz 📄 Line A: Jiřího z Poděbrad.

🛍 Shopping

As a local neighborhood with less tourist footfall, Vinohrady's shopping scene is less about crystal trinkets and touristy tchotchkes and more about local fashion boutiques.

CLOTHING

Pour Pour

CLOTHING | Can't bear the thought of leaving Prague without something completely unique? Stop by this little shop filled with eclectic creations—from underwear to funny diaries—by young, up-and-coming Czech designers. With a rotating collection, the shop is all about originality and unexpected fashions, reminding you that getting dressed can be an adventure. ☎ Vinohradská 74, Vinohrady ☎ 777-830-078 🌐 www.pourpour.cz ☹ Closed weekends 📄 Line A: Jiřího z Poděbrad.

Thrift Store

CLOTHING | Prague's got good game when it comes to thrift and retro stores, and this emporium in Vinohrady is one of the oldest and best. Moreover, a percentage of the profits goes to charity. ☎ Budečská 13, Vinohrady ☎ 608-623-339 🌐 www.thriftshop.cz 📄 Line A: Náměstí Míru.

Vršovice

👁 Sights

Kostel sv. Václava (St. Wenceslas Church)

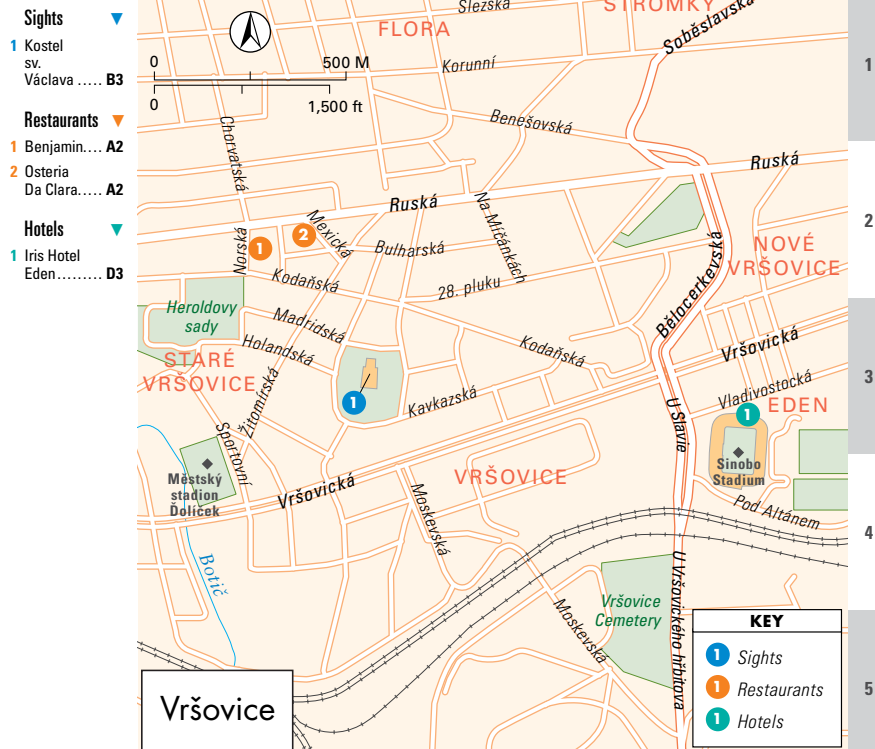
RELIGIOUS SITE | It's hard to miss this church—a striking constructivist work of art that, at 164 feet high, dominates the Vršovice skyline. Built in 1930 to commemorate 1,000 years since the death of St. Wenceslas, the building's most striking feature is its skyscraping white clock tower, topped by a 23-foot-high gold cross. It's worth a visit to see the exterior alone (and the lovely surrounding park), but for a peek inside, doors are usually open between 8 and 1 on Sunday for services. There are also occasional midweek services; check the website in advance for more information. ☎ Nám. Svatopluka Čecha 3, Vršovice ☎ 702-075-417 🌐 www.farnostvrsovice.cz ☹ Free ☹ Closed Mon.–Sat. (excl. services) 📄 Line A: Náměstí Míru plus Tram 4, 13, or 22 to Čechovo náměstí.

🍴 Restaurants

The rapidly gentrifying Vršovice has an increasing number of good restaurants and a few excellent ones. The most convenient Metro station for accessing the neighborhood is Náměstí Míru, but from there you'll have to take Tram 4 or 22.

★ Benjamin

\$\$\$\$ | CZECH | Opened in 2017, Benjamin quickly gained—and has retained—a reputation as one of Prague's most sought-after fine-dining experiences.



Well, with just 10 seats set around a horseshoe-shaped table, it's a very exclusive ticket. **Known for:** beautifully presented and flavorful dishes; difficulty getting reservations; interactive and communal dining experience. 📍 **Average main:** 1290 Kč ☎ norská.14@benjamin14.cz ☎ 774-141-432 ☎ www.benjamin14.cz ☎ Closed Sun.–Tues. No lunch. 🚶 **Line A:** Náměstí Míru plus Tram 4, 13, or 22 to Ruská.

Osteria Da Clara

\$\$ | ITALIAN | Osteria Da Clara is an unassuming Italian spot that gets by on the hustle and charm of the staff. When the kitchen isn't overwhelmed—which happens when the austere white dining room gets beyond half full—it serves up lovely, unpretentious Italian cuisine, like crostini with chicken liver, polenta, and tomatoes. **Known for:** giant tiramisu; good food at a great price; tricky location

(consider a taxi). 📍 **Average main:** 250 Kč ☎ mexicka.7@daclara.com ☎ 271-726-548 ☎ www.daclara.com ☎ Closed Mon. 🚶 **Line A:** Náměstí Míru plus Tram 4, 13, or 22 to Ruská.

Hotels

Vršovice has only limited accommodation options, but what's here is generally great value for money. It's also convenient if you're catching an evening soccer match or concert at the Sinobo Stadium.

Iris Hotel Eden

\$\$ | HOTEL | Set within the Sinobo Stadium, home of Czech soccer club Slavia Prague and a regular venue for concerts, Iris Hotel Eden is a modern, comfortable city hotel. **Pros:** modern and spacious rooms; great value option; good breakfast buffet. **Cons:** limited dining



Slavia Prague is holder of a world record: since 1892 the players of the club have traditionally been wearing their red and white colors.

options around; Wi-Fi connections can be patchy; a little out of the way. 📍 **Rooms from:** 2500 Kč ☎ u.slavie.2a@irishoteleden.cz ☎ 702-033-159 ☎ www.irishoteleden.cz ☎ 150 rooms 🍳 **Free Breakfast** 🚶 **Line A:** Náměstí Míru plus Tram 22 to Slavia.

Nightlife

Vršovice has an enjoyable mix of swanky cocktail joints, hipster craft beer bars, and traditional Czech hospody.

Bad Flash

BREW PUBS/BEER GARDENS | One of Prague's best craft beer bars, Bad Flash has 12 taps serving a constant rotation of brews from its own stable as well as other Czech and international microbreweries. The minimalist, shabby-chic interior and simple menu of beer snacks (try the pickled cheese) attract a young and cosmopolitan crowd. The bar doesn't take reservations, so it's best to come early and stay late. ☎ krymska.2@badflash.cz ☎ 273-134-609 ☎ www.badflash.cz 🚶 **Line A:** Náměstí Míru plus Tram 4, 13, or 22 to Krymská.

★ Pivnice pivovaru Trilobit

BREW PUBS/BEER GARDENS | From the street, this Vršovice taproom appears entirely unremarkable, but step inside to find one of Prague's true after-dark gems. The beer is exceptional, with four homebrews on tap—the award-winning 12° pale lager plus three seasonal beers—plus always-friendly service and a lovely cozy interior. In the summer, you can enjoy your beer out on the terrace. ☎ francouzská.112@pivovartrilobit.com ☎ 734-525-843 ☎ pivovartrilobit.com 🚶 **Line A:** Náměstí Míru plus Tram 4, 13, or 22 to Krymská.

Shopping

CLOTHING

BOHO Vintage Concept Store

CLOTHING | One of Prague's hippest shopping experiences, BOHO has in recent years morphed from perennially popular pop-up to Vršovice mainstay. As well as clothes, there's also a cool café serving brunches and booze. ☎ francouzská.76@bohovintage.com ☎ 222-946-162

🌐 boho.cz ☺ Closed Sun. and Mon.

🚊 Line A: Náměstí Míru plus Tram 4, 13, or 22 to Krymská.

Activities

SOCCER

Sinobo Stadium

SOCCER | Home to Slavia Prague, one of the country's "big two" soccer teams along with Sparta Prague, the 21,000-seater Sinobo Stadium shows Slavia games throughout the season (July to May). There are league matches every other weekend, as well as occasional midweek European fixtures. Outside of home games, you can find out more about the club (and Czech football in general) at the stadium's Slavia Museum. As one of Prague's biggest seated venues, the stadium also hosts regular concerts.

✉ *U Slavie 2A, Vršovice* ☎ 272-118-100

🌐 www.slavia.cz 🚊 Line A: Náměstí Míru plus Tram 22 to Slavia.