# VINOHRADY AND VRŠOVICE

Updated by Joseph Reaney













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### **NEIGHBORHOOD SNAPSHOT**

#### TOP EXPERIENCES

- Fine Dining: Enjoy a meal in one of Prague's top-drawer restaurants, such as Vinohrady's Blue Wagon or Vršovice's Benjamin.
- St. Wenceslas Church: Stroll around this weird and wonderful 20th-century church, with its sky-high clock tower visible from far and wide.
- Craft Beer: Set off on an epic pub crawl around the countless craft beer bars and microbreweries in this part of town.
- Indie Boutiques: Shop for boho vintage clothes and designer accessories in a host of small, independent boutiques.
- Slavia Prague: Watch one of the country's most famous soccer teams in full flow during a game at the Sinobo Stadium

#### **GETTING HERE**

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.

#### PLANNING YOUR TIME

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.

#### **OUICK BITES**

■ 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. ⋈ Havlíčkovy sady 2188 @ www.pavilongrebovka.czm M Tram 13 to Ruská

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 Riegrovy sady (Rieger Park)

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.

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 ubiquitous, but its incredible choice of bars (from craft beer hangouts to downto-earth hospody, traditional Czech pubs), its guirky modernist churches, and its buzzing atmosphere during Slavia Prague match days more than make up for it.

and the Italian Renaissance-style Havlíčk-

ovy sady (Havlíček Gardens).

# Vinohrady



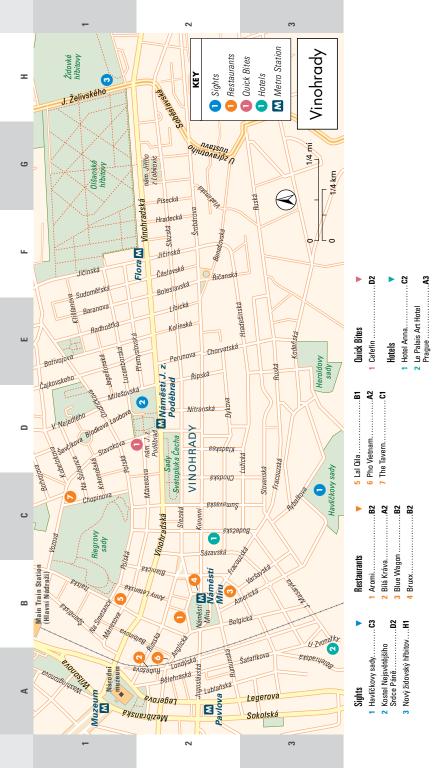
Havlíčkovy sady (Havlíček Gardens) **CITY PARK** | Arguably Prague's prettiest park, Havlíček Gardens is best known for its Italian-style grotto and its rows of verdant vineyards. But it also manages to pack in plenty of other attractions, from placid lakes to cascading fountains, and expansive green lawns to narrow woodland trails. It also has two excellent drinking and dining options: the charming garden café Pavilon Grébovka, which serves sweet and savory breakfasts, tasty lunches, and all-day snacks (there's also a grill in summer); and the hilltop gazebo wine bar Viniční Altán, which 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). 

Winohrady 

www.pavilongrebovka.cz 🖼 Free 🖪 Line A: Náměstí Míru.

#### ★ Kostel Neisvětěišího Srdce Páně

(Church of the Most Sacred Heart) CHURCH | If you've had your fill of Romanesque, Gothic, and baroque, this church offers a startlingly modernist alternative. Designed in 1927 by Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik—the same architect who



updated Prague Castle and who almost single-handedly designed the modern city of Ljubljana—the art deco edifice of this church resembles a luxury ocean liner more than a place of worship, topped by a tower with an enormous glazed clock. 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.

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 ⊕ srdcepane. cz ຝ Free M Line A: Jiřího z Poděbrad.

# **Nový židovský hřbitov** (*New Jewish Cemetery*)

**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 inadeguate 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 hřbitovy." M Izraelská 1, Vinohrady **≅** 226–235–248 **⊕** www.kehilaprag.cz Free M Line A: Želivského.

# Restaurants

Vinohrady has some 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.

#### ★ Aromi

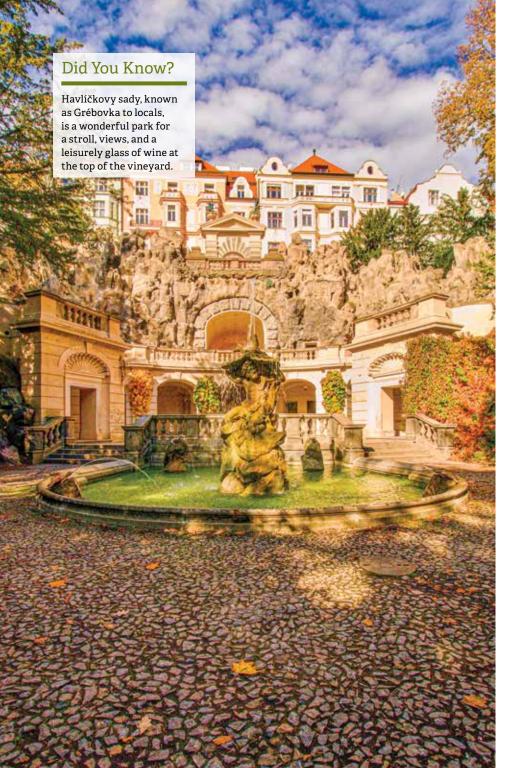
\$\$\$ | ITALIAN | Gracious, gregarious, and extremely confident, Aromi is easily among the top tier of Italian restaurants in the city and proud of it. Classic pastas made in-house and fresh seafood shown off tableside are two of the crowd favorites, as are the superb salads and well-chosen Italian wines. Known for: sumptuous seafood dishes; extensive choice of wines and grappas; faultless service. § Average main: Kč650 × Nám. Míru 6, Vinohrady 222–713–222 aromi.lacollezione.cz Closed Sun. No lunch Sat. Line A: Náměstí Míru.

#### ★ Bílá Kráva

\$\$\$ | STEAKHOUSE | Meat lovers will be in their element at this French countryside-inspired steak restaurant, situated just behind the National Museum. Take a seat beneath the wood-beamed ceiling and choose from a menu dominated by dishes of expertly aged Charolais beef, from steak tartare and tenderloin carpaccio to juicy rump steaks and hearty beef bourguignon. Known for: delicious aged beef dishes: charming countryside-style setting; good value for such high quality. \$ Average main: Kč450 ⋈ Rubešova 10, Vinohrady \$\exists 603-397-367 \exists www. bilakrava.cz @ Closed Sun. No lunch Sat. M Lines A and C: Muzeum.

#### **Blue Wagon**

\$\$\$ | CZECH | This appealing Vinohrady restaurant serves up innovative, high-quality, and beautifully presented cuisine in a soothing and unstuffy setting. The à la carte menu is all about fresh and flavorful Czech dishes with occasional French, Italian, or Asian twists (and added seafood): think duck breast with parsnip



and cranberries, shrimp and carrot cream soup with yellow curry, and pan-fried sea bass with *fregola* and bok choy. **Known for:** outdoor seating in summer; phenomenal chocolate fondant dessert; piped-in pop music that adds little to the atmosphere. **⑤** *Average main: Kč500* ☑ *Uruguayská 19, Vinohrady* **⑥** *222–561–378* **⑥** *www.bluewagon.cz* **⑥** *Closed Sun. and Mon.* **⋒** *Line A: Náměstí Míru.* 

#### Bruxx

\$\$ | BELGIAN | FAMILY | For an alternative to pilsner in the Czech capital, this superb Belgian brasserie offers a choice of half a dozen Belgian beers on draft, and more than 60 others in bottles. The beers, which are often tinged with fruit or nut flavors, are served alongside kettles of mussels (cooked in wine or beer), golden frites with mayo sauce, and ridiculously tasty waffles. Known for: Belgian beers on draft; fine fish and seafood dishes; outdoor seating in summer. \$\subsection{1}{3} Average main: Kč400 \omega Nám. Míru 9, Vinohrady \$\frac{1}{2} 224-250-404 \omega www.bruxx.cz \omega 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 220 Kč. ⑤ Average main: Kč285 ⋈ Italská 30, Vinohrady ❤ 774–310–774 www.lalqila.cz M Lines A and C: Muzeum.

#### **Pho Vietnam**

\$\$ | 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: Kč180 Manglická 15, Vinohrady 606–707–880 www.pho-vietnam.cz Closed Sun.

M. 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: Kč240 Chopinova 26, Vinohrady www. thetavern.cz Line A: Jiřího z Poděbrad.

### Coffee and Quick Bites

#### Cafefin

\$\$ | CAFÉ | This popular Vietnamese-Czech coffee shop offers a real mix of Western and Asian coffee culture, from cappuccinos, espresso tonics, and hot chocolates to Vietnamese coffee, matcha lattes, and kombucha. The food is great, too: come for the excellent Western-style breakfasts and brunches (things like granola, scrambled eggs, and banana bread), or the tasty Asian-influenced lunches and dinners (like bun bo nam bo, Penang curry, and bibimbap). Known for: delicious pan-Asian menu; wide choice of hot drinks; friendly service. \$ Average main: Kč250 ⊠ Nám. Jiřího z Poděbrad 4. Vinohrady ≈ 606-707-199 ⊕ facebook.com/cafefinvpraze M Line A: Jiřího z Poděbrad.

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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. \$\sumentilengthing{\textit{S}} Rooms from: Kč1750 \subseteq Budečská 17, Vinohrady \$\frac{1}{222-513-111}\$ www.hotelanna.cz

#### ★ 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 small for the price; beds a little hard for some. ⑤ Rooms from: Kč5900 ⋈ U Zvonařky 1, Vinohrady ⋈ 234–634–111 ⊕ www.lepalaishotel.eu ⋈ 72 rooms ⋈ Free Breakfast M Line C: I. P. Pavlova.



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

BARS | 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 Pivoteka (bottle shop) a five-minute walk away, which stocks more than 500 bottled beers. 

☑ Vinohradská 62, Vinohrady 
☐ 776–827–068 
☐ beergeek.cz 
☐ Line A: Jiřího z Poděbrad.

#### Bonvivant'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, Vinohrady → 775–331–862 bonvivants.cz Closed Sun. and Mon. Line A: Jiřího z Poděbrad.

#### Vinohradský pivovar

BREWPUBS | This popular neighborhood hangout brews a range of traditional and well-regarded Czech pilsners, including unpasteurized and unfiltered versions, as well as an 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 (there's everything from jazz 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, dance music, and other more contemporary sounds. Friday and Saturday nights only. 

Francouzská 4, Vinohrady 606–824–005 www.retropraha.cz

Closed Sun.—Thurs. Line A: Náměstí Míru

#### **LGBTQ**

#### Club TERMAX

DANCE CLUBS | It claims to be the largest gay club in the Czech Republic, and with three floors it's a reasonable claim. 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 till 5 am. Not to be confused with the similarly named Club TerMIX, another gay club situated nearby. ⋈ Vinohradská 40, Vinohrady 222-710-462 facebook.com/clubmax.cz Closed Sun.-Thurs. Line A: Náměstí Míru.

#### ★ The Saints

BARS | This small British-owned pub and cocktail bar is centrally located near several other gay and gay-friendly establishments in Vinohrady. But unlike many of those other places, it's open all week long. 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**

#### **BOHO Vintage Concept Store**

**WOMEN'S CLOTHING** | One of Prague's hippest shopping experiences, BOHO has

in recent years morphed from perennially popular pop-up to Vinhorady mainstay. The center of the space is dominated by a cool café-bar serving brunches and booze, while the vintage fashion items and other designer trinkets fill shelves on the walls. ⋈ Ondříčkova 6, Vinohrady 222–946–162 ⊕ boho.cz ♥ Closed Sun. and Mon. M. Line A: Jiřího z Poděbrad.

#### **Pour Pour**

women's 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 1777–830–078 Closed weekends Line A: Jiřího z Poděbrad.

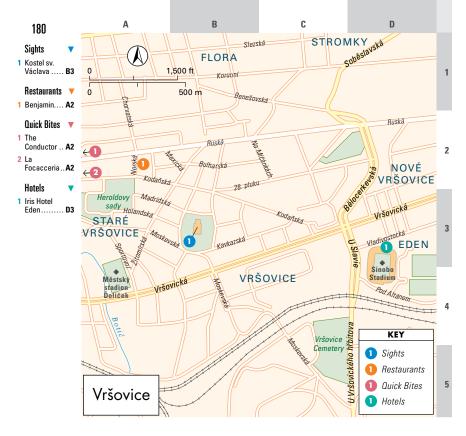
#### **Thrift Store**

MARKET | 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 M Line A: Náměstí Míru.

# Vršovice



Kostel sv. Václava (St. Wenceslas Church) CHURCH | 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 morning and evening services during the week; check the website in advance for more information. ⋈ Nám. Svatopluka Čecha 3, Vršovice வ607–084–855 www.farnostvrsovice.cz Free Closed Mon.—Sat. (excl. services) Line A: Náměstí Miru 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 Miru, but from there you'll have to take Tram 4, 13, or 22.

#### ★ Benjamin

\$\$\$\$ | CZECH | Since opening in 2017, Benjamin has consistently been 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—so make sure you book far in advance. Each boldly flavored dish on the eight-course tasting menu exhibits oodles of imagination, innovation, and inspiration—and when combined with the unique communal setup, makes for a one-of-a-kind meal. Known for: beautifully presented and flavorful dishes: interactive and communal dining experience; booking up months in advance. \$ Average main: Kč2190 ⋈ Norská 14. Vršovice 3 774-141-432 www. benjamin14.cz @ Closed Sun.-Tues. No lunch. M Line A: Náměstí Míru plus Tram 4, 13, or 22 to Ruská.



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

# Coffee and Quick Bites

#### The Conductor

\$ | INTERNATIONAL | Famed for its soft and squishy cinnamon rolls (some of the best in town), this takeout spot also serves perfect pulled-pork sandwiches and lip-smacking vegan wraps. Known for: location right by Krymská tram stop; friendly service; delicious cinnamon rolls.

\$ Average main: Kč120 \subseteq Francouzská 78, Vršovice \$ facebook.com/streetfoodmaestro \$ Closed weekends Line A: Náměstí Míru plus Tram 4, 13, or 22 to Krymská.

#### La Focacceria

\$ | BAKERY | A tiny bakery with a big reputation, this place allows you to take your pick from dozens of different focaccias, as well as delicious arancini (small balls of rice stuffed with a savory filling), fresh ciabattas, crispy Italian biscuits, and various pastries and cakes. **Known for:** local favorite; authentic Sicilian bread; friendly English-speaking owner Sergio.

S Average main: Kč60 ⋈ Krymská 30, Vršovice 🕾 774–741–416 ⊕ lafocacceria-bakery.business.site ூ Closed Sun. M Line A: Náměstí Míru plus Tram 4, 13, or 22 to Ruská.



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; good breakfast buffet; free parking available. Cons: limited dining options around; Wi-Fi connections can be patchy; a little out of the way. ⑤ Rooms from: Kč2500 ☑ Vladivostocká 2, Vršovice ⑦ 702-033-159 ∰ www.irishoteleden.cz

√ 150 rooms Free Breakfast M Line A: Námesti Míru plus Tram 4 or 22 to Slavia.



### **™** Nightlife

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

#### **Bad Flash Bar**

BARS | 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 ská 2, Vršovice 273–134–609 @ www. badflash.cz M Line A: Námesti Míru plus Tram 4, 13, or 22 to Krymská.

#### Trilobit Pivnice pivovaru Trilobit

BREWPUBS | 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 home brews on tap-the award-winning 12° pale lager plus three seasonal beers-while the service is friendly and the interior is cozy. In the summer, you can enjoy your beer out on the terrace. 

Francouzská 112. Vršovice M Line A: Námesti Míru plus Tram 4, 13, or 22 to Krvmská.



#### SOCCER

#### Fortuna Arena

SOCCER | Home to Slavia Prague, one of the country's "big two" soccer teams along with Sparta Prague, the 21.000-seater Fortuna Arena 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 
725–875–438 ⊕ www.slavia.cz ♥ Museum closed weekends M Line A: Námesti Míru plus Tram 4 or 22 to Slavia.