

PRAGUE CASTLE AND HRADČANY

Updated by
Joseph Reaney



 Sights
★★★★★

 Restaurants
★★★★☆

 Hotels
★★★★☆

 Shopping
★★★☆☆

 Nightlife
★★★☆☆

NEIGHBORHOOD SNAPSHOT

TOP EXPERIENCES	QUICK BITES
<p>■ Last Judgment Mosaic: Head to the south-facing side of Katedrála sv. Víta (St. Vitus Cathedral) to see this extraordinary triptych mosaic, which dates back to 1371.</p> <p>■ Holiday Shopping: Visiting in December? Browse for gifts at the castle's festive market or pick up a retro wooden toy from the Rocking Horse Toy Shop.</p> <p>■ Golden Lane: Poke your head into the cute, colorful cottages that line charming Zlatá ulička (Golden Lane) to read about the people that once lived in them.</p> <p>■ Classical Music: Tune into one of the regular—and always excellent—classical concerts held in Prague Castle's Romanesque Bazilika sv. Jiří (St. George's Basilica).</p>	<p>■ Kavárna Nový Svět. This cozy little café tucked away on one of the city's prettiest backstreets is a great stop for coffee and cake. ☒ Nový Svět 2, Hradčany ☉ kavarna.novysvet.net 🚊 Tram 22 to Brusnice</p> <p>■ Restaurace U Labutí. Enjoy traditional, quality Czech pub grub without delay; you'll have a beer and menu in your hand within seconds of taking a seat. ☒ Hradčanské nám. 11, Hradčany ☉ www.ulabuti.com 🚊 Tram 22 to Pražský hrad</p>
<h3>GETTING HERE</h3>	
<p>As with the neighboring environs, the best public transportation here is via Metro Line A to Malostranská and then continuing onward with Tram 22. Taxis work, too, of course, but they can be expensive. The castle is compact and easily navigated. But be forewarned: the castle, especially St. Vitus Cathedral, teems with huge crowds practically year-round.</p>	<p>■ Na Hubálce. This is the place to come for big, meaty burgers served with fries and, of course, a frothy pilsner beer. ☒ Za Hládkovem 2, Hradčany ☉ www.nahubalce.com 🚊 Tram 22 to Hládkov</p>
<h3>PLANNING YOUR TIME</h3>	
<p>The castle is at its best in early morning and late evening, when it holds an air of mystery and intrigue. The cathedral deserves an hour—but bear in mind that, as the number of visitors allowed inside is limited, the lines can be long. Another hour should be spent in the Starý Královský palác (Old Royal Palace). And you can spend several more hours taking in the museums, the views of the city, and the hidden nooks of the castle. Add in the many restaurants and shops of surrounding Hradčany (Castle Area), and you should budget a day for the whole experience.</p>	

Despite its monolithic presence, Prague Castle is not a single structure but a collection of structures dating from the 10th to the 20th centuries, all linked by internal backcourtyards. The most important buildings with the castle complex are the St. Vitus Cathedral, a grand Gothic house of worship clearly visible soaring above the castle walls, and the Old Royal Palace, the official residence of kings and presidents and still the center of political power in the Czech Republic.

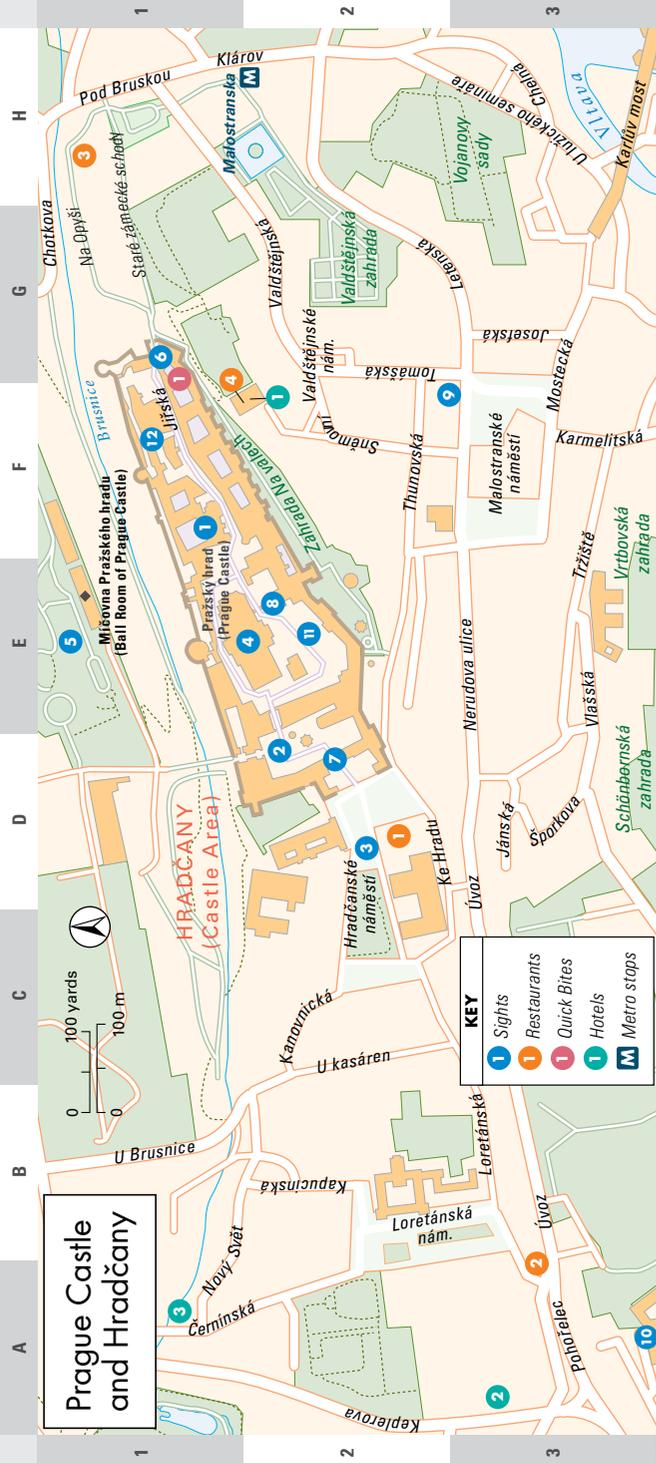
To the west of Prague Castle is the residential Hradčany, a town that emerged from a collection of monasteries and churches in the early 14th century. The concentration of history packed into Prague Castle and Hradčany challenges those not versed in the ups and downs of Bohemian kings, religious uprisings, wars, and oppression—but there's no shame in taking it all in on a purely aesthetic level.

Sights

Bazilika sv. Jiří (*St. George's Basilica*)
RELIGIOUS SITE | Inside, this church looks more or less as it did in the 12th century; it's the best-preserved Romanesque relic in the country. The effect is at once barnlike and peaceful, as the warm golden yellow of the stone walls and the small arched windows exude a sense of enduring harmony. Prince Vratislav I originally built it in the 10th century,

though only the foundations remain from that time. The father of Prince Wenceslas (of Christmas carol fame) dedicated it to St. George (of dragon fame), a figure supposedly more agreeable to the still largely pagan people. The outside was remodeled during early baroque times, although the striking rusty-red color is in keeping with the look of the Romanesque edifice. The painted, house-shape tomb at the front of the church holds Vratislav's remains. Up the steps, in a chapel to the right, is the tomb Peter Parler designed for St. Ludmila, grandmother of St. Wenceslas. ☒ [Nám. U sv. Jiří, Pražský Hrad](#) ☎ 224-371-111 ☉ [www.hrad.cz](#) 🎫 *Included in 2-day castle ticket (from 250 Kč)* 🚊 [Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pražský Hrad.](#)

Druhé nádvoří (*Second Courtyard*)
PLAZA | Built in the late 16th and early 17th centuries, the Second Courtyard was originally part of a reconstruction program commissioned by Rudolf II. He



Sights	Restaurants	Quick Bites	Hotels
1 Bazilika sv. Jiří F1	1 Kuchyně D2	1 Lobkowicz G1	1 Golden Well Hotel F2
2 Druhé nádvoří D2	2 Maly Buddha A3	2 Palace Café G1	2 Hotel Savoy A3
3 Hradčanské náměstí D2	3 Strahovský klášter A3		3 Hotel U raka A1
4 Katedrála sv. Víta E1	3 Piano Noble at Villa Richter H1		
5 Královská zahrada E1	4 Terasa U Zlaté studně F2		
6 Lobkovický palác G1			
	7 První nádvoří D2		
	8 Starý královský palác E2		
	9 Šternberský palác F2		
	10 Strahovský klášter A3		
	11 Třetí nádvoří E2		
	12 Zlatá ulička F1		



St. George's Basilica is the oldest church building within the Prague Castle complex.

amassed a large and famed collection of fine and decorative art, scientific instruments, philosophical and alchemical books, natural wonders, coins, and a hodgepodge of other treasures. The bulk of the collection was looted by the Swedes during the Thirty Years' War, removed to Vienna when the imperial capital returned there after Rudolf's death, or auctioned off during the 18th century. Artworks that survived the turmoil, for the most part acquired after Rudolf's time, are displayed in the **Obrazárna** (Picture Gallery) on the courtyard's left side as you face St. Vitus. In rooms redecorated by castle architect Bořek Šípek, there are good Renaissance, mannerist, and baroque paintings that demonstrate the luxurious tastes of Rudolf's court.

Except for the view of the spires of St. Vitus Cathedral, the exterior courtyard offers little for the eye to feast on. Empress Maria Theresa's court architect, Nicolò Pacassi, received imperial approval to remake the castle in the 1760s, as it

was badly damaged by Prussian shelling during the Seven Years' War in 1757. The Second Courtyard was the main victim of Pacassi's attempts at imparting classical grandeur to what had been a picturesque collection of Gothic and Renaissance styles. This courtyard also houses the rather gaudy **Kaple sv. Kříže** (Chapel of the Holy Cross), with decorations from the 18th and 19th centuries, which now serves as a souvenir and ticket stand.

Across the passageway by the gallery entrance is the **Cisařská konírna** (Imperial Stable), where temporary exhibitions are held. The passageway at the northern end of the courtyard forms the northern entrance to the castle and leads out over a luxurious ravine known as the **Jelení příkop** (Stag Moat), which can be entered either here or at the lower end via the metal catwalk off Chotkova ulice, when it isn't closed for sporadic renovations. ☎ *Pražský Hrad* ☎ 224-372-423 🌐 www.hrad.cz 🗨 *Courtyard free, Picture Gallery 100 Kč or incl. in 2-day castle ticket (from*

250 Kč)  **Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pražský Hrad.**

Hradčanské náměstí (Hradčany Square)

PLAZA | With its fabulous mixture of Baroque and Renaissance houses, topped by Prague Castle itself, this square had a prominent role in the film *Amadeus* (as a substitute for Vienna). Czech director Miloš Forman used the house at No. 7 for Mozart's residence, where the composer was haunted by the masked figure he thought was his father. The flamboyant Rococo **Arcibiskupský palác**, on the left as you face the Castle, was the Viennese archbishop's palace. For a brief time after World War II, No. 11 was home to a little girl named Marie Jana Korbelová, better known as former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.  **Line A: Malostranská plus Tram No. 22 to Pražský Hrad.**

Královská zahrada (Royal Garden)

CITY PARK | This peaceful swath of greenery affords lovely views of St. Vitus Cathedral and the castle's walls and bastions. Originally laid out in the 16th century, it endured devastation in war, neglect in times of peace, and many redesigns, reaching its present parklike form in the early 20th century. Luckily, its Renaissance treasures survived. One of these is the long, narrow **Míčovna** (Ball Game Hall), built by Bonifaz Wohlmut in 1568, its garden front completely covered by a dense tangle of allegorical *sgraffiti*.

The **Královský letohrádek** (Royal Summer Palace, aka Queen Anne's Summer Palace or Belvedere), at the garden's eastern end, deserves its unusual reputation as one of the most beautiful Renaissance structures north of the Alps. Italian architects began it and Wohlmut finished it off in the 1560s, complete with a copper roof like an upturned boat's keel riding above the graceful arcades of the ground floor. During the 18th and 19th centuries military engineers tested artillery in the interior, which had already

lost its rich furnishings to Swedish soldiers during their siege of the city in 1648. The Renaissance-style *giardinetto* (little garden) adjoining the summer palace centers on another masterpiece, the Italian-designed, Czech-produced Singing Fountain, which resonates from the sound of falling water.  **U Prašného mostu ul. and Mariánské hradby ul. near Chotkovy Park, Pražský Hrad**  224–372–435  www.hrad.cz  **Free**  **Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pražský Hrad.**

★ **Katedrála sv. Víta (St. Vitus Cathedral)**
RELIGIOUS SITE | With its graceful, soaring towers, this Gothic cathedral—among the most beautiful in Europe—is the spiritual heart of Prague Castle and of the Czech Republic itself. The cathedral has a long and complicated history, beginning in the 10th century and continuing to its completion in 1929. It's possible to enter the cathedral for free to take in the splendor from the back, but for the full experience, buy a ticket and walk around. You'll get even more out of the visit with the audio guide, which is available at the castle information center.  **Hrad III. nádvoří 2, Pražský Hrad**  224–372–434  www.katedralasvatehovita.cz  **Included in 2-day castle ticket (from 250 Kč)**  **Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pražský Hrad.**

Lobkovicův palác (Lobkowitz Palace)

MUSEUM | Greatly benefiting from a recent renovation, this palace is a showcase for baroque and rococo styling. Exhibits here trace the ancestry of the Lobkowitz family, who were great patrons of the arts in their heyday (Beethoven was just one of the artists who received their funding). The audio tour adds a personal touch: it's narrated by William Lobkowitz, the family scion who spearheaded the property's restitution and rehabilitation, and includes quite a few anecdotes about the family through the years. Although inside the Prague Castle complex, this museum has a



Queen Anne's Summer Palace was commissioned by Ferdinand I in 1538 for his loving wife, but she never stepped foot in it as she passed away while delivering her 15th child.

separate admission.  **Jiřská 3, Pražský Hrad**  233–312–925  www.lobkovicz.cz  295 Kč  **Line A: Malostranská.**

První nádvoří (First Courtyard)

PLAZA | The main entrance to Prague Castle from Hradčanské náměstí is certain to impress any first-time visitor. Going through the wrought-iron gate, guarded at ground level by uniformed Czech soldiers and from above by the ferocious *Battling Titans* (a copy of Ignaz Platzer's original 18th-century work), you enter this courtyard, built on the site of old moats and gates that once separated the castle from the surrounding buildings and thus protected the vulnerable western flank. The courtyard is one of the more recent additions to the castle, designed by Maria Theresa's court architect, Nicolò Pacassi, in the 1760s. Today it forms part of the presidential office complex. Pacassi's reconstruction was intended to unify the eclectic collection of buildings that made up the castle, but the effect of his work is somewhat flat.

At its eastern end of the courtyard is **Matyášova brána** (Matthias Gate). Built in 1614, this stone gate once stood alone in front of the moats and bridges that surrounded the castle. Under the Habsburgs, the gate survived by being grafted as a relief onto the palace building. As you go through it, notice the ceremonial white-marble entrance halls on either side that lead up to the Czech president's reception rooms (which are only rarely open to the public).

■ **TIP** → Try to arrive on the hour to witness the changing of the guard; the fanfare peaks at noon with a special flag ceremony in the First Courtyard.  **Pražský Hrad**  224–372–434  www.hrad.cz  **Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pražský Hrad.**

Starý královský palác (Old Royal Palace)

CASTLE/PALACE | A jumble of styles and add-ons from different eras are gathered in this palace. The best way to grasp its size is from within the **Vladislavský sál** (Vladislav Hall), the largest secular Gothic interior space in Central Europe.

Benedikt Ried completed the hall in 1493 (he was to late Bohemian Gothic what Peter Parler was to the earlier version). The room imparts a sense of space and light, softened by the sensuous lines of the vaulted ceilings and brought to a dignified close by the simple oblong form of the early Renaissance windows. In its heyday, the hall held jousting tournaments, festive markets, banquets, and coronations. In more recent times, it has been used to inaugurate presidents, from the communist leader Klement Gottwald (in 1948) to modern-day leaders like Václav Havel and current president Miloš Zeman.

From the front of the hall, turn right into the rooms of the **Česká kancelář** (Bohemian Chancellery). This wing was built by Benedikt Ried only 10 years after the hall was completed, but it shows a much stronger Renaissance influence. Pass through the portal into the last chamber of the chancellery. In 1618 this room was the site of the second defenestration of Prague, an event that marked the beginning of the Bohemian rebellion and, ultimately, the Thirty Years' War throughout Europe. The square window used in this protest is on the left as you enter the room.

At the back of Vladislav Hall a staircase leads up to a gallery of the **Kaple všech svatých** (All Saints' Chapel). Little remains of Peter Parler's original work, but the church contains some fine works of art. The large room to the left of the staircase is the **Stará sněmovna** (Council Chamber), where the Bohemian nobles met with the king in a prototype parliament of sorts. The descent from Vladislav Hall toward what remains of the **Romanský palác** (Romanesque Palace) is by way of a wide, shallow set of steps. This **Jezdecké schody** (Riders' Staircase) was the entranceway for knights who came for the jousting tournaments. ☒ *Hrad III, nádvoří, Pražský Hrad* ☎ 224-372-434 ☉ www.hrad.cz ☑ Included in 2-day

castle ticket (from 250 Kč) ☒ *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pražský Hrad.*

★ **Strahovský klášter** (*Strahov Monastery*)
RELIGIOUS SITE | Founded by the Premonstratensian order in 1140, the monastery remained theirs until 1952, when the Communists suppressed all religious orders and turned the entire complex into the **Památník národního písemnictví** (Museum of National Literature). The major building of interest is the **Strahov Library**, with its collection of early Czech manuscripts, the 10th-century Strahov New Testament, and the collected works of famed Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe. Also of note is the late-18th-century **Philosophical Hall**. Its ceilings are engulfed in a startling sky-blue fresco that depicts an unusual cast of characters, including Socrates' nagging wife Xanthippe; Greek astronomer Thales, with his trusty telescope; and a collection of Greek philosophers mingling with Descartes, Diderot, and Voltaire. ☒ *Strahovské nádvoří 1, Hradčany* ☎ 233-107-704 ☉ www.strahovskyclaster.cz ☎ 120 Kč library ☒ *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram No. 22 to Pohořelec.*

★ **Sternberský palác** (*Sternberg Palace*)
MUSEUM | The 18th-century Sternberský palác houses the National Gallery's collection of antiquities and paintings by European masters from the 14th to the 18th century. Holdings include impressive works by El Greco, Rubens, and Rembrandt. ☒ *Hradčanské nám. 15, Hradčany* ☎ 233-090-570 ☉ www.ngprague.cz ☎ 220 Kč ☑ Closed Mon. ☒ *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram No. 22 to Pražský Hrad.*

★ **Třetí nádvoří** (*Third Courtyard*)
PLAZA | The contrast between the cool, dark interior of St. Vitus Cathedral and the brightly colored Pacassi façades of the Third Courtyard just outside is startling. Noted Slovenian architect Josip Plečnik created the courtyard's clean lines in the 1930s, but the modern look is a

Did You Know?

It used to be believed that the Golden Lane housed the Golden Lane housed alchemists, but in actuality they were homes for castle guards and later for artists like Franz Kafka, who lived for a short time at No. 22.



deception. Plečnik's paving was intended to cover an underground world of house foundations, streets, and walls from the 9th through 12th centuries and was rediscovered when the cathedral was completed. (You can see a few archways through a grating in a wall of the cathedral.) Plečnik added a few features to catch the eye: a granite obelisk to commemorate the fallen of World War I, a black-marble pedestal for the Gothic statue of St. George (a copy of the National Gallery's original statue), an inconspicuous entrance to his Bull Staircase leading down to the south garden, and a peculiar golden ball topping the eagle fountain near the eastern end of the courtyard. ☎ *Pražský Hrad* ☎ 224-372-434 🌐 www.hrad.cz 📍 *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pražský Hrad.*

★ Zlatá ulička (Golden Lane)

NEIGHBORHOOD | A jumbled collection of tiny, ancient, brightly colored houses crouched under the fortification wall looks remarkably like a set for *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Purportedly, these were the lodgings for an international group of alchemists whom Rudolf II brought to the court to produce gold. But the truth is a little less romantic: the houses were built during the 16th century for the castle guards. By the early 20th century Golden Lane had become the home of poor artists and writers. Franz Kafka, who lived at No. 22 in 1916 and 1917, described the house on first sight as “so small, so dirty, impossible to live in, and lacking everything necessary.” But he soon came to love the place. As he wrote to his fiancée, “Life here is something special, to close out the world not just by shutting the door to a room or apartment but to the whole house, to step out into the snow of the silent lane.” The lane now holds tiny stores selling books, music, and crafts, as well as including some exhibitions on former residents and their professions. It has become so popular that an admission fee is charged. The houses are

cute, but crowds can be uncomfortable, and the fact remains that you are paying money for the privilege of walking down a narrow street. Within the walls above Golden Lane, a timber-roof corridor (enter between No. 23 and No. 24) is lined with replica suits of armor and weapons (some of them for sale), mock torture chambers, and a shooting gallery.

As you exit Golden Lane, you will also have an opportunity to visit Daliborka on the same ticket. This round cannon tower dates back to 1496 and gained notoriety through the centuries for its use as a brutal prison. Some of the instruments of torture used on its inmates, including the knight Dalibor of Kozojedy (for whom the tower is named), are now on display. ☎ *Pražský Hrad* ☎ 224-372-423 🌐 www.hrad.cz 🗺️ *Included in 2-day castle ticket (from 250 Kč) 📍 Line A: Malostranská.*

🍴 Restaurants

The streets surrounding main square Hradčanské náměstí have several restaurants and cafés open for lunch, as does the area around Strahov Monastery. But for dinner, with Prague Castle having closed down for the day and tourists having dissipated, you'll find the best dining options in the farther reaches of Hradčany.

★ Kuchyně

\$\$ | **CZECH** | This novel, menu-less restaurant offers a stove covered in pots and pans and leaves it up to you to lift the lids, take a sniff, and choose your meal accordingly. The focus is on Czech cuisine but with a look back into its culinary past with dishes like beef cheeks in plum sauce. **Known for:** soft sourdough bread to dip in soups; wonderful location by the castle; drinks including unfiltered dark beer. 📍 *Average main: 245 Kč ☎ Hradčanské nám. 1, Hradčany ☎ 736-152-891 🌐 kuchyn.ambi.cz 📍 Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pražský hrad.*

Malý Buddha

\$\$ | **ASIAN** | Bamboo, wood, paper, incense—and the random creepy mask on the wall—are all part of the decor at this earthy hilltop hideaway near Prague Castle. It's as much about the atmosphere as the food here, which isn't complex but is cooked with heart; expect spring rolls, vegetable and mixed stir-fries, and various fish and chicken dishes, all in generous portions. **Known for:** lovely candlelit setting; extensive tea menu; cash only. 📍 *Average main: 190 Kč ☎ Úvoz 46, Hradčany ☎ 220-513-894 🌐 www.malybuddha.cz 🚫 No credit cards ☺ Closed Mon. 📍 Line A: Hradčanská plus Tram 32 or 35 to Pohořelec.*

★ Terasa U Zlaté studně

\$\$\$\$ | **EUROPEAN** | This fine-dining establishment is widely considered to be one of the country's best restaurants—and for good reason. First and foremost, the food is simply superb; expect mouthwatering Czech and international dishes, created by head chef Pavel Sapík and cooked to perfection. **Known for:** the best from-the-table view in Prague; mouthwateringly tender fallow deer; slightly tricky location. 📍 *Average main: 950 Kč ☎ Golden Well Hotel, U Zlaté studně 4, Hradčany ☎ 257-533-322 🌐 www.terasauzlatestudne.cz 📍 Line A: Malostranská.*

Piano Nobile at Villa Richter

\$\$\$ | **FRENCH** | Set within an 18th-century neoclassical villa on the steps up to the castle, the upmarket Piano Nobile restaurant in Villa Richter offers decadently saucy dishes, from escargots drowning in herb butter to guinea fowl slathered in paprika sauce. The floral-wallpapered interior is gorgeous, but it's the outdoor terrace that has the best views, with the red roofs of Malá Strana to the right and the church spires of Staré Město (Old Town) to the left. **Known for:** wonderful city panoramas; impressive selection of wines; steak tartare. 📍 *Average main: 600 Kč ☎ Staré zámecké schody 6,*

Hradčany ☎ 702-205-108 🌐 www.villarichter.cz 📍 *Line A: Malostranská.*

☕ Coffee and Quick Bites

Lobkowicz Palace Café

\$\$ | **CAFÉ** | When visiting the castle, break for a coffee, pastry, or even lunch and enjoy one of the loveliest views of the city from the outdoor terrace of the Lobkowicz Palace Café. The menu is a touch expensive but full of delicious sandwiches, including ham and cheese, tuna, and smoked salmon, plus beverages and desserts. **Known for:** wonderful city panoramas; simple snacks and Czech classics; closing for the evening. 📍 *Average main: 280 Kč ☎ Lobkovický palác, Jiřská 3, Pražský Hrad ☎ 233-356-978 🌐 www.lobkowicz.cz 📍 Line A: Malostranská.*

🏨 Hotels

For some, Prague Castle and Hradčany is the romantic heart of this city. Though it is a hectic spot during the day with a lot of foot traffic, it completely empties in the evening, so staying in this area can feel like having Prague all to yourself.

★ Golden Well Hotel (U Zlaté studně)

\$\$\$ | **HOTEL** | Consistently rated one of Prague's best boutique hotels, Golden Well offers luxurious rooms with stellar views, first-class service, and one of the city's finest restaurants. **Pros:** luxurious rooms with modern bathrooms; excellent restaurant; magnificent views. **Cons:** the excellent breakfast is not included; rooms are not soundproof; not family friendly. 📍 *Rooms from: 6500 Kč ☎ U Zlaté studně 4, Hradčany ☎ 257-011-213 🌐 www.goldenwell.cz 🗺️ 19 rooms 🚫 No meals 📍 Line A: Malostranská.*

Hotel Savoy

\$\$\$ | **HOTEL** | A modest Jugendstil façade conceals one of the city's most luxurious small hotels. **Pros:** peaceful location above it all; small but well-stocked bar; refurbished sauna facilities. **Cons:** long

(uphill) walk home; some noise from tram stop outside; expensive for the area. 📍 *Rooms from: 5250 Kč* ☎ *Keplero-va 6, Hradčany* ☎ *224-302-430* 🌐 *www.hotelsavoyprague.com* ➡ *61 rooms* 🍳 *Breakfast* 🚏 *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pohořelec.*

★ Hotel U raka

\$\$ | HOTEL | With the quaint look of a woodsman's cottage from a bedtime story, this private guesthouse is saturated with romance. **Pros:** near Prague Castle but feels secluded; in-room fireplaces in some rooms; has a peaceful garden.

Cons: tiny size makes rooms hard to come by; private parking costs extra; no Metro station nearby. 📍 *Rooms from: 4250 Kč* ☎ *Černínská 10, Hradčany* ☎ *220-511-100* 🌐 *www.hoteluraka.cz* ➡ *6 rooms* 🍳 *Breakfast* 🚏 *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Brusnice.*

🍷 Nightlife

There are a few good bars dotted around Prague Castle and Hradčany. Head up the castle hill to quaff beers that were brewed in a 13th-century monastery.

BARS AND PUBS

★ Klášterní pivovar Strahov

BREW PUBS/BEER GARDENS | The first references to this gorgeous hilltop brewery inside a monastery are from the turn of the 14th century, and while we don't think the monks still actually make the beer, the tasty Pivo Sv. Norbert is brewed on the spot. There's a decent food menu and outdoor seating too. ☎ *Strahovské nádvoří 10, Hradčany* ☎ *233-353-155* 🌐 *www.klasterni-pivovar.cz* 🚏 *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pohořelec.*

U Černého vola

BARS/PUBS | The last old-fashioned pub in Hradčany, this place has cheap beer and the classic long tables. It's almost impossible to find many seats together at any time, though. Terry Jones, of Monty Python fame, is known to be a fan. The name translates as "At the Black

Ox," and while it's a little run-down on the outside, and is sometimes mistaken for being closed, once you're inside you are unlikely to leave in a hurry. The menu is in Czech, but trot out the trusty phrase "Jedno pivo, prosím" (One beer, please) and you'll be fine. ☎ *Loretánské nám. 1, Hradčany* ☎ *606-626-929* 🌐 *facebook.com/ucernehovola* 🚏 *Line A: Hradčanská.*

🎭 Performing Arts

CHURCH CONCERTS

Bazilika sv. Jiří (St. George's Basilica) CONCERTS | Listen to small ensembles playing well-known Vivaldi and other classical "greatest hits" in a Romanesque setting. Located in Prague Castle, the building—or parts of it at least—dates to the 11th century and holds the tombs of some very early princes. ☎ *Nám. U sv. Jiří, Pražský Hrad* ☎ *224-371-111* 🌐 *www.kulturanahrade.cz* 🚏 *Line A: Malostranská.*

🛒 Shopping

It's more about the views than the shopping in Hradčany, but while you're checking out those views, check out the traditional craft shops as well.

Rocking Horse Toy Shop

GIFTS/SOUVENIRS | FAMILY | Take a trip back in time to when toys were made from wood and model cars were cherished. Everything about this store will make you smile, from the friendly owner's greeting to the stock of cheerful wind-up music boxes and animal figurines. Look closely at those wood-carved rocking horses and three-headed dragons; many items are handmade by Czech craftsmen. The shop even sells kits with colored pencils and pastels for budding young artists. ☎ *Loretánské nám. 3, Hradčany* ☎ *603-515-745* 🚏 *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pohořelec.*