

## DEUTSCHER LEBENSTIL UND DEUTSCHE KULTUR (Austrian Lifestyle and Culture)

### How Austrians learned to stop worrying and love “The Sound of Music”

The Sound of Music is into its sixth season in Salzburg, but it took Austrians a long time to embrace the smash-hit musical, as lecturer Laura MacDonald explains.



Actress Milica Jovanovic and the children.

Ever since the film of The Sound of Music was released 50 years ago, fans from around the world have flocked to Salzburg. The palace [Schloss Leopoldskron](#) is inundated with musical fans. Though the real von Trapp family never resided there, a gazebo on the grounds was indeed used as a filming location. Replicas of the palace's terrace and Venetian Room further established the connection between the lakeside palace and the musical adaptation of the von Trapp family's story.

The palace is just one of a number of tourist sites in the area – fans also go to visit the Mirabell Gardens, where the seven von Trapp children sing [Do Re Mi](#) in the film, and Nonnberg Abbey, where the actual Maria Kutschera married Baron von Trapp in 1927.

So Austrian history and American musicals meld in Salzburg. This is no better illustrated than by an Austrian Christmas egg ornament featuring a hand-painted Julie Andrews in all her Maria splendour, ready to twirl through an alpine meadow.