

# VIENNA 2123

A WILD STORY OF SURVIVAL & URBAN ADAPTATION

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## Introduction

The year 2123 marked a defining moment in Vienna's history. The relentless rise in global temperatures, with an increase of four degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels, has transformed the city's climate. However, Vienna has not succumbed to the challenges of global warming; instead, it harnessed innovation, ingenuity, and technology to adapt and thrive in its newly heated environment. This narrative explores how Vienna can become a paradigm for urban farming and sustainable living, driven by necessity and collaboration between humans and machines. From rooftop gardens to repurposed infrastructure, this transformation revealed a city that had turned adversity into a blueprint for the future.



Vienna in 2123 - 4 °C warmer than today.

## The Climate Challenge

The climate challenge of the 21st century was undeniable. Rising global temperatures, driven primarily by greenhouse gas emissions, had severe consequences. Vienna is no exception, with its average temperature rising by a staggering four degrees Celsius since the late 20th century. The consequences of this warming are

multifaceted, affecting agriculture, ecosystems, and daily life. In this warmer Vienna, traditional agriculture faced unprecedented challenges. Crops that once thrived struggled to adapt to the shifting climate, and food security became a growing concern. It was against this backdrop that the city began to redefine itself.

### **Urban Farming Takes Root**

Vienna's response to the climate challenge was a testament to human adaptability and innovation. The city's rooftops, once barren and underutilized, were transformed into thriving urban farms. This shift in land use was not only a necessity but also an opportunity to redefine the city's landscape. Fruits and vegetables that could thrive in the new climate were carefully chosen for cultivation. Traditional crops gave way to new varieties, selected for their resilience to higher temperatures. Among the most remarkable adaptations was the successful cultivation of wine grapes suitable for red wine production, previously native to the Tuscan region of Italy. Vienna had become renowned for its exceptional red wine, a product of its innovative approach to agriculture.



The Josefstädter Sangiovese ripe for harvesting in mid September

### **Human-Robot Collaboration**

As Vienna ventured into this new era of urban farming, collaboration between humans and machines became pivotal. Engineers and scientists, including a young graduate from MIT who had recently relocated to Vienna, were at the forefront of this endeavor. Specialized robots, designed to navigate the city's rooftops with precision, played a central role in the cultivation process. These robots were programmed to handle various tasks, from planting and tending to harvesting. Their ability to work efficiently in the harsh urban environment and adapt to changing conditions was essential to the success of Vienna's urban farming

revolution. The young engineer focused on enhancing the capabilities of these farming robots, aiming to optimize crop yields while minimizing waste.



Rooftop farming Robot – The engineer calls this one *Harry* – after *Harry Lime*

### **Efficient Transportation**

Transportation was another aspect of Vienna's transformation. The city had long been known for its efficient public transportation system, and this asset was further leveraged to address the challenges of a warming world. The subway system, once a mode of transit, evolved into a multi-purpose network.



The elevated tracks of the subway on the Gürtel, which had become obsolete due to the city's changing transportation needs, found a new purpose as green spaces. These elevated gardens served not only as aesthetically pleasing urban features but also as vital contributors to improved air quality and increased oxygen levels. Vienna's commitment to sustainability was exemplified by the seamless integration of green spaces into its public transportation infrastructure.



The Gürtel literally transformed into a green belt around the central districts.

### **Sustainable Living**

Vienna's embrace of sustainability extended beyond urban farming and transportation. Apartment buildings, designed with vertical farming in mind, became common features of the cityscape. Residents found themselves living in spaces that merged modern living with agriculture, reducing the city's carbon footprint while ensuring a steady supply of fresh produce. The city also focused on reducing energy consumption through a combination of renewable energy sources and improved insulation technologies. Smart grids and energy-efficient buildings helped Vienna meet its energy needs while minimizing its impact on the environment.



## Population Growth

The population of Vienna had swelled to approximately three million by 2123, in part due to an influx of climate refugees from regions as diverse as Africa and southern Italy. This demographic shift had significant implications for the city's infrastructure and resource management. The increased population necessitated a more efficient use of space and resources. Vienna's urban planners and engineers rose to the challenge, developing innovative solutions to accommodate the growing populace while minimizing the city's environmental footprint. From vertical farming in apartment buildings to the repurposing of old industrial areas into sustainable communities, Vienna adapted to the changing demographics with remarkable foresight.













### **Culinary Delights and Community**

Evenings in Vienna took on a different hue in the warmer world of 2123. The city's transformation had brought about not only sustainability but also a newfound sense of community. On rooftops adorned with greenery, friends and neighbors gathered to savor the fruits of Vienna's labor. The engineer, who had dedicated his days to improving farming robots, was often among those who shared in the evening's pleasures. He took pride in serving glasses of the city's signature red wine, a product of Vienna's successful adaptation to the changing climate. The wine, made from grapes once foreign to Austria but now flourishing in its warmer climate, was a symbol of resilience and innovation. The evenings were marked by laughter, music, and conversation. Under the canopy of trees, residents enjoyed cooler temperatures and cleaner air, thanks to the city's commitment to green spaces. Vienna had evolved into a city where sustainability was not just a concept



but a way of life, and this sense of communal accomplishment brought people together in ways that transcended the challenges of a warming world.





## Conclusion

Vienna in 2123 stood as a beacon of hope and innovation in a world grappling with the consequences of climate change. Its transformation from a city challenged by rising temperatures to a model of sustainable urban living was nothing short of remarkable. Through rooftop farming, human-robot collaboration, efficient transportation, and a commitment to sustainability, Vienna had not only survived but thrived in the face of adversity. It had demonstrated that with foresight, innovation, and collaboration, cities could adapt to a changing climate and provide their residents with a high quality of life while minimizing their environmental impact. The story of the young engineer, tirelessly working to improve farming robots and sharing wine with friends on a rooftop, was a microcosm of Vienna's journey. It symbolized the city's resilience, adaptability, and commitment to a future where cities and their inhabitants could thrive in harmony with the natural



world, even in the face of unprecedented challenges. Vienna, in 2123, was not just a city; it was a vision of what humanity could achieve when confronted with the imperative of a changing climate.

