

# Czech – Liechtenstein TODAY



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## LICHTENSTEIN CELEBRATED 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF UPPER COUNTRY

Marking the transition of the rule of the County of Vaduz to the Princely House of Liechtenstein in 1712, 2012 celebrates the 300 year jubilee of the Upper Country (Oberland), which would eventually result in the establishment of the Principality of Liechtenstein.



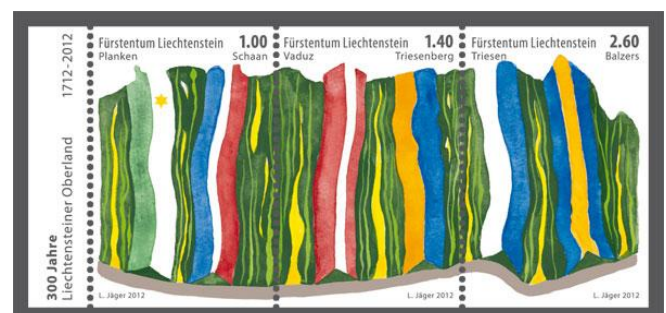
**Prince Hans-Adam I of Liechtenstein**

In 1699, Prince Johann Adam Andreas of Liechtenstein (1657-1712), acquired the Lordship of Schellenberg, which, today, is the Lower Country (Unterland). In doing so, the Princely House came one step closer to their desired seat in the Council of Princes within the Imperial Diet (Reichsfürstenrat) in Vienna. The Imperial Diet was the highest representative assembly in the time of the Holy Roman Empire.

The Empire was divided into many different territories, some of which had the so called Landeshoheit. This is a special kind of sovereignty which meant that those territories were represented in the Imperial Diet. A seat in this Imperial Diet gave power to the members since they were able to vote on important issues. The County of Schellenberg itself did not entitle a seat in the Council of Princes because it was considered to be a part of the County of Vaduz. On February 22nd 1712, the contract on the purchase of the County of Vaduz was signed in Vienna. There is no doubt that, without the acquisition of Vaduz in 1712, the Principality of Liechtenstein would not exist today.

To celebrate, events have been organized throughout the year in Liechtenstein such as talks by local historians in many parts of the Liechtenstein Upper Country about the history of the country. Currently, there is a special exhibition in the National Museum with the theme “1712 – Das Werden eines Landes” (1712 – Becoming a Country).

From June 7-10, the “Oberland Fest” took place, turning the capital city of Vaduz into an art, theatre and music stage. The event gave over 50 music and art groups an opportunity to provide a diverse and interesting cultural program for all who came. The celebration consisted of four different themes on each of the four days. There was a day of language, a day of music, a Liechtenstein day and a family day.



**Liechtenstein post stamp published to celebrate 300th anniversary of Upper Country**

## **LATEST: LIECHTENSTEINERS CONFIRM THE PRINCE'S POWER OF VETO IN A REFERENDUM**

June 30, 2012: Liechtenstein's hereditary monarch retained his veto powers after winning a referendum sparked by his threat to block moves to legalize abortion in the Alpine principality. On June 30, 2012 citizens voted 76 percent to 24 percent in favor of Prince Alois von und zu Liechtenstein retaining his right to overrule plebiscites. Eighty- three percent of eligible voters participated.

Alexander Batliner, head of the center-right Progressive Citizens' Party, which forms a coalition government with the larger Patriotic Union, said before the poll. "With this dualism of the prince and the people, our sovereignty is better protected than if we were a republic."



The royal family has only exercised the veto once over the transfer of hunting rights in 1961. When Alois's father Hans- Adam II warned that he might leave Liechtenstein in 2003, the electorate granted him more powers.

The role of the reigning prince is to manage the country over decades, not from one election to another one. If he should be responsible for long-term development of the principality he needs to have more power, as H. S. H. Hans- Adam II prince of Liechtenstein wrote in his book „*The State in The Third Millenium*“.



**Ruling Prince Hans-Adam II. the celebrations of the National Day of Liechtenstein (August 15th), left his grandson Prince Josef Wenzel followed by his father, Crown Prince Alois. - The photo on the right view of Vaduz castle and meadow, where the celebration takes place every year (foto: Reuters)**

## **EXPLORING: CASTLE AND OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE PRINCE IN VADUZ**



**View of Vaduz Castle with the majestic Alps in the background**

The history of the settlement of the lands of today's Liechtenstein dates back to prehistoric times. The first records of the village of Vaduz, lying near a ford on the river Rhine, are dated 1150. Half a century later, the first written confirmation of the presence of the Gothic castle are found, which became the seat of the county of the same name in

1342. It was owned by the Barons of Brandis from Emmental, the Counts of Sulz and Kleggau and the Counts of Hohenems. In 1499, the castle was captured and burnt down by the Swiss during the so-called Swabian War.



**A huge bastion on Vaduz castle with artillery embrasures which impeded access from the town**



The oldest section of Vaduz Castle, dating back to the 12th century, is the eastern part of the building with the rectangular tower, of size 12x13 metres and wall thickness of about 4 metres. Originally, the entrance to the tower led from the courtyard along a drawbridge at a height of 11 metres, but today it leads directly from the palace. The Chapel of St Anna in the South Palace dates to the Late Middle Ages, with its main altar from the same period. However, its interior was changed during its latest renovation. The large round bastion was constructed between 1529 and 1532, as was the first gateway and bailey. The western section of the castle was built on the orders of Count Kaspar van Hohenems (1613 - 1640).

The approach to the castle is around the huge bastions with artillery embrasures on the north, linked to the East Palace and the large round tower. The gate in the wall leads to the bailey, where a wooden bridge leads to a second gate with a drawbridge and portcullis. Going alongside the palace and walls, we enter a third gate protected by massive embrasures on which the Coat of arms of Liechtenstein and a sundial is painted.

Beyond the third gate is a long rectangular courtyard leading uphill and surrounded on all sides by the castle palace. Its windows are fitted with white and red wooden shutters, with the courtyard walls covered in multi-coloured frescoes which were restored between 2008 and 2010.



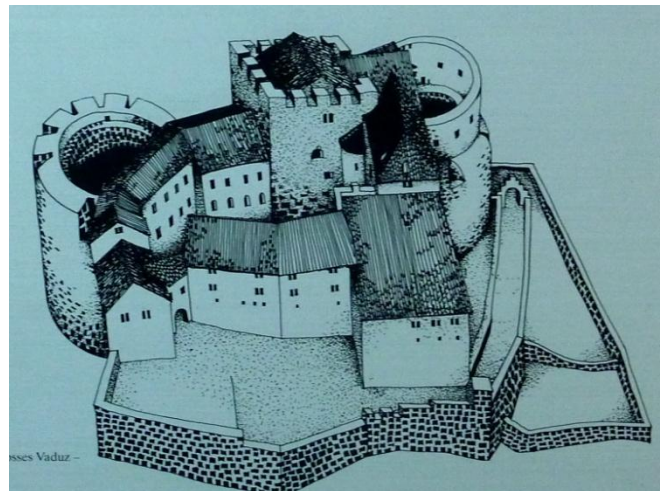
**The third castle courtyard after its complete renovation, which took place between 2008 and 2011**

Although the Liechtenstein family received the Vaduz Castle in 1712, the first prince to visit it was Aloys II in 1818 on returning from travels in Italy. The castle was used by the small army of Liechtenstein (50-80 men) until 1868 when it was abolished by Prince Johann II the Good. He also had the dilapidated castle renovated between 1905 and 1912 to its current appearance.

Vaduz Castle was subsequently only occasionally visited by the House of Liechtenstein until the Anschluss Österreichs in March 1938. Subsequent to this, ruling Prince Franz Joseph II moved from Vienna and Valtice to neutral Liechtenstein for security reasons. Since 1938, the castle has been the official residence of Liechtenstein's Princely Family.



**This large cannon with the Coat of Arms of Liechtenstein in the castle's second courtyard is a reminder not just that Vaduz was a fortress, but also of the important role that Prince Joseph Wenzel played in modernising the Austrian artillery**



**Castle Vaduz – picture of the castle before romantic rebuilding in early of 20th century**

The castle is not open to the public, because the Sovereign Prince of Liechtenstein lives there with his family. He also welcomes heads of state and holds audience with ambassadors here. Despite this, the castle is worth, at the very least, a short visit to the castle gates, and photographs of the castle from various places in the town of Vaduz and its surroundings make an attractive souvenir.

## ANNIVERSARY: LIECHTENSTEIN PARLIAMENT CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

In addition to celebrating 300 years of Liechtenstein's Upper Country, 2012 also marks 150 years of the Landtag, Liechtenstein's Parliament.

When in 1860 the Age of Absolutism came to an end in Austria, the path was open to wide-ranging constitutional reform in the Principality of Liechtenstein too. While the Constitution signed by Prince Johann II on 26 September 1862 upheld the old monarchical principle, the Regent was bound by a written Constitution and could rule with only qualified freedom of action. Greater responsibility now rested instead with the people, inasmuch as they were now given the right to participate directly in the formulation of national policy by electing the 15 (today 25) Members of the newly established Parliament (Landtag).

At the time, three delegates were appointed by the Prince and the people were able to indirectly elect the other 12 delegates. This meant that voters, defined as employed men aged 24 and above, elected representatives according to the population proportion within the townships. These representatives then elected the 12 members of Parliament. The ceremonial opening of the first Parliament eventually took place on 29 December 1862.

The Constitution of 1862 gave the Landtag the power to participate in state matters such as the development and passing of legislation, approval of state treaties, agreements on taxation, control over the state administration and participation in military recruitment.



**Liechtenstein Parliament (Landtag) – its new building was awarded as the best brick building in Europe in 2011**

In 1921 Liechtenstein adopted a new Constitution which states that the Principality of Liechtenstein is "a constitutional, hereditary monarchy based upon democratic and parliamentary principles," establishing a balance of power between the people and the Prince as well as the direct election of all members of the Landtag by the people.

Over the course of the 20th century, men and women aged 18 and above, employed or not, were given the right to

vote. In 1988 the number of Members of the Landtag was increased to 25.



**Post stamp shows text of first page of the Constitution of 1862 and portrait of prince Johann II on so called association tollar**

One of the duties of the Parliament is being involved in the process of legislation. No law can be passed or changed without the Parliament and the parliamentarians have the right to (next to the Prince and the people) create Constitution or Law initiatives. In the initial debate, Parliament decides whether or not to enter the debate. In the legislation's initial reading, suggestions and amendments can be made, which require verification by the Cabinet of Ministers until the second reading takes place. In this reading, there is a vote on every individual article in order to determine its definitive wording.



**Meeting room of Landtag**

Lastly, the law is voted on as a whole. A combination of parliamentary action, sanctioning by the Prince, the counter-signature of the Head of Government and the announcement of the law in the Landesgesetzblatt, the national law journal, is necessary to pass the law.



## THE ECONOMY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Until the end of the 19th century, Liechtenstein was a poor country mainly focused on agricultural production and small manufacturing. Tax revenues were so low that for more than two centuries the Liechtenstein family had to subsidise the public budget with financial transfers from their Moravian estates.

Industrial development arrived at the turn of the 20th century. Significant assistance to the country, plagued by flooding of the Rhine, was provided by Johann II the Good, as well as Switzerland. Monetary, customs and postal union with Switzerland, as well as the adoption of its liberal legislation, contributed to the growth in the standard of living of Liechtensteiners before the Second World War. The First and Second World War brought great economic difficulties to the country. Confiscation of the property of the House of Liechtenstein in 1945 in Czechoslovakia ended the subsidy of the Principality's state budget, and the country and the Princely Family itself ended up in serious financial difficulties.

The austerity measures and responsible government of Prince Franz Joseph II (1911-1989), including economic reforms, succeeded in restarting the economic development of the country, without the need for high taxes or large loans. His son, Prince Hans-Adam II (\*1945) subsequently extended his liberal economic policies, taking them deeper and wider.

### Liechtenstein's current economy

Gross National Product is made up (2009) mainly of industry and goods manufacturing (37%), followed by services of various kinds (29%) and financial services (27.4%). Only 8% of GDP is accounted for by agriculture and other sectors.

In 2010, 34 334 workers were employed in Liechtenstein, of whom 17 570 commuted to work from abroad (mainly from Switzerland and Austria). The share of foreign workers has increased more than threefold since 1990. Liechtenstein companies employ a further over 35 000 workers abroad, of which around 220 are in the Czech Republic. Of the total number of 3 825 companies, 3 309 had up to 9 employees, 437 had up to 50, 72 had up to 249 and 17 had over 250 employees. Only 98 companies worked in agriculture, with 578 working in industry and 315 in services.

The largest companies in the Principality are HILTI (machines), Hoval (heating technology), ThyssenKrupp Presto (automotive parts), Ivoclar Vivadent (dental equipment and supplies) and manufacturers of precision optics, jewellery and glass, Swarovski.

In 2009, Gross National Product reached 4.9bn Swiss Francs, representing 117 900 CHF/citizen. Unemployment in 2010 was a mere 1.7%. If you compare Liechtenstein with Switzerland, Austria and Germany, you will find that the

Principality has industry and manufacturing contributing almost twice as much to GDP.

Liechtenstein's economy is focused on exports, which head to the EU (44 %), Switzerland (12 %), the USA and Canada (18 %), Asia (24 %) and other countries (2 %). Liechtenstein has had a positive balance of trade for many years. The oft-discussed financial services industry represents only a quarter of GDP, and is made up of banking institutions employing 1 700 employees. These banks look after client assets to a value of 130 billion CHF. A further 163 investment companies operate in Liechtenstein with assets of approx. 21 billion CHF, and there are 31 insurance companies. The country is 94% dependent on energy imports.



### The seat of the Liechtenstein government in Vaduz

#### State and municipalities budget

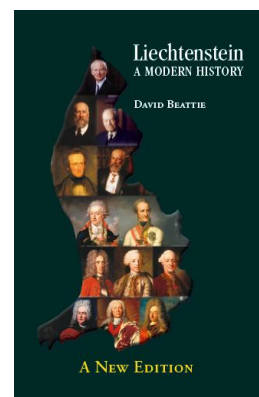
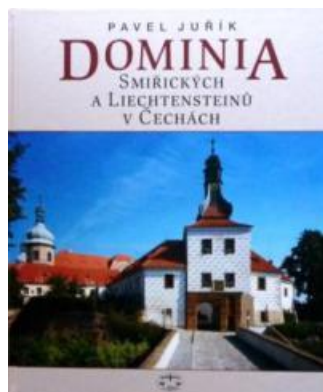
Liechtenstein has significant decentralisation of powers to its municipalities (11 towns and villages), which is in accordance with the philosophy of the Princely Family that budget issues, education, transport etc. should be decided upon by citizens or their chosen representatives at the lowest possible level of administration. The state is responsible only for those activities which cannot be delegated to a lower level (e.g. foreign affairs, justice etc.). Liechtenstein's state budget has run a surplus for many years. Its income is made up of taxes and levies (75 %), income from state property (20 %), and fees and other sources (6 %). In 2010, state income was 1 158m CHF. State spending was made up of finance and tax administration (35 %), social services (25 %), education (18 %), public administration (11 %), security (7 %) and others (4 %). The state remained debt free despite the current high financial reserves for unexpected expenses.

Lower administrative units (municipalities) also display high surpluses. In 2010, municipalities had income of 314m CHF, with spending of only 179m CHF, with municipalities also in possession of high financial reserves. Neither the state as a whole nor its municipalities have any debts. 6.5bn CHF were deposited in the accounts of state and company pension programmes in 2010.

## NEW BOOKS ON LIECHTENSTEIN AND THE LIECHTENSTEIN FAMILY

On Friday 1 June, the launch of Ing. Pavel Juřík's book, **'Dominions of the Smiřický and Liechtenstein families in Bohemia'** took place in the Modré dveře café in Kostelec nad Černými lesy, which is published by Libri publishers ([www.libri.cz](http://www.libri.cz)). His Serene Highness Prince Constantin of Liechtenstein and Ing. Jan Svatoš, mayor of the town of Kostelec nad Černými lesy were chosen as 'godfathers' of the book.

Former British Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein, David Beattie's book, **'Liechtenstein A Modern History'**, brings an insightful and impartial perspective on the history and present day of our Alpine Principality. The book has been updated a number of times in German and English, the latest being this spring ([www.vaneckverlag.li](http://www.vaneckverlag.li)).



## LIECHTENSTEIN TRAIL

The Liechtenstein Trail will introduce you to the cultural heritage of the Liechtenstein Family in Moravia. On the website [www.stezky.cz](http://www.stezky.cz), there are many proposals for trips to explore Liechtenstein heritage in Moravia. → → →

## BAROCK STAGE IN LEDNICE

In 1688-1696 architect Johann Bernard Fischer von Erlach built a monumental stage in front of castle Lednice (Eisgrub) for prince Johann Adam I of Liechtenstein. In 19th century the classical and neo-Gothic style of the castles of Lednice and Valtice with countryside fashioned according to English romantic principles of landscape architecture, established one of the largest artificial landscapes in Europe (200 km<sup>2</sup>). →



Lednice – a monumental baroque stage



## INTERNATIONAL LIECHTENSTEIN CONFERENCE IN CASTLE VALTICE

In November 15-16 2012 in castle Valtice will take place an international conference **„Princely House of Liechtenstein efforts to gain and maintain their own state“**. The conference is managed by Center for Economic and social history of the Faculty of Arts, University of Ostrava and In the Footsteps of the Liechtensteins Company. [www.pslj.cz](http://www.pslj.cz)

→ In 1994 the Lednice-Valtice Area was declared as monument of UNESCO. In June 2012 started a complex renovation of the stage that will cost about 500 mio. CZK and will be finished by end of 2013 year. Multifunctional hall, cultural and education centre will be hosted there.

### The Liechtensteins in Czech TV

**ČT1: 8. 6.** ČT1 **„Před půlnocí“** – Zámecká dáma (The Lady of Castle) – interview with castelan-women of Lednice castle Mrs. Ivana Holásková. <http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/10095690193-pred-pulnoci/312281381940044/>

**ČT1: 24. 6.** ČT1 **„Toulavá kamera“** (A Stray Camera) the life and heritage of Maria Teresia duchess de Savoy, born princess of Liechtenstein, in Schwarz Kosteletz and Vienna. <http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/ivysilani/1126666764-toulava-kamera/212411000320708/obsah/210203-vevodkyne-savojska/>



## INVITATION TO VIENNA: THE LIECHTENSTEIN MUSEUM AND LIECHTENSTEIN CASTLE

Imperial Vienna offers a number of attractive and important buildings for tourists to visit. These are not confined just to the seats of Austro-Hungarian Emperors such as Hofburg and Schönbrunn or the historic city centre, but also to a number of palaces of the Liechtenstein Family which are important buildings in the history of Austrian and European architecture.

Let's stop first at the Princely Family's oldest palace – at the **Palais Liechtenstein at Bankgasse**, opposite Vienna City Hall. The beginnings of this so-called City, or Primogeniture Palace date back to 1692, when Domenico Martinelli began building the palace for Count Dominik of Kaunitz, who sold it in 1694 to the Liechtenstein Family.

The palace inspired many other noble families for their residences in Vienna, especially its grand Baroque staircase. Martinelli, its architect, created the first majestic Baroque gate in Vienna at the front of the palace on Bankgasse.

This palace became an exhibition space for the art collection of Prince Hans-Adam I (1657-1712). The Primogeniture Palace didn't just pride itself on its wonderful architecture, frescos, stucco-work and the pieces of art displayed there, but it also excelled in its technical innovation. The main hall was technically equipped so that musicians in the gallery could be separated from the gentry by means of revolving mirrors, used primarily at dances. This innovation caused great sensation in its time.

During the time, the Liechtenstein family remodelled the palace's state rooms in Rococo Revival style, while the palace of Lednice was renovated in the other fashionable style of the time – Neo-Gothic style.



**Liechtenstein Palais on Bankgasse in Vienna**

Another jewel of Viennese architecture is the **Liechtenstein Palais on Fürstengasse**, also known as the Garden Palace in Rossau. The original design was drawn up by Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach for the Prince Hans-Adam I. Over the centuries, however, the palace was renovated a number of times .

The arts-aware Prince invited the best artists of the time to decorate the palace (e.g. Domenico Egidio, Domenico Martinelli, Santini Bussi , Andrea Pozzo, Johann Michael Rottmayr and others). The Hercules Hall impresses visitors with its wonderful ceiling fresco depicting the apotheosis of Prince Hans-Adam I as Hercules.



**Liechtenstein Palace on Bankgasse is renovated since 2008 – a detail of famous baroque portal**

In 1807, a museum was opened in the Garden Palace which was open to the public until 1940, at which time its collections were moved out of Vienna to avoid air raids. In 1945, the Palace was badly bomb-damaged. In March 2004 the Liechtenstein Museum was once again opened here.



**The so-called Liechtenstein Garden Palais – a view from park**

### **Cradle of the family**

Liechtenstein Castle, near Maria Enzersdorf and Mödling, south of Vienna. The castle was built during the 12th century as one of the first seats of the Liechtenstein family. The castle belonged to the family from 1140 until the 13th century. In 1529 and 1683 it was repeatedly destroyed by Turkish soldiers besieging Vienna. After it was destroyed a second time, it remained in ruins.

In 1807, Johann I Joseph purchased the castle and estate from Stanislaw Poniatowski. One year later, he also bought the nearby Sparbach estate. He subsequently renovated Liechtenstein Castle



in Romanesque Revival style according to the design of architect Joseph Hardtmuth. \* A knight's hall, chapel and dungeon were built inside the castle.

A Roman amphitheatre was built near the castle between 1810 and 1811, where plays and concerts took place. In 1884, the castle was once more renovated in Romanesque Revival style. Prince Johann I Joseph had a summer palace built in Classicist style near Liechtenstein Castle in 1820. In 1945, the palace was seized and plundered by the Red Army, which also captured part of the Liechtenstein family archive (returned in 1997 in exchange for archive of the investigation of the murder of the Tsar and his family). The renovated palace is today home to a nursing home.

*\* Josef Hardtmuth (1758-1816) was Liechtenstein's architect, Austrian inventor and entrepreneur. In 1792, Josef Hardtmuth established a pencil factory Koh-i-noor Hardtmuth in Vienna after he succeeded in creating an artificial graphite pencil by mixing powdered graphite with clay. Later the company moved to České Budějovice.*



The original family seat – Liechtenstein Castle – can be found just south of Vienna at Mödling



Hercules Hall in Liechtenstein Garden Palais



Liechtenstein Garden Palais – Library



Liechtenstein Museum in Vienna has very rich collections of art from 12th till 19th century



Liechtenstein Museum – a famous coach of Prince Joseph Wenzel of Liechtenstein, Ambassador to France in 18th century

Sources: and images: Pavel Juřík, Sammlungen des Fürsten von und zu Liechtenstein Vaduz-Wien, Embassy of Liechtenstein e-Newsletter Washington D. C., Bloomberg, Reuters.

Newsletter Czech-Liechtenstein TODAY, Redaction: Pavel Juřík, e-mail: jurikp@email.cz