



Salzburg Marathon

Lauffestspiele der Mozartstadt

5.–12. Mai 2024

Local hero Peter Herzog wins Salzburg Marathon

The Austrian national record holder thrilled the crowd at an inspiring Running Festival in Mozart City.

The Salzburg Marathon on Sunday, 12 May, was crowned by the victory of Austrian Peter Herzog over Kenyan Peter Wahome Murithi. It was the highlight of the four-day Running Festival in Mozart City with a wide range of running events for all ages and ambitions.

The Austrian national record holder Peter Herzog celebrated his first ever marathon victory and enjoyed the great atmosphere at his home race in Salzburg. In 2:21:46 hours, he crossed the finish line in front of the „Großes Festspielhaus“ (Large Festival Hall) in the city center with a breathtaking view of the Fortress “Hohensalzburg”. He relegated Kenyan Peter Wahome Murithi to second place with an attack shortly before kilometer 40. Wahome, who had dropped out of the Vienna City Marathon three weeks ago, finished in 2:22:32. Third place went to Mahdi Sareban in 2:36:17, the current Austrian 100 km champion.

Peter vs Peter: Exciting race inspired the crowds

Peter Herzog, whose national record stands at 2:10:06 from London 2020, was in bliss: „It was exactly what I had imagined and wished for. It is something special to win a marathon for the first time, and even more so in Salzburg with this fantastic atmosphere. I bow down to the crowd, I have goose bumps,“ he said.

Runners and fans experienced a fantastic marathon day in sunny spring weather with temperatures of 14°C at the start and 19°C at the finish for the elite runners. Herzog and Murithi ran together for almost 40 kilometers. „Then the adrenalin kicked in and I attacked. That marathon feeling hit me again,“ said Herzog. Murithi commented: „We worked together for a long time. I’m delighted to finally have achieved a result this spring.“

Herzog, who competed in the Tokyo 2021 Olympic Marathon, made a pleasing comeback just three weeks ago at the Vienna City Marathon with 2:15:29 hours after long injury problems. The start in Salzburg after only a short gap was a „decision of desire“. His run came as a bold and unusual stepping stone on the way to the European Half Marathon Championships in Rome on 9 June. Herzog: „Now it’s time to regenerate, before I get back into final preparations. I’m focussing on the European Championships.“

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Hungarian Eva Kovacs wins women's marathon

The women's race was won by Eva Kovacs from Hungary in 3:06:06 hours. „I knew I was in the lead, but you never know what will happen. The course, the city and the surrounding mountains were beautiful. I came here to run a personal best, and I managed to do that,“ said the 38-year-old athlete from Budapest.

Austrian Sabrina Exenberger took second place in 3:11:15. She was in front up to kilometer 33, but then had to drop back: „Luckily no-one overtook me.“ Third place went to Eva Kiggen from Germany and Irena Abrozova from the Czech Republic, both in 3:12:36.

New starting area – Dreams came true

The flair of Salzburg, world-famous for classical music and the historic city centre, attracted participants from 85 nationalities. The runners were sent off at a new starting area on the „Staatsbrücke“ bridge with a great view of the historic city centre and UNESCO World Heritage Site of Salzburg.

„Even after more than twenty years of running the Salzburg Marathon, I still have many dreams. Above all, it's about the quality of the Running Festival of Mozart City. One of them came true at the start today: the view of the World Heritage Site of Salzburg's old town from the 'Staatsbrücke' was the boost for the runners that I had hoped for – the cheerful atmosphere before and at the finish line was simply fantastic. Sometimes dreams become reality. Today is such a day. I would like to thank everyone involved for this wonderful team effort!“, says Race Director Johannes Langer.

First ever South American victory in the half marathon

In addition to the marathon, a half marathon, 10 km race and a relay marathon for teams of four also took place on Sunday.

In the Sparkasse Half Marathon, Daniel Estrada from Chile took the first South American victory in the history of the event in 1:10:55 hours. He came just a week after his finish in the Copenhagen Marathon, to use his stay in Europe for another special race. 20-year-old Elena Eichenberger from Switzerland was the fastest woman over the 21.1 km distance in 1:20:04 hours. Austria's former marathon record holder Eva Wutti made a pleasing comeback to the competition stage

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in second place in 1:22:05 hours. Due to „minimalist preparation“ with only 30-35 kilometres of running per week she had no top sporting expectations, so she was all the more delighted with the result.

10K event started the day

The race day was kicked-off by the Hervis-10K CityRun. Dominik Hirczy from Bad Gastein in Salzburg won in 31:37 minutes, improving his personal best by a narrow margin of two seconds. Pre-race favorite Carolina Johnson from Sweden took the expected victory in the 10K. However, the time of 35:00 minutes was well above her expectations, as she had already ran 32:45 in Valencia earlier this year. „It was not my day today. I’m disappointed with my race, but thanks for the great event and the support,“ she said at the finish.

Over four days, Salzburg offered a colorful and diverse running program with a speed hiking event on Thursday, the Salzburg Women’s Run over 5.5K on Friday, a breakfast run, kids’ races and a charity run, #OneMileForASmile – Inclusion Run by Coca-Cola on Saturday. Each event day had its special characteristics with Sunday being the classical highlight in Salzburg’s running calendar.

For more information please visit www.salzburg-marathon.at/en/ or contact Thomas Kofler (Press Officer) presse@salzburg-marathon.at.

You will find all results and information on: salzburg-marathon.at/en

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