

The history of the castle

“Restaurant Europahaus” is now standing on what was once an outbuilding for the beautiful Miller-Aicholz castle, which is but a few metres away. This castle first belonged to an army supplier named Kirchberg-Pillach-Rabenstein, who was given the title of "Baron von Grechtler" by the empress Maria Theresia in recognition of his services. He had it built in 1750 by a man named *Fischer von Erlach*.

Grechtler's heirs then sold it to a Princess Lichenstein whose coat of arms can still be found on the front of the castle. After the princess died, the castle was passed on to counts Paul and Nikolaus Esterházy and then, in 1894, Dr. Heinrich Miller zu Aicholz bought the buildings, which he managed until November 1938. It was then used during the war as a recuperation site for German police officers until the French took it over in 1945 and used it as a high commissioner's office.

In 1995 the Austrian Young Workers Movement (ÖJAB) managed to prevent the building from being demolished and converted it into a residence for young workers. The following year the Republic of Austria and the Austrian Young Workers Movement created “Europahaus Wien” which was to serve as European educational institution. Several educational events took place in the castle and it wasn't long before a forum, independent of any political party, was established to discuss specific topics of interest. In fact people such as Leopold Figl and Dr. Rudolf Kirchschräger were among the many prominent guests there.

The name of the institution was later changed to “European Academy” and it became member of the “International Federation of Europe-houses”. At the beginning of the 60's, a series of residential buildings were erected in the park and ÖJAB managed the very successful Europahaus student hostel. These buildings then gave way to a new, more modern residential complex towards the end of the century and in autumn 2001, Dr. Bruno Buchwieser-Europahaus was opened. This student residence is divided into five new buildings and can cater for over 400 residents. In addition to the variety of state-of-the-art, fully equipped seminar and conference rooms in the congress building, the newly renovated castle and Orangerie, as well as the Restaurant Europahaus, all combine to make the perfect venue for students and event organizers alike.

ÖJAB (Austrian Young Workers Movement) - is a youth organisation, independent of any party or religious obligation, which offers, as a non-profit organisation, accommodation for students, pupils, apprentices, young workers and senior citizens. At present about 3.900 young people and 500 senior citizens live in the 25 student hostels, youth residences and senior citizens' residences and nursing homes run by ÖJAB in Vienna, Burgenland and Salzburg. It is also strongly involved in European educational work and runs international development projects. The entire complex is named after the organisation's founder, Dr. Bruno Buchwieser (1919-1993).

Rosen Hotels, a daughter company of ÖJAB, together with firm Contento provide top-class catering and lodging for all Europahaus guests. The net profit of all their Europahaus activities is used for ÖJAB's social projects.