

ART  
&  
THE ARTS

AVIATION  
&  
TECHNOLOGY

AUTOMOBILES  
&  
COLLECTABLES

BOATING  
&  
YACHTING

FASHION  
&  
DESIGN

FOOD  
&  
FINE DINING

JEWELLERY  
&  
WATCHES

LIFESTYLE  
&  
LEISURE

PENS  
&  
ACCESSORIES

TRAVEL  
&  
DESTINATIONS

WINES, SPIRITS  
&  
IMBIBING



## The power of the strings

**M**

By [Alexandra M](#)

One of the things we love about so many of today's luxury brands is their clear vision of the future. Although they cherish their histories going back a century or more, and have the confidence of generations of success, they are willing to embrace the most innovative of modern outsiders to further enhance their products. Surely this openness will ensure they live forever. Ignaz Bösendorfer was born

in 1794. By 1828 he had taken over the small piano making company in Vienna where he served his apprenticeship and took the first steps to change the very heart of these instruments for all time. Perhaps it could only be in the musical home of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Liszt, Brahms and Strauss that such instruments could reach their pinnacle. Years after his death in 1859, when his son Ludwig took over, an 1897 Vienna paper, with reverence, would report: "He took the music making voice

of this city and captured it in the black shrine of his pianos, so that it could be transported throughout the entire world." Liszt concurred: "The perfection of a Bösendorfer exceeds my most ideal expectations." Why is this word, in gleaming lettering on glossy black above an eight octave keyboard, so reassuring to concert pianists? They believe he knew how to seduce the soul of Viennese music to live inside his instruments. Early pianos were more delicately built. Wooden frames flexed, strings stretched, the sounds were lovely but subtle. Ignaz added the power composers and players relished. He offered more stable constructions eventually expressed through cast iron frames and double stringing. The singing, sustained timbre, even in the bass register, would set his pianos apart for the next 180 years. Today's grand piano is a magnificent edifice. It takes twenty to thirty craftsmen and women 10,000 production steps over more than a year to produce one of these instruments. Only ...

[read more](#) · [comments](#)



Get a Room!

[search](#)

*Smith*  
Mr & Mrs Smith  
Hotel Collection

