

## The History of the Budai Castle

The first royal residence on the Castle Hill was built by King Béla IV. of Hungary between 1247 and 1265. The Hungarian capital became part of the Ottoman Empire as the seat of the Eyalet of Budin. The new Ottoman government left the palace decaying. It was used as barracks, a storage palace and stables, otherwise it stood empty. In 1748 Count Antal Grossalkovich, President of the Hungarian Chamber appealed to the public to finish the derelict palace by means of public subscription. The palace played an important part in the lavish ceremony, symbolizing peace between the dynasty and the nation. Contemporary critics praised it as the most outstanding Hungarian building of the turn of the century. Indeed it was a magnificent achievement of architecture, sculpture, applied arts and gardening.

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