



## Observer report for Vienna Riichi Open 2025 (RCR, MERS 3)

**Observer:** Tamás Erdős






**Date:** December 6th – 7th 2025

**Place:** Vienna, Austria

**Website or other source(s) of information:** Registration and tournament information was available on Austrian Riichi Mahjong Association: <https://www.riichimahjong.at/neuigkeiten-termine/vienna-riichi-open-2025/>. Results were available via Pantheon.

**Participants:** 36 players

### Represented countries

AUT	GER	SVK	UKR	JPN	HUN	FRA	EUR	DEN	BEL	---
										
16	8	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

**Playing  
schedule:** 2

days, 9 rounds of round robin (5+4) using standard 75 min + 1 schedule

**Location:** Jugendgästehaus Brigittenau in Vienna, easily accessible using public transportation. The playing room was bright, spacious and easy to ventilate. When players finished playing, they congregated in the hallway.

**Equipment:** All tables had junkmats and riichi sets. Scoring was done via Pantheon (mobile web app), which required a phone to be placed on the table. Tenbo were used only to declare riichi.

**Refereeing:** Lena Weinguny and Michael Gürtl-Dusleag were playing referees. There were not many calls for referees, so playing interruptions were not a significant problem.

**Complaints:** A few players complained that during lunch on Saturday, a waiter was rude / short-tempered. The organizers apologized many times for this inconvenience.

### Information / communication during the tournament:

A projector showed time left during play, and results + seating in between hanchans. Information was also posted on the walls and available on Pantheon. Hanchan start and end were announced clearly and loudly.

**Sessions:** The playing atmosphere was fun and competitive. The players had a wide range of experience so playing speed varied across tables. Sometimes players had to be gently reminded to be quiet / exit to the hallway when they finished playing. Player starting winds were determined using Pantheon.

**Catering:** Water, tea, coffee, fruits and snacks were provided during the day for free. Saturday lunch was at an Italian restaurant, Sunday lunch was at a Chinese buffet. Drinks were not included in the lunch cost. Food quality and portions were great, with options available for people with dietary restrictions.

**Prizes:** Trophies and gift bags were awarded to the Top 3 players. Small gifts were given to the Observer and people who reached various achievements in Pantheon. Last place received a free entry voucher to the next tournament. The best Austrian player was also recognized.

**Conclusion:** The tournament was very well run and organized. It was great to have so many snacks available during breaks. Last minute cancellations / no shows required the use of subs and playing referees, but this did not impact the tournament's integrity. Vienna is a wonderful city and the organizers and players were very friendly, I recommend participating in future tournaments wholeheartedly!