

If you like your Russia to be as it is in *War and Peace*, particularly the description of Natasha Rostova's very first ball – floating ballgowns, waltzes, a live orchestra and a little bit too much champagne – then our New Year's Eve tour is for you.

If you have always liked the idea of dancing the night away in a gilded palace in St Petersburg, while outside

*the snow lies thick
about the sparkling city.*



Maestro Temirkanov, Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Philharmonic, hosts a glittering New Year's Eve Ball at the Yusupov Palace. There is also the Tsar's Ball at the Catherine Palace in Tsarskoe Selo, and the equally glamorous New Year's Eve Gala Performance and Ball given by the Mariinsky Theatre. If you stay in the city a little longer then you can enjoy Orthodox Russian

Christmas on January 7th, which is celebrated in the many churches around the city.

WE SUGGEST:

Many events take place during winter: The Philharmonia has a **Winter Arts Festival in Arts Square**. The Mariinsky Theatre **Ballet Festival** is a gathering together of the Kirov Ballet's famed principal dancers and many invited international stars. And in March the Mariinsky presents the **Maslenitsa (Shrove-Tide Week) Festival**. Throughout the White Days season the Russian Museum mounts a number of exhibitions. One of the highlights of the closing of the season is the ice-sculpture exhibition in the Summer Garden.