

## Guide to Pronunciation

*Czech pronunciation is more straightforward than it appears. Unlike English, Czech spelling is mainly phonetic. The first syllable of most words is stressed, and the diacritical marks are easily learned.*

a is between the English *at* and *up*

á is like the *a* in *bar*

c is like the *ts* in *hats*

č is like the *ch* in *choice*

ď is like the *d* in *duke*

e is like the *e* in *bend*

é is like the *ea* in *bear*

ě is like the *ye* in *yet*

ch is like the *ch* in Scottish *loch*

i / y are like *i* in *if*

í / ý are like the *ee* in *beef*

j is like the *y* in *yet* (not like the *j* in *jet*)

ň is like the *ni* in *onion*

ou is like *oa* in *coat* (not like *ou* in *hound*)

qu is pronounced *kv*

r is rolled as in Scottish English

ř is like *r* followed by *z* (the name of the composer Dvořák sounds like *Dvorzhak*)

š is like the *sh* in *shop*

ť is like the *t* in *tube*

u is like the *oo* in *book*

ů is like the *oo* in *soon*

w is pronounced like the English *v*

x is like *ks* in *yaks* (but between vowels it is hard *gz* as in *exit*)

ž is like the *s* in *treasure*

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Saint Wenceslas (Václav) (ca. 907–35) has been venerated since the tenth century as the Czech “eternal ruler,” who forever protects the country and its people. The bronze statue of the saint on horseback (by Josef Václav Myslbek, 1898–1913) dominates Wenceslas Square in the heart of Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. This photo was taken during the celebration of the New Year in 2005. Photo by Michal Kamaryt, used by permission of ČTK.