

Kulm Hotel St. Moritz - The History

1855

Johannes Badrutt and his wife Maria first acquired and two years later bought the Pension Faller with 12 guestrooms, which later became the Kulm Hotel St. Moritz, the first hotel in St. Moritz and cradle of winter tourism.

1859

The Hotel was extended with 2 stories and crenellations and towers were added to give it a castle-like look.

1864

The famous bet. Badrutt invited his regular summer guests from England to enjoy winter in St. Moritz: If they wouldn't like it, they would be reimbursed the cost of their stay. They came for Christmas and stayed until Easter, returned home happy, tanned and bursting with health. This is when winter tourism was found.

1879

The first electric light in Switzerland was lit at the Grand Restaurant of the Kulm Hotel. Badrutt and his son visited the World Exhibition 1878 in Paris, where the Arc lights were introduced and immediately after his return he installed a hydraulic power plant fed by water to light the Arc lights on Christmas Day.

1883

The St. Moritz Curling Club was established on the grounds of the Kulm Hotel.

1884

The legendary Cresta Run was built on the hotel grounds of the Kulm Hotel. A natural ice run for Skeleton sports and the

oldest sports bar in the Alps, the Sunny Bar, was opened at the Kulm Hotel, and is home to the Cresta Riders until today

1886/87

The west wing was built by architect Nicolas Hartmann and the concept of a hotel lobby was introduced, which is norm until today in every hotel worldwide. Furthermore water closets, hydraulic lifts, warm air heating and electric ventilation were installed.

1887

The Tobogganing Club of the Cresta Run was established.

1889

The first public telephone network in Switzerland was installed at the Kulm Hotel with 24 local connections.

1890

Company Badrutt & Cie was found by son Peter Robert Badrutt, after the death of Johannes Badrutt in 1889 and in 1905 named in AG Grand Hotels Engadiner Kulm.

1896

The Kulm Executive Golf Course, 9-holes, was built and is until today the highest fairway of the Alps.

1903

The Olympic Bob Run was built and opened in January 1904, a natural ice run, home of World Cups and Olympic sports until today

1912

The east wing known as Neukulm was opened.



1928

First Winter Olympic Games in St. Moritz. The opening ceremony as well as figure skating and ice hockey tournaments took place at the Kulm Park.

1935-1956

Anton Robert Badrutt took over the management of the Kulm Hotel and reopened the Neukulm during World War II.

1948

Second Winter Olympic Games in St. Moritz. Opening ceremony and different sport events at Kulm Park.

1956

Albert Ernst-von-Pfyffer bought the Kulm Hotel and Fred Herrling took over the management of the hotel until 1972.

1968

Dr. Peter Robert Berry III and Stavros Niarchos bought the Kulm Hotel as Club Mediterannée had an interest to take over.

1972-2002

Heinz Hunkeler took over the management of the Kulm Hotel. During his direction the Kulm indoor pool was built in 1971, the Chesa Al Parc with the sporting area including 3 tennis courts as well as the natural ice skating rink in winter, and Residence I, consisting of 13 luxury apartments, conference rooms and the indoor parking garage were introduced.

1993

Full refurbishment of the hotel entrance and lobby. Decoration with «Trompe l'oeil» artwork by Renzo Mongiardino.

1997

Extension of the Kulm Spa to 1'400 sqm with refurbishment of the pool and addition of saunas, steam rooms, sole grotto, Jacuzzi, gym and treatment rooms.

2000

New conception of the Kulm Executive Golf Course, 9-holes, was introduced.

2002-2013

Dominique Nicolas Godat took over the management of the Kulm Hotel. Under his leadership, the Kulm Residence II, with 21 luxury flats, was built and opened in 2003. A year later, the legendary Sunny bar was newly conceptualized and refurbished. Furthermore, 26 rooms were refurbished according to local Engadine architecture until 2005. In 2009, the Kulm main kitchen was completely refurbished; new windows and lifts were installed on the whole premise and the gourmet restaurant was re-designed. In 2012, the Kulm Spa was fully refurbished, extended to 2'000 sqm and received the new concept 'relaxing, detoxifying, regenerating'.

2013

Heinz E. Hunkeler, son of Heinz Hunkeler and his wife Jenny Hunkeler took over the management of the Kulm Hotel. Together, they initiated the full refurbishment of the Neukulm with 26 rooms and suites in cooperation with star architect Pierre-Yves Rochon in 2015. In 2017 they initialized the complete refurbishment of the historic Kulm Country Club, dating back to 1905, to become a new hotspot in St. Moritz as Restaurant and Bar, and with its new stage a public event location in the Engadine. Furthermore, they support several horse-sporting events and art with the Pop-Up Kulm Submarine bar in 2014 and the "Trojan Horse" art in 2016 and 2017.

