

## Major Development by Lord Norman Foster for Kulm Hotel St. Moritz

Switzerland, December 2015: The legendary Kulm Hotel St. Moritz ([www.kulm.com](http://www.kulm.com)) has announced that British architect Lord Norman Foster is to oversee a CHF 8 million (approx £5.4 million) refurbishment and extension of the Ice Pavillon in the Kulm Park. The Pavillon stands between the main hotel building and Chesa al Parc (one of the Kulm's restaurants and the clubhouse for Kulm Golf St. Moritz); in front of it is the hotel's outdoor ice rink (in winter) and tennis courts (in summer).



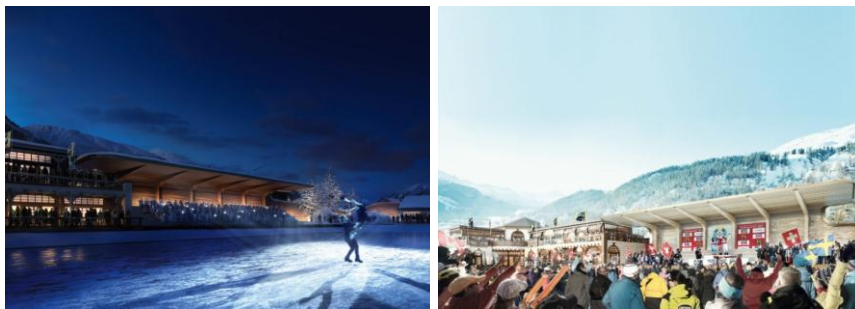
Historic image of the Ice Pavillon; artistic impression of the renovated Ice Pavillon

The two-storey Pavillon, built in 1905, is a synthesis of Art Nouveau and traditional Swiss style that has been classified as worthy of protection. Currently standing in disrepair and in danger of collapse, Lord Foster's new design will breathe new life into this architectural gem, which is also of historic importance having played a key part in the 1928 and 1948 Olympics held in St Moritz.

The Ice Pavillon, along with the Kulm Hotel, is owned by the Niarchos family, but they have promised to open it up to the local Engadine community, making it available for sporting and other events. For example, the Pavillon's grandstand will be the venue for the medal ceremonies at the Ski World Championships, which are taking place in St Moritz in February 2017.

Work on the refurbishment will commence in late March 2016, after the conclusion of the current winter season. Due to the state of the building, some demolition will be necessary, but as much as possible of the existing building, including the historic foundations, will be maintained. As in the original, wood will play an important part in the reconstruction.

On the ground floor, there will be a shop selling traditional local crafts and a rental centre for ice skating and curling equipment; on the first floor will be a wood-panelled restaurant, with a large sun terrace overlooking the ice rink/tennis courts. The restaurant will regularly host temporary exhibitions covering topics relevant to the locality, such as sports, nature, the Olympic games etc.



Ice skating display in front of grandstand; anticipated medal ceremony for World Ski Championships 2017

Heinz E Hunkeler, CEO of the Kulm Hotel St. Moritz and Grand Hotel Kronenhof, said, “This is a very exciting development for the Kulm Hotel, significantly expanding our facilities, while demonstrating the Niarchos family’s ongoing commitment to the Engadine community and its investment in the vitality of the valley.”

For more information on the Kulm Hotel St. Moritz, please visit [www.kulm.com](http://www.kulm.com).

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#### NOTES TO EDITORS

Kulm Hotel St. Moritz ([www.kulm.com](http://www.kulm.com)) was the first hotel to be built in St. Moritz. The Kulm Hotel opened its doors in 1856 and immediately became popular for summer spa and painting holidays, particularly among the British who comprised around 75% of the hotel guests. The owner of the Kulm Hotel, Johannes Badrutt, initiated winter holidays to St. Moritz from 1864 and, as a result, the hotel, resort and Switzerland itself celebrates 150 years of winter tourism in the 2014/15 season.

Since the 19th century, the Kulm Hotel has changed considerably through expansion and renovation, but the fabulous location at the heart of St. Moritz with views over the Lake remains the same. A member of The Leading Hotels of the World, Kulm Hotel St. Moritz has 172 rooms, five restaurants (offering formal dining, French fine dining – the Gourmet-Restaurant the K awarded 16 points by GaultMillau, Italian, local Engadine specialities and Japanese with 13 GaultMillau points), the extensive Kulm Spa St. Moritz (with a 20 m indoor pool with underwater music, various saunas and steam room, a Jacuzzi, a fully-equipped gym and treatment rooms, all with stunning views over Lake St. Moritz) and six conference rooms, with capacities ranging from 50 to 500 people.

Entertainment and sports facilities include the 9-hole Kulm Golf Course St. Moritz, three tennis courts, a natural ice rink, a curling field and the Marmotta Kids’ Club. The Kulm Hotel St. Moritz is inextricably linked to the Cresta Run, which was built within the hotel’s grounds in 1891. To this day, tobogganing pilots congregate in



the Kulm's Sunny Bar, which is Switzerland's oldest sports bar; the walls of the bar are lined with trophies and images of famous people who have hurled themselves down the infamous ice track.

Recent awards for the Kulm Hotel St. Moritz include being crowned Switzerland's Top Hotel in the TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice® awards, being named the best five-star hotel in St. Moritz for wellness, active holidays and luxury travel by HolidayCheck, coming in the top ten "Friendliest Luxury Hotel" category at the Switzerland Tourism PRIX BIENVENU awards, entering the TripAdvisor Hall of Fame for excellence in hospitality for consistently achieving great traveller reviews on TripAdvisor, being named 5th best hotel in Switzerland by SonntagsZeitung's hotel critic Karl Wild and winning 16 GaultMillau points for the hotel's gourmet restaurant the K – all in 2015. Furthermore the Kulm Hotel St. Moritz was ranked 3rd place of best winter holiday hotels in Switzerland compiled by renowned Swiss newspaper SonntagsZeitung and the top ten most welcoming luxury hotels in the country list put together by Switzerland Tourism.

Both the Kulm Hotel St. Moritz and its sister property Grand Hotel Kronenhof are owned by the Niarchos family.

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