



PRESS RELEASE

Kulm Hotel St. Moritz is named Switzerland's Gault Millau Hotel of the Year 2018

Switzerland, August 2017: Gault Millau Switzerland and sponsor Carl F. Bucherer have named the legendary Kulm Hotel St. Moritz (www.kulm.com) "Hotel of the Year 2018". In an official ceremony held on Monday 28th August, the luxury hotel was awarded the prestigious title by Sascha Moeri, CEO of Carl F. Bucherer, and Urs Heller, chief editor of Gault Millau Switzerland. The Kulm was praised by the judges for its exceptional culinary offerings, outstanding service standards, stunning location with breathtaking views of the Engadine Valley, striking new rooms by Pierre-Yves Rochon and its wide-ranging health and fitness offering, including its spectacular modern spa.



Kulm Hotel's Grand Restaurant; Kulm Country Club

Gault Millau, founded in 1969 by two French restaurant critics, is among the most influential restaurant guides on the international gourmet scene and places great emphasis, therefore, on the cuisine offered by hotels when making its annual award selection. The Kulm Hotel stood out in 2017 for a variety of reasons including the opening in January of the Kulm Country Club, which had an innovative launch concept that saw different Michelin starred chefs from around the world, such as Daniel Humm, Nenad Mlinarevic and Mauro Colagreco, "pop up" to cook in the restaurant.

Planning is already in place for more guest chefs to visit the Kulm in the upcoming winter season, including Germany's two-starred Michelin chef Tim Raue with his Asian-inspired food who will be at the K – the Kulm's fine dining restaurant.

The last year also saw the F&B operations at the Kulm Hotel taken over by a new head chef, Mauro Taufer, who came to the property with excellent experience gained at the Hotel Gritti Palace and Hotel Danieli, both in Venice, as well as a warm and welcoming professional style, and an aptitude for hiring the right talent for the right job.

Taufer oversees the Kulm's varied culinary concept, which includes five restaurants (the half-board Grand Restaurant, the Gourmet Restaurant the K, the Italian Pizzeria, Chesa al Parc serving local

Engadine specialities and the Sunny Bar, which plays host to Peruvian chef Claudia Canessa in the evenings), in addition to the newly-opened Kulm Country Club. Furthermore, the Kulm’s “Dine Around” programme operated in conjunction with sister property Grand Hotel Kronenhof (www.kronenhof.com) means that guests have access to another three restaurants. Two of these restaurants, the Grand at the Kulm and the Grand at the Kronenhof, provide half-board meals of an exceptional standard for guests.



Kulm Spa outdoor pool; Kulm Hotel room designed by Pierre-Yves Rochon

The ongoing investment in the Kulm Hotel was also an important factor in choosing the property as “Hotel of the Year”. Some of the major innovations of the last decade are the 2000 square metre Kulm Spa St. Moritz, which was unveiled in 2012 following a CHF12 million investment; the refurbishment of the NeuKulm building with interiors by internationally renowned designer Pierre-Yves Rochon and, of course, the opening of the Kulm Country Club, created from an historic Ice Pavilion that had lain unused since the 1980s.

And last but by no means least, Gault Millau recognised the enormous input, energy and friendly nature of the Kulm team, led by Heinz E. and Jenny Hunkeler, who are the only General Managers ever to pick up the coveted Hotel of the Year award twice. The Hunkelers have been at the helm of the Kulm Hotel since March 2013 and were previously at sister property Grand Hotel Kronenhof, when it was named GaultMillau Hotel of the Year in 2009.

On accepting the award, Heinz E. Hunkeler said, “We are delighted to receive this outstanding award on behalf of the entire team at the Kulm Hotel St. Moritz, who work tirelessly alongside us to ensure that our guests have an outstanding stay with us. From the moment they arrive to the moment they depart, the concierge desk, the house-keeping team, the kitchen and restaurant staff, and the spa team, do their utmost to look after the guests, a fact that is reflected by the hotel winning the highly respected Gault Millau “Hotel of the Year” title.”

For more information, visit the website www.kulm.com or contact the Kulm Hotel St. Moritz team by phone on +41 (0) 81 836 80 00 or by e-mail on info@kulm.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

Gault Millau, founded in 1969 in France and famed for its detailed reviews, is among the most influential restaurant guides on the international gourmet scene, whilst **Bucherer** is a leading retailer of luxury watch brands. Superlative

quality, genuine passion and exceptional design are the core values held dear by both Gault Millau and Swiss watchmaker Carl F. Bucherer.

The last 10 winners of the GaultMillau “Hotels of the year“ award:

2018 St. Moritz, Kulm Hotel

2017 Andermatt, The Chedi Andermatt

2016 Zürich, The Dolder Grand

2015 Vitznau, Parkhotel Vitznau

2014 Gstaad, The Alpina Gstaad

2013 Zurich, Baur au Lac

2012 Lausanne, Hôtel Lausanne Palace & Spa

2011 Ascona, Eden Roc

2010 Bad Ragaz, Grand Resort Bad Ragaz

2009 Pontresina, Grand Hotel Kronenhof

Kulm Hotel St. Moritz (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 celebrated 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 has 16 GaultMillau points, the Italian Pizzeria with 13 GaultMillau points, local Engadine specialities and Japanese), 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 (the oldest golf course in the country), 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 one of the top ten most welcoming luxury hotels in Switzerland in the PRIX BIENVENU 2017 awards, being named best mountain hotel in Switzerland at the Connoisseur Circle Awards, Switzerland’s third Top Luxury Hotel in the 2016 TripAdvisor Travelers’ Choice® awards, as well as fifth place in the hotels worldwide recognised for best service category. This year, the Kulm was also named sixth best hotel in Switzerland by HolidayCheck and one of the most popular hotels worldwide; Bilanz Hotel-Rating 2016 ranked it eighth out of the 50 best holiday hotels in Switzerland. In 2015, the Kulm secured a top ten place in the “Friendliest Luxury Hotel” category at the Switzerland Tourism PRIX BIENVENU awards, entered the TripAdvisor Hall of Fame for excellence in hospitality for consistently achieving great traveller reviews on TripAdvisor, was named 5th best hotel in Switzerland by *SonntagsZeitung*’s hotel critic Karl Wild and was named the best five-star hotel in St. Moritz for wellness, active holidays and luxury travel by HolidayCheck; the hotel’s Gourmet-Restaurant the K also won 16 GaultMillau points. In 2014, the Kulm Hotel St. Moritz was included in a list of the top ten best 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.

In May 2016, Jenny and Heinz E. Hunkeler of the Kulm Hotel St. Moritz were named “Hoteliers of the Year 2016” by leading Swiss newspaper *SonntagsZeitung*, which publishes annual Hotel Rating Awards, the only honours sanctioned by Switzerland Tourism, the national tourist office.

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

For more information, hi res images & to organise a review visit, please contact:

Sue Heady

Director, Heady Communications

T: 01608 651 692 / 078 5595 0705

E: sue@headycommunications.com