


HOTEL SINCE 1907
BELVEDERE
GRINDELWALD SWITZERLAND

HOLIDAY NEWS

**News to make your
holiday in Grindelwald
even better**

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including free ski pass
or hiking-sledging pass

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Sylvia, Urs-B., Carole, Philip and Susanne Hauser

Editorial

Dear Belvedere Guest,

The most successful summer season in the history of Grindelwald and the Belvedere has ended. Overnight stays in Grindelwald between April and October increased by around 7%, and at the Belvedere by as much as 20%. While we are pleased to note that guests from Switzerland continued to account for the most overnight stays, we are also grateful to be able to count on a sizeable international clientele, where no single country dominates the overnight stay statistics. We thank all our guests from all over the world for visiting us in our family-run hotel.

Special thanks go to the guests who have remained loyal to us over many years and to all those who have rated our hotel as very good on websites such as TripAdvisor, Google, Holidaycheck et cetera. Such good ratings are becoming increasingly important for us, since they are used to calculate an average «TrustScore» which is published on all sites and is often the deciding factor in the choice of hotel. What you may not know is that, after every visit, you can post a new

comment on the same pages, even months after your actual stay. We thank all our guests for their continued support in this context.

Right now, we are investing heavily in the Belvedere. For more information, see the article on «Construction plans Autumn 2019» on the next page (the information on the new heat pump may be of particular interest). The Belvedere remains open for the entire autumn 2019 season, but the sheer scale of our construction plans for late autumn 2020 means there is no option but to close the hotel while the work is carried out.

For years we have been talking about the V-Cableway, the construction of which is now in full swing. You will find all the latest interesting updates on the Jungfrau Railway's website <https://v-bahn.jungfrau.ch/en>. For us, one important fact is that the new Männlichen aerial gondola is scheduled to go into operation in December this year. With double the capacity, waiting times will be eliminated and queues on peak days will be massively reduced. The 3S-Bahn Eiger Express to the Eiger glacier, a gondola with 26-seat cabins, will go into operation one year later.

After successfully completing her EMBA at the famous Swiss Hospitality Management School in Lausanne, our daughter Carole is now working in London to acquire more experience in the travel tech field. However, she continues to assist us remotely with social media matters. Philip, who has been back at the hotel for a year now, is continually taking over new tasks and is currently in the throes of reorganising the administrative and IT areas.

The «Alpenglühen» theatre performances this summer were a resounding success, and the public showed its gratitude in the form of sell-out capacities and standing ovations. For Grindelwald this was a completely new undertaking and a fantastic experience, particularly for all those involved. Like many others, Sylvia Hauser devoted a huge amount of time to the project in her role as Vice President of the Jungfrautheater Initiative Committee: all on a voluntary basis.

We are now looking forward to a snow-rich and sunny winter with the best skiing conditions and wonderful winter hiking and sledging trails. Why not visit us during the World Snow Festival, for example? Watching the artists at work is truly fascinating.

We are already looking forward to welcoming you back to the Belvedere and wish you Happy Holidays, an enjoyable festive season and all the best for 2020.

Urs-B. Hauser,
family and co-hosts

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Further room renovations in the pipeline, and that's not all...

Construction plans Autumn 2019

More investments planned for Autumn 2019

Thanks to the extremely successful summer season, the Hauser family is able to make further investments in infrastructure. However, since the hotel will remain open and there is no wish to disturb the guests unnecessarily, not everything can be done in one go.

Work started in mid-October with the dismantling of several rooms to make way for new bedrooms and bathrooms. Once the rooms have been gutted, the first part of the rebuild is to install a special insulation which must be 60-minute fire-resistant but of course must also inhibit impact noise and other sounds. Where necessary, iron girders will be reinforced and sanitary and heating pipes will be replaced and re-laid. Then new floors, walls, ceilings, furnishings and all sanitary and electrical systems will be installed.

New box spring beds with the highly popular, comfortable 30-cm thick mattresses will be installed in all rooms which do not yet have them.



A newly renovated family room «Mettenberg»

Works is also under way in the indoor pool area. The result will be immediately apparent next time you visit the pool.

Regular guests who have been reading the News for years will know that the Belvedere has had heat pumps in operation since 2006. However, these are now so outdated that they are no longer fit for purpose and need to be disposed of. A detailed analysis by engineers concluded that it was advisable to fit a new heat pump. The new pump will be installed in the course of this winter. No longer is there a need for energy-guzzling generators to cool the rooms: in fact, the new system can even generate energy as the cold water pumped up from the ground is used for



air conditioning. After the water is used, its temperature is between 16°C and 20°C, depending on the outside temperature and room layout. This warm water is then used by the heat pump to generate energy. The re-cooled water is then fed back to the ground, resulting in a highly sustainable cycle. In winter the 9°C water pumped from the ground can be used and then returned to the ground at 4°C. The ability to return water to the ground at a colder temperature is viewed very positively by environmental authorities. Naturally the volume of energy generated in winter is lower than in summer, but it will still be around 100kWh.

For years now, the hot water emitted by the motors of the deep freezers and fridges has been used to heat the indoor pool water and the whirlpool in the garden. Since heating oil is no longer needed thanks to the connection to the Grindelwald wood-fired power plant, the hotel is extremely eco-friendly and sustainable. As soon as photovoltaic technology is sufficiently mature and more effective, it will also be possible to massively reduce the consumption of electrical energy. The south-, east- and west-facing façades are ideal for generating solar power, as are the flat roofs of the hotel and indoor pool.



2019/2020 New Year's Eve Party

«Roaring Twenties» themed New Year's Eve Party

At the end of this year, the Belvedere will be
going back 100 years in time

The 1920s was an era characterised by an unprecedented economic upswing and the belief that it would continue for ever. Economy, art, science: everything was booming, creating a sense of optimism and «joie de vivre» which was reflected in the fashions and leisure activities of the time.

Celebrate Christmas at the Belvedere

Traditional Christmas festivities

Ring out the Old Year in good company

Treat yourself to a traditional gala dinner served by the Belvedere kitchen on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Plus, there's a visit from Father Christmas on the evening of 25 December.

On Christmas Eve the Belvedere Team will be serving its guests a delicious gala dinner, following which the churches in Grindelwald will be celebrating Christmas services and mass.

On the evening of 25 December, Father Christmas visits Belvedere guests before dinner. This cosy get-together traditionally takes place in the hotel garden, next to the pergola, accompanied by warming mulled wine and cakes. Everyone looks forward to hearing the children recite the verses they have learned or sing a song to Father Christmas. The event ends on a high, with Father Christmas handing out presents to the kids. Don't miss this evening of festivities.

www.belvedere-grindelwald.ch/en/christmas

This special era will be commemorated at the New Year's Eve Party. On the last night of the Old Year and into the New Year, you will be able taking a look back at the 1920s and a look forward to the 2020s with live music, fancy dress and dinner.

Expect fine dining, accompanied - in keeping with the theme - by «Zimi's Hot Swing Thing & Nicole Eggenbergers» music that is sure to get you dancing. The Hauser Family very much looks forward to seeing you at the New Year's Party, especially if you come dressed in 1920s style.

There are only a few rooms left over the festive season, so book now! The Hausers offer: one week including daily breakfast buffet, 4-course gourmet dinner with choice of menu and the New Year's Eve party with champagne aperitif, gala dinner and live music from CHF 2'418 per person in Classic double room with view of the Eiger.

Needless to say, you can also celebrate New Year's Eve at the Belvedere without staying overnight. You will find all the details on the Hotel website.

www.belvedere-grindelwald.ch/en/new-years-eve



Mid-week skiing makes for more fun

Mid-week ski arrangement including free ski pass or hiking-sledging pass

Special offer from the Hotel Belvedere



Photo: Jungfrau Region Tourism

For music fans, a visit to Grindelwald on 4 and 5 April 2020 is a must

Last SnowpenAir concert on Kleine Scheidegg

2 days of concerts for the very last time

The owner of the Kleine Scheidegg hotel was only prepared to withdraw his objection to the V-Cableway if no more concerts (i.e. no more SnowpenAir festivals) would be held. So, sadly, this hugely popular event was sacrificed and is to be held for the last time in April 2020.

The SnowpenAir has been held up at Kleine Scheidegg every spring since 1998. This event, the brainchild of Urs Kessler, helped to extend the ski season because, even as the first flowers are blooming down in the valley, the piste conditions at this time of year are still fantastic. Given its huge following and loyal fans, there is no doubt that the SnowpenAir could have remained a key end-of-season event, but the owner of the Scheidegg Hotel saw fit to differ and forced its abolition.

This coming winter the Hauser family is once more offering a free 2-day ski pass or hiking-sledging pass for stays between Sunday and Friday.

Stay for 3 to 5 nights after the weekend (arriving on Sunday at the earliest, leaving on Friday at the latest) and get a free 2-day ski pass or hiking-sledging pass. This offer is valid from 13 to 23 December 2019, from 2 January to 14 February 2020, and from 22 February to 13 March 2020.

The package can also be booked from mid-March to the end of the winter season, but during this period the Belvedere restaurant does not offer daily menus as part of the half-board package, i.e. meals are à la carte only. So, if you book the special arrangement during this time, you will receive a restaurant voucher worth CHF 50 per person per day.

A 3-night stay including extensive daily breakfast buffet, 4-course gourmet dinner and free 2-day ski pass costs as little as CHF 717 per person in a Classic Wetterhorn double room. Needless to say, rooms with a view of the Eiger can also be booked with this offer.

This special offer cannot be combined with other discounts or concessions and is only valid for reservations made directly with the hotel.

www.belvedere-grindelwald.ch/en/free-skipass



It's worth coming to Grindelwald at the beginning of April to take advantage of this last opportunity to enjoy fantastic music against a spectacular alpine backdrop.

On the Saturday, artists like Stefanie Heinzmann, Patent Ochsner and Sunrise Avenue will be appearing, while the Sunday is devoted to folk music with acts like the Bermudas, Francine Jordi and, heading the bill, Helene Fischer.

The Saturday is already sold out, but a few tickets are still available for the Sunday. Status as at 20 November 2019

www.snowpenair.ch

Nature, sport or art

Event calendar winter 2019/20

**Whatever your interests, a stay at the Belvedere
in Grindelwald is well worth while**

This year, as in past years, Grindelwald and the entire Jungfrau region are offering a wide range of sporting and cultural events for the winter months. More and detailed information can be found on the website www.grindelwald.ch.



Photo: Jungfrau Region Tourism

World Snow Festival

He fell for Grindelwald's mountains

John Thomson first visited Grindelwald 50 years ago

Regular Belvedere guest for 20 years

John Thomson, origin from Glasgow in Scotland, first visited the Bernese Oberland as a schoolchild, when he stayed in Ringgenberg with his class. Since then Grindelwald has become a favourite holiday destination, and he visits the valley winter and summer.

When John first came to Switzerland, the pound sterling was worth 10 Swiss francs. And at that time, guests from Great Britain accounted for the most overnight stays in the Jungfrau region. Much has changed since then and this is no longer the case, which is why the Hauser family is especially pleased to see loyal guests like John regularly return to the region and to the Belvedere.

Here is a selection of events in winter 2019/2020:

December

- Opening of the new Männlichen aerial gondola: 14 December
- Winter Kick Off: 20 and 21 December

January

- The sun shines through the Martinsloch on the Eiger: 13 to 16 January
- 90th International Lauberhorn Races: 17 to 19 January
- 38th World Snow Festival: 20 to 25 January

February

- Snowli kids' party in the Bodmi ski school area: every Wednesday afternoon
- 25th World VeloGEMEL Championships: 9 February
- 23rd Horn Sledge Races: 29 February

March

- King of the First Hill: 14 March
- The Winter Final - Treasure Hunt in the Snow: 27 and 28 March

April

- 23rd and last SnowpenAir concert on Kleine Scheidegg: 4 and 5 April
- Smash the Bumps, mogul-bashing event on Kleine Scheidegg: April 11



John Thomson, Urs-B. and Sylvia Hauser

John is now retired, and both he and the Belvedere team hope to meet up at the Belvedere for many years to come.

Junior staff secure the future

Jana, Larissa and Debora

Trainees at the Hotel Belvedere

The Hotel Belvedere believes that it is very important to train good junior staff, which is why it offers apprenticeships to young people. Besides attending college and studying theory, studying to become a hotel manager involves gaining lots of practical experience in housekeeping, laundry, restaurant, Reception and front office tasks.

The Hauser family is always delighted to encourage young people who are interested in hotel management and want to undergo their training at the Belvedere. At the moment, three young ladies are completing their hotel management apprenticeships at the Belvedere.

Jana Glaus started her training this August, and is completing her first year of training in housekeeping on the room levels and in the laundry. She lives in Bönigen on Lake Brienz with her family.

Larissa Scheuber is in her second year of training. At present you can find her in the restaurant, serving breakfast and dinner. Larissa lives with her mother in Bümpliz, near Bern.



Jana Glaus, Larissa Scheuber and Debora Brandenberger

For Debora Brandenberger, her apprenticeship is almost completed. She is in her third year of training and works at Reception, where she provides assistance to all guests before, during or even after their stay at the Belvedere. Debora lives with her family in Neftenbach near Winterthur.

The Belvedere team is pleased to offer these young people a three-year apprenticeship and wishes them every success and satisfaction in their training.

Welcome back

Aurore welcomes you again at Reception

Her daughter was born in the spring

Aurore Bonvin has been working at the Hotel Belvedere for the past four years. For three of these years she was a trainee, and as part of her apprenticeship worked at the housekeeping and laundry, restaurant, Reception and reservation departments.

On 29 March 2019 she gave birth to a little girl, whom she named Kiara. Her partner works as a chef elsewhere in Grindelwald. After her maternity leave, she returned to the Belvedere and is working again at Reception on a part-time basis.

Aurore comes from Bümpliz near Bern, but her parents are both French-speaking. Her mother is from France and her father comes from the French-speaking part of the canton of Valais. So the Bonvin family speaks French at home. This is very handy for the entire team, as there are fewer and fewer young people now who speak French in addition to German and English. In her free time, Aurore enjoys playing the violin and swimming.



Aurore Bonvin with her daughter Kiara



The popular event is a firm fixture in the programme

7th Alpine Classic on 19 and 20 June 2020

Classical concerts of the first calibre

Once again the Hauser family invites you to enjoy breath-taking views of the mountains, accompanied by top-quality classical music, all in an informal atmosphere, on the longest days of 2020.

Internationally-renowned Violinist and long-term Belvedere guest Jack Liebeck is a popular artist in the world's largest concert halls. To be able to enjoy his artistry in a small, intimate setting such as the Belvedere is a unique experience. The musicians stay at the Belvedere for a few days before the concert, which gives all guests the opportunity to meet them in person. So a visit to the Belvedere between 14 and 21 June 2020 is well worth while.

More information can be found soon on the Belvedere website or, of course, in the spring edition of the Holiday News.

www.belvedere-grindelwald.ch/en/alpine-classic

Next summer is sure to come

Preview of Summer 2020

Whether it's sport or culture, Grindelwald proudly upholds its traditions

Next summer is sure to come, so here is a sneak preview. Due to popular demand, the Hauser family recommends that you plan your next summer holidays early.

One of the early highlights of summer is the alpine spring festival on the Männlichen at the end of June. Encapsulating all things Swiss, this festival features music and folklore performances galore.

Summer sporting highlights include in July the 8th Eiger Ultra Trail, in August the 23rd Eiger Bike Challenge as well as the Inferno Triathlon (starting in Thun, passing through Grindelwald and finishing on the Schilthorn), and finally the Jungfrau Marathon in September.

And to end summer on a high, there are a number of cultural events like the Farmers' Sunday, the alpine cheese festival on Grosse Scheidegg and the Country Night.

With all this on offer, there's bound to be something for everyone!

