



Hotel Belvedere  
since 1907 Grindelwald

# Belvedere News

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## 90 years of the hotel Belvedere

Who would have believed it: our Hotel Belvedere is now the grand old age of 90! Grandfather Johann Hauser-Marti opened the hotel for its first summer season back in June 1907, following around three years of construction during which Johann himself bore the earth away in a horse and cart and helped construct much of the building with his own hands. So our 1997 summer season and 1997/98 winter season are devoted entirely to this special anniversary.

But first, allow me to express my gratitude to the following people:

Firstly to my grandparents for the vision and courage they showed in building such a hotel at the turn of the century. Then to my parents, who worked hard and long to ensure the continued success of the venture. Also to the many employees who have worked at the Belvedere over the years. Last but not naturally not least, to all our loyal guests without whom our small family business would not have flourished.



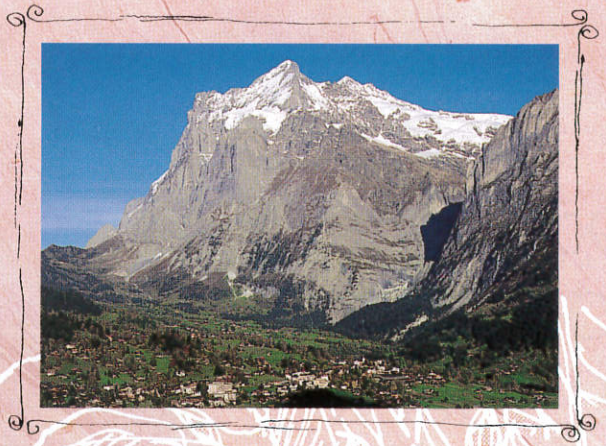
1907



1910

The more you visit the Belvedere, the greater the chance of our being able to realize our many splendid plans for the future. Every franc of profit is re-invested for your benefit. Your continued loyalty will help us turn these plans from blueprints to reality.

Yours family Hauser



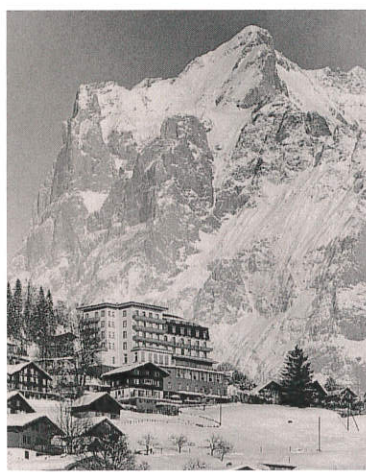
1970



1970



1958



1964

## 90 YEARS OF THE HOTEL BELVEDERE

Many of our readers are already familiar with the history of our hotel. Nevertheless such an important anniversary merits a repetition of the most important milestones.

1904-1907 Johann Hauser levels the land and builds the east wing.

1907 First summer season opens. The Belvedere is an instant success.

1909-1910 West wing is built. Plans to add to the eastern side (where the chalet stands) are shelved due to the pre-war crisis period.

1914-1918 1st World War. Hotel closed.

1918-1939 Hotel reopens. Difficult post-war period ensues.

1939-1945 2nd World War. Our hotel is commandeered by troops and turned into a military hospital, which does not exactly improve the hotel's condition.

1957 Tourism finally takes off again. Reconstruction of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors. Some rooms are fitted with baths, showers or separate WCs. The ceilings are lowered in the dining room and lounge.

1958 The east terrace is rebuilt.

1962 Reconstruction of all 4 floors in the west wing. The hotel is given a flat roof, the lounge enlarged and fitted with panorama windows. Balconies are added to the rooms.

1964 The kitchen is rebuilt and the entrance to the hotel erected.

1967 The wash-house and laundry are renovated and equipped with new machines.

1968 Renovation of bar, new oil tanks, kitchen re-equipped.

1969 Indoor pool and sauna built. New air conditioning system, basement shelter and ventilation for lounge and dining room.

1971 Rooms renovated, reception and entrance redesigned.

1972 Tam-Tam Bar transformed into the Spycher, children's playroom re-equipped, flooring replaced.

1975 Cerberus fire alarm system installed.

1976 New staff accommodation.

1977 Entire hotel structure reinforced with additional iron girders.

1978 The fourth floor of the east wing is torn down and rebuilt. The first „large“ rooms measuring 30m<sup>2</sup> are built.

1979-1983 Rooms without bath are eliminated. The first Junior and Family Suites are built.

1984 Total renovation of the dining room and annexing of bio-sauna, fitness and massage rooms. Renovation of other rooms, turning two old rooms into one or three old rooms into two.

1985 South terrace rebuilt, heating system replaced.

1986-1990 Additional renovation, turning 65 former rooms into 45 new rooms. Total renovation of the kitchen.

1990 Staff studios built, seminar room facilities installed. Total renovation of lounge and Louis Philippe Salon. Bar redesigned. The first modern rooms are built, along with our luxury Eiger Suite.

1993-1995 Extension on the west side (staff rooms, staff room, staff changing rooms, non-smoking dining room, 12 rooms). Renovation of many rooms throughout the hotel, building of the 5th floor, whirlpool added to the indoor pool complex, extension and modernization of fire alarm system, reconstruction of ski room and garbage/waste facility, storerooms. New heat recycling system, new ventilation system, air conditioning in dining room.

1997-2010 Major plans in the pipeline. You and the economy will decide whether or not they come to fruition. Plans include:

- Refurbishing of rooms
- Outdoor whirlpool
- Re-landscaping of garden
- Extension to wellness complex
- Underground garages
- Extension with 25 luxury rooms
- New reception area, foyer, bar, restaurant, dining room, kitchen between hotel and annexe

In 1913 Johann moved his six siblings to Grindelwald to assist their brother in his enterprise. The marriage of Johann and Rosa Hauser produced six children, all of whom worked in the business from childhood. Otto Hauser, the youngest, ran various other businesses before acquiring the Hotel Schweizerhof in Grindelwald in 1962. The hotel is now run by his son.

Fritz Hauser, who gained experience in a London hotel for the duration of World War II, took over the business in 1956 together with his wife Elsie, née Inäbnit. They were ably supported by two siblings and a sister-in-law. A large loyal clientele was built up primarily due to the warm hospitality of Elsie Hauser.

Their son Urs and his wife Silvia came to the business in 1984 on completion of their respective studies (matriculation in Neuchatel for Urs, bank apprenticeship for Silvia, Hotel Catering School in Lausanne for both) and took over full responsibility for it in 1986. It is their goal to ensure that the investments they have made to date, to the tune of over Sfr. 14 million, will continue to bear fruit and that their clientele will continue to expand, enabling them to realize their future plans in the interests of their guests' comfort and convenience.



Johann und Rosa Hauser-Marti  
1906 - 1956



Fritz und Elsie Hauser-  
Inäbnit, 1956 - 1986



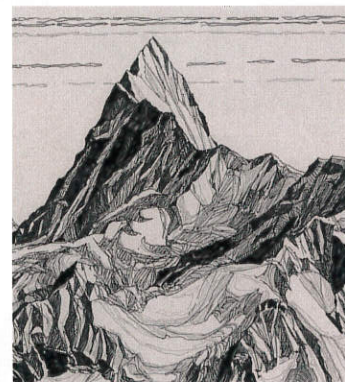
Urs und Silvia  
Hauser-Gertsch ab 1986

### GRINDELWALD'S MOUNTAIN GUIDE TRADITION

The chronicles of our valley frequently mention glacier shepherds who tended their flocks of sheep and goats in the Stieregg or on the Zäsenberg: not for the fun of it, but out of the sheer necessity of scraping a living. Without being aware of it, young men practising this precarious occupation were at the same time undergoing an excellent apprenticeship for a future career as a mountain guide.

When the first tourists started to arrive, these same young men offered themselves as porters and guides. To safeguard against never-do-wells and the like abusing the system, the authorities in Berne drew up regulations governing a licensing system for mountain guides and porters. Licensed guides were much in demand, not for mountaineering skills as such but rather as tour operators. For instance, they would take groups on extended tours from Grindelwald to Chamonix, Engelberg, Zermatt, etc.

It was only when mountaineering really took off and individual peaks began to be conquered that local guides allowed the lure of cash to override their innate awe of the Alps.



The first ascent of the Jungfrau was in 1811 from the Valais, but it was another 30 years before its second conquest. Next came the Wetterhorn in 1845. Then in 1858 the Eiger, long regarded as unconquerable, was first ascended on the western flank by the famous guides Christian Almer and Christian Boren, together with the Irishman Charles Barrington. On 10 September 1921 the legendary Japanese mountaineer Yuko Maki, accompanied by three Grindelwald guides, ascended the Eiger via the Mittellegi ridge. Yuko Maki subsequently campaigned for and financed the construction of the Mittellegi refuge.

## 90 YEARS OF THE HAUSER FAMILY



The name of the Hotel Belvedere, 1910 Grindelwald, is synonymous with the Hauser family. Last century the family were still farming land in Kaltberg near Berne. But Johann Hauser was keen on hotel catering and gathered valuable experience during his travels in Egypt, among other countries. It was here that he met his wife Rosa. They worked during the winters in Egypt and in the summers in Interlaken. In 1903 they took over the lease of the Hotel Jungfrau in Grindelwald. Experienced in running large hotels and willing to take a calculated risk, they decided to build their own hotel in Grindelwald.

In 1904 the foundation stone for the Belvedere was laid and construction commenced, and in 1907 the hotel opened for its first summer season. The immediate success of the hotel allowed the Hausers to double its size in 1909.



Grindelwald's mountain guides became so famous that they were hired outside the valley, too. And not just in the Alps: as early as 1833 Ulrich Kaufmann and Emil Boss were guiding expeditions in New Zealand and the Himalayas. From 1901 Christian Kaufmann worked in Canada, and Hans Kaufmann in

South America. In 1903/04 several Grindelwald guides worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway. Hermann Steuri was one of the driving forces behind the Andes expedition of 1966, and in 1974 several Grindelwald guides climbed Mount McKinley in Alaska. Ueli Frei and Hanspeter Schlunegger turned up in Russia, and Hanspeter Stettler in the Himalayas. Today the tradition continues, and Grindelwald guides are frequently called to all corners of the earth to lend their expertise to expeditions and climb far-flung peaks with selected groups.

If you want to find out more about our valley and its proud history, we recommend one or more volumes of „Im Tal von Grindelwald“ („In the Grindelwald Valley“) by Rudolf Rubi.