

An interview with Dr. Thomas Schmidheiny, principal shareholder

About his dedication to and his responsibility for a touristic jewel

(jona) – Since 1973, Dr. h.c. Thomas Schmidheiny has been a member of the board of directors and personally involved in the growth of the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz. Having inherited his formidable stake the enterprise from his father Max, Schmidheiny's family acknowledges its significant role in the history of Bad Ragaz. At the same time, also his children are dedicated to its ongoing development as one of the most modern luxury hotel enterprises of Switzerland and Europe.

Continually, Thomas Schmidheiny invested considerable sums in the Grand Resort and expanded his own share participation to the current level of 67%. His commitment guarantees the long-term stability of the resort, strengthening its role for future generations. In an exclusive conversation with us, he talks about his motivations and plans for the resort as well as his involvement in securing the recent increase of corporate capital.

(More details follow on Page 2)



A hotel enterprise with a remarkable 150 years of development – and a promising future.

General meeting approves capital increase

Shareholders thoroughly support the comprehensive investment program

(Bad Ragaz) – At the general meeting of shareholders on the 20th of May 2008, the increase of corporate capital by 41 million Swiss Francs (CHF) for the purpose of financing the extensive construction and renovation project, estimated at CHF 150 million, was unanimously agreed to. Furthermore, shareholders are entitled to purchase for every two shares which they currently hold one new registered share for CHF 5 200.

(More details and the report on follow on Page 2)

Historical core evolves

The renovation of the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz

(Bad Ragaz) – The Grand Dame of the Resort is undergoing an extensive wellness program. With due respect to her history, her traditions and her familiarity, she is being thoroughly renewed, from tip to toe.

A new Middle House with a stunningly beautiful interior design, rooms and baths more comfortable than ever before and surprising new additions to the gastronomical domain are guaranteed to enthrall you as our guests. The renowned interior decorator Claudio Carbone, responsible for the exquisite new furnishings, will enchant you with his interesting perspectives pertaining to light and design.

(More details follow on Page 5)

Editorial

Dear ladies and gentlemen, beloved readers:

Our visions are steadily being realized. At the beginning of 2007, we turned that first spade full of earth, breaking ground for our comprehensive renovation program. Now, it's half-time, and we have the pleasure of reviewing the first successes. Prominent among them is the Business & Event Center in the Kursaal, whose modern, accommodating infrastructure enthralls guests and employees alike. Additionally, in the new Therapy Center, which opened its doors in April, patients are benefiting from expanded services and the optimized cooperation between physicians and therapists.

Let there be no doubt about it, we are committed to occupying the leading position among the spas, health and golf resorts of Europe in the 21st Century. The transformation process necessitates an estimated total investment of 150 million Swiss Francs (CHF), and this sum includes the construction costs of 27 million CHF already incurred in 2007. Consequently, our financial plan of action is based upon a combination of borrowed capital and owner's equity.

In this regard, we are very pleased that the shareholders faithfully support us: At the ordinary general meeting on the 20th of May 2008, the recommended increase of corporate capital was unanimously approved. We would like to express our special gratitude towards our principal shareholder, Dr. Thomas Schmidheiny, for having guaranteed this significant step by virtue of his own increased participation, verifying his long-term commitment to the resort.

Corresponding to the architectural metamorphosis, our corporate name and communicative presence are being revitalized as well. We've even introduced a vibrant, new logo. The Grand Hotels Bad Ragaz are evolving into the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz, and the range and quality of our services shall noticeably exceed those offered by typical luxury hotel enterprises.

In the meantime, we intend to abide by our demanding construction schedule. A new Middle House will take root within the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz. The wellness domain To B. is being thoroughly renovated, the Spa Suites and the Tamina Thermal Bath are progressively coming into being as well.

This issue of the QuellNews takes a keen look at the architectural and infrastructural developments. Detailed background reports allow you to receive the newest information from a variety of inside sources. We wish you a pleasant time while reading, and we thank you very much for your loyal attention.

Dr. Willy Kissling
President of the Board of Directors

Peter P. Tschirky
Chief Executive Officer

General Meeting approves of the increase of share capital

Shareholders unanimously support the investment program

(ch) – The resort and its shareholders are making and maintaining a piece of Swiss history. At the regular general meeting on the 20th of May 2008, the capital increase, recommended by the board of directors for the purpose of partially financing the new construction and renovation, was readily approved by the shareholders. Simultaneously, in recognition of the imposing, future-oriented profile, a new corporate name was chosen: Grand Resort Bad Ragaz AG.

With great persistence and dedication, the board of directors and the hotel management are committed to making the enterprise the leading health, spa and golf resort in Europe. The project of renovation and new construction, transpiring between 2007 and 2009, is an important and great step towards the goal of modernization in the 21st Century. The increase of share capital and the resulting gain of 41.5 million Swiss Francs (CHF) from the un-

derwriting revenue will significantly help to finance the total costs of modernization, some CHF 150 million, according to current, accurate estimates. Shareholders and interested potential investors are invited to take part in the new investment program. Their participation is bound to advance the realization of the enterprise's fascinating visions.

Methods of subscription

Holders of previous shares shall receive an option corresponding to each registered security held by them on the 27th of May 2008. With an allocation of two subscription rights per shareholder, each previous shareholder is entitled purchase new stock at the price of CHF 5 200 per registered share. New shareholders can purchase non-redeemed stocks, thereby obtaining new, registered shares.

A total of 7 980 newly-registered shares, each with a value of CHF 1 000, will be tendered.

A passionate investment

Time and time again, outstanding business personalities, fuelled by great visions, led the enterprise through even the most challenging of times. Supported from the very beginning by loyal and enthusiastic shareholders, it found its way into the future. Today, it plays a leading role among the best hotels in the business. Optimistic and confident in their relationship to the shareholders, the managers of the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz are determined to keep moving forward into a very promising future.

Further information and detailed brochures pertaining to the increase of capital stock may be obtained from Mrs. Franca Tinner, head of the share register of the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz. She will be happy to speak with you and is available via the telephone number: +41 (0)81 303 27 11. Additionally, she may be reached per E-Mail via: franca.tinner@resortragaz.ch.

About dedication and the responsibility for a touristic jewel

A talk with Dr. Thomas Schmidheiny, principal shareholder of the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz

Jona – (ch/map) A most special relationship indeed exists between the 62 year-old Dr. Thomas Schmidheiny and the Resort Bad Ragaz. Even though he is frequently restrained by professional and private demands emanating from all around the world, Dr. Schmidheiny can, nonetheless, regularly be observed roaming through the elegant confines of the Grand Resort. He is, however, not only there in order to cast a subtle, scrutinizing look over the shoulder of the management. No, often enough, he arrives and resides simply as a guest. Dr. Schmidheiny has a number of interests. Among his great passions are the first-class vineyards located on three continents, the largest collection of art works by Ferdinand Hodler and, of course, the meticulous maintenance and cultivation of the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz.

With the new start of the Grand Hotels in 1954 under the leadership of Hans Albrecht and an engaged group of investors, Schmidheiny's father Max was a driving force behind the construction of one of the most significant hotel enterprises in Switzerland. In the 1980's, Max handed over a 30% participation and consequently the appropriate responsibility within the board of directors to his son Thomas. At that time, Thomas returned to Europe, after having earned considerable business experience in the family-run company Holcim (formerly Holderbank of Financière Glaris Ltd.) in Apasco, Mexico.

«It was the classic example of economic sponsoring,» describes Dr. Schmidheiny, as the modern-day entrepreneur reviews how his family as well as other local companies facilitated the beginnings of the hotel project. Names such as Caroni, Gmür, Stoffel, Bühler, Eugster or Spörri, to mention just a few, joined forces with the Cantonal Bank of St. Gallen. With their own starting capital of 270 000 Swiss Francs (CHF) and a loan of 2,7 Million CHF, they paved the way for a new era of hotel history. To this day, the family Caroni Buxbaum is represented in the corporation with 7.8% of the shares.

Currently, Thomas Schmidheiny owns 67% of the

corporate share capital. For him, nonetheless, it's not the profit alone which plays a crucial role. Far more important are the «internal duty» and the determination to maintain and polish a touristic jewel in the midst of Upper St. Gallen. «We don't pour out great dividends for the shareholders,» he discloses. «No, we prefer to make further investments.» Similarly, his four children have proudly acknowledged their roots in the region. «Pulling out of Bad Ragaz in this day and age would be a coarse mistake,» he adds, speaking for himself as well as for his family.

Within the previous 50 years, the corporation has invested more than 250 million CHF in the resort, with the golf courses and the Tamina Thermal Bath being included. Following the complete demolition of the old and the inauguration of the new Grand Hotel Quellenhof in 1995, the corporation had debts amounting to 140 million CHF. Nevertheless, owing to the visionary, economically adept hotel management, the debts were reduced within the subsequent 10 years by as much as 80 million CHF. «We operate the Hotels on a financially viable basis – period,» he emphasizes, leaving no doubt about the depth of his dedication, for it is far more than just a hobby.

Not larger, but better

Actually, Thomas Schmidheiny's primary motivation is not to make the hotels exceptionally larger in the future, simply exceedingly better. Better than ever before. Thus, he supports the present increase of corporate capital. Indeed, within the realm of his own share participation, he obliges himself to acquire all shares not purchased within the prescribed period of subscription. There can be no deeper form of devotion than that, and precisely this confidence will help the resort along the way to becoming the leader among the luxury hotels, spas and golf resorts in all of Europe. He would welcome the fact that many shareholders, within the realm of their own possibilities, are following his example. Top accommodations, a high-class of services for high-end business events and a comprehensive range of medical – including therapeutic and prophylactic – services are, in Schmidheiny's opinion,



An entrepreneur full of engagement: Dr. Thomas Schmidheiny.

absolutely essential to the future of the enterprise. «We have to make every reasonable effort to remain competitive, even in response to the health-oriented services offered in Dubai,» he explains. «Still, regardless of whatever changes are contemplated and implemented, the tranquil, peaceful nature of the resort must be preserved.»

Looking further into the future

Nevertheless, Schmidheiny continues to think beyond the present-day. He plans and invests on a long-term basis – in people and in capital. A profit of between seven and eight percent in the hotel industry is regarded by him as desirable and attainable. «That's a goal which we can reach in the foreseeable future,» he believes. Accordingly, he is pleased that the expansion and renovation undertaken by participants of equivalent rank – e.g. the Dolder

Grand Hotel or the Trois Rois in Basel – will generally revitalize the prices and the profitability within the market.

Taking a further view into the future, Schmidheiny can imagine a golf paradise with as many as five or six courses, and due to strategic reasons perhaps even a few residences adjoining the respective grounds. Both considerations demonstrate clearly: Schmidheiny wishes to expand the existing number of real properties and simultaneously reach new groups of potential guests.

Another idea which motivates him, in keeping with his future-oriented views, revolves around developing a franchise system. The medical competence and the know-how with respect to wellness – combined with that certain *savoir faire* of Swiss businesspeople – could be successfully marketed around the world. «I have the vision of eventually letting the trade name To B be franchised,» he reveals. «But that's still somewhat up in the air, because we simply don't have enough time and resources for that at the moment,» he clarifies, energetically closing his inspired stream of thoughts as to that topic.

Instead, the primary focus is upon the current investments in the improvement of the infrastructure and services as well as, of course, the very well-being of the women and men working in the resort. «In the past, we were not all that focused upon the further education and training of our employees,» he admits openly. «But that's going to change. Competent employees have to stay. They are important to us – and they are important to our guests. Our guests want to feel at home, and they expect to be received by dedicated, highly-trained employees.» That's the reason why Schmidheiny values the process of ongoing training within an organization involved in such a dynamic process of expansion. «Only if we learn from one another, we can be quicker and better. This way of thinking brought us into the pole position at Holcim.»

Hotels, art, vineyards and philanthropy

It would be absolutely unthinkable for Schmidheiny to abandon his esteemed hotels – and the same goes for his precious vineyards. «Those are the very last things I'd ever give up,» he proclaims,

laughing and puffing on his pipe. Without a doubt, he's proud of the quality wines from his native soil in Heerbrugg, St. Gallen. On the other hand, the Pinot Noir Barrique – also produced by Schmidheiny Vineyards – is considered by connoisseurs as an excellent choice as well. And, Schmidheiny's magnificent collection of art works by Ferdinand Hodler is something worth toasting. However, Schmidheiny experiences an even greater sense of enjoyment from seeing the fruits of his benevolent activities. Schmidheiny is well-respected as a generous philanthropist. By virtue of various charities – which he personally founded and finances by spending drives and sponsoring – he facilitates the successful operation of diverse national as well as international organizations, academies, schools and start-ups. He knows of no boring moments in his life.

This text is based upon an interview by Carmen Heinrich, together with Maria Pütz-Willems, a German journalist specialized on hotel business. The complete, original interview may be read at: www.hospitalityInside.de.

Waste disposal sites a thing of the past

Background report about the demolition of the Middle House, Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz

Maienfeld – (ch) Once upon a time, the materials accumulated during the demolition of houses were regarded as debris, being predestined for waste disposal sites somewhere along the landscape. Today, quite fortunately, a different attitude prevails. Indeed, up to 90% of the demolition rubble can be recycled. Such statistics are most encouraging for man and his environment. Even as the Middle House of the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz was demolished, tons of rubble, primarily consisting of stones, wood and artificial materials, were produced. Christian Rutzer, sales director of the Company Kies & Beton in neighboring Maienfeld, explains what happens to the former walls, tiles and carpets.

Since the beginning of the renovations within the resort, it has been difficult to overhear it – the noise arising from the excavations, the rattling and the drilling, the heavy transports. Large projects of this nature mandate the involvement of specialized companies, allowing the safe, optimal processing and removal of wreckage. One such firm is the ARGE KZT, namely the operational association of Käpeli, Zindel, Toldo.



A long-arm excavator removes the rest of the Middle House.

The firm Zindel+Co. AG from Maienfeld was responsible for the demolition and the disposal – referred to in the business as «reverse construction» – of the Middle House of the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz. Thereby, the house was removed in a reverse sequence of its construction. First the carpets and tiles, the doors and window frames, installations and miscellaneous items were removed, followed by the disposal of bricks, stones and cement components.

Fine, sure instincts required

Subsequent the dismantling of tiles from the roof, the long-armed excavator in Bad Ragaz started removing the roof framework, the walls and the ceilings – proceeding one floor after the other. Protecting the houses to the left and to the right of the construction site was paramount. Although these adjoining houses are independently existing buildings, the digging and construction operations came – by their very nature – to a certain kind of close encounter. Thus, anchors and cables were professionally employed in order to maintain the stability of the neighboring structures.

An enduring beautification of the resources

Mostly, the valuable materials resulting from the demolition process were pre-sorted in waiting containers. That occurred directly on the grounds of the construction site. In other cases, the reusable materials were transported per truck to the nearby site of the Kies & Beton AG Pizol in Bad Ragaz for further sorting. Merely 10% of the rubble resulting from the demolition were incapable of being recycled, and they were immediately transported to the appropriate waste sites for basic disposal or incineration in an ecologically viable manner.

The reusable materials, on the other hand, are effectively recycled and wind up being reemployed in a sensible fashion. Roof tiles, for example, are transformed into mixed substances for ultimate utilization in the process of storing water on flat roofs, and wood is shredded and reprocessed for further usage as particle boards. Concrete and bricks are reprocessed as mixed granulate, allowing them to be employed as certified even as literally concrete resources in the construction of Minergie Eco-plus houses.



A mobile machine for the processing of gravel.

As one of the leading Swiss companies involved in the reprocessing of construction rubble, the Kies & Beton AG has truly made a name of itself. Noticeably ahead of its most keen rivals, the company specializes in sieving, washing and re-sorting materials for recycling. Its technologically advanced methods have naturally received the appropriate European Norms Certifications. Technical product names such as «washed RCM Concrete Gravel 0-16» and «washed Concrete Gravel 0-45», commonly encountered on the depository site, verify quite impressively the meticulous devotion to the environmentally feasible concept of recycling.

Perhaps it's difficult to believe, but the ambitious process of sorting, washing and recycling of the construction rubble is actually less expensive than simply disposing of it. As a matter of fact, it proves to be economically viable. More importantly, the employment of such processes reduces the number and breadth of traditional waste disposal sites, thus helping to preserve the natural resources and the environmental integrity of the forests and the landscape surrounding us.

A pleasant way uphill

From this point on, after four weeks of reverse construction, the company Implenia from Chur is engaged in the construction of the new Middle House. Stefan Bärtsch, construction chief, and his men waste no time in drilling the first holes for the fortifying pillars, just as the last truck loaded with excavated materials leaves the site. Bärtsch hopes for good weather with plenty of sunshine, the ideal situation for the rapid progression of the project. Undoubtedly, the loyal guests of the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz share his hopes.

Where Health is the central Goal

The new Therapy Center overflowing with competence and wellness

(hey/ch) – Viewing each patient within the realm of his or her completeness, offering modern treatment and taking care of all individual needs from A to Z. Those are the motivations behind the new Therapy Center, whose construction was heartily financed with an investment to the tune of 10 million Swiss Francs. The new Therapy Center is – as a matter of space and substance – an integral part of the Medical Center Bad Ragaz. Indeed, the spatial integration optimizes the long-standing, already successful cooperation between physicians and therapists. Furthermore, it guarantees the continued enhancement of services and conditions for all patients and employees. This innovative facility, freshly inaugurated in April 2008, is the second major structure erected in the course of the Renovation and Construction Program.



The new Therapy Center.

The ground breaking goals set by Dr. Wilhelm Zinn and Hans Albrecht, the founders of the Medical Center Bad Ragaz in 1957, have been achieved. And yet, such goals are continually being refined, renewed and pursued. By virtue of the ongoing modernization, the Medical Center Bad Ragaz is more than ever before a unique location where competent care, state-of-the-art medical developments and invigorating thermal waters merge harmoniously into one another. Similar to a noble clinic, the setting offers first-class medical services within the ambience of a luxurious hotel.

In the course of time, the popularity of the various medical and therapeutic services offered in Bad Ragaz increased dramatically. Indeed, the demands exceeded the capacity of the original center, often forcing the use of external rooms on a provisional basis. Since the recent expansion, the human resources demonstrate even more effectively than in the previous settings their competence and their capabilities.

Everything beneath one Roof

The Medical Center is built upon three pillars: Physical Health, Beauty and Mental Wellbeing. Altogether some 70 employees are engaged in serving patients across a broad spectrum – among the highly-qualified personnel are 9 specialized physicians, 7 additionally consulting physicians, 29 therapists and various other specialists. Furthermore, the Swiss Olympic Medical Center and the Medical Training Center Benefit/MTT are situated within the new Therapy Center. Interestingly enough, the Medical Training Center Benefit/MTT is strongly anchored in the local region, it receives 75% of its visitors from the daily stream of guests making short excursions.

Implementing the concept of integrated services means expanding the previously existing services and specialties to include the complementary medicine. The new Therapy Center will even maintain its own thermal bath, intended especially for water therapies. Whereas prior water therapies transpired



Your health is our central concern.

within the publicly open Tamina Therme, the new thermal bath provides its exclusive guests with an appropriately high level of privacy and facilitates their direct access to the water. A constant temperature of 34°C lets the patient relax and undergo his or her therapies in great comfort.

An examination room for 24-hour emergency medical services has been recently integrated into the structure. A most valuable asset, it allows hotel guests as well as the general public initial medical attention.

Without a doubt, the new Therapy Center was constructed in painstaking accordance with the exclusive standards and the superior style for which the Grand Hotels are famous. The rooms are furnished with exquisite parquet floors, the walls are decorated with harmonious, warm colors in fine nuances. A most pleasant atmosphere is conveyed by the indirect illumination. In spite of the medical surroundings, each guest should literally feel well. That is the philosophy and indeed the spirit of this renowned, renovated resort – a place for body, mind and soul.

Medical Health Center

The Center of Competence in Prevention, Diagnostics, Therapy and Rehabilitation

The physicians and therapists of the various institutes adhere to the concept of integrated medical and therapeutic services. It is patient-oriented, respecting and reflecting the individual needs and the self-

realization of each person. With a modus operandi which utilizes advanced techniques, health problems can be identified in an early phase and prophylactically treated. A modern diagnostic provi-

des the ideal basis for consequent methods. Diverse therapies and rehabilitative programs allow each patient to receive a successful and enduring treatment.

<p>Prevention Health Check, Sport Medicine Check-up, Back Check-up, Diverse Power and Muscle Tests, Training Consultation, Burnout Prevention</p> <p>Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, Medical Skin Repair (Surgery excluded)</p>	<p>Diagnostic Basic Laboratory Tests Admission Investigations Basic Diagnostic, Special Complementary Diagnostic (e.g. X-Ray, MRI, Allergies, Step Analysis) Sleep Laboratory, Vein Center</p>
<p>Therapy Physiotherapy, Water Therapy, Medical Training Therapy MTT, Physical Therapy, Psychotherapie Group Therapy, TCM (in cooperation)</p>	<p>Rehabilitation Rheumatology, Postoperative Methods, Cardiovascular / Pulmonary, Medical, Psychosomatic</p>

For further information and medical appointments contact our team patient care under:

Medical Health Center
CH-7310 Bad Ragaz
Phone +41 (0)81 303 38 38
medizin@resortragaz.ch
www.healthragaz.ch

The historical Hof evolves into a modern attraction

Contemporary renovations of the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz

(ch) – The fundament of the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz, both figuratively and literally, can be traced back to the founding of the Prince Abbot Palace in 1774. Thus, the Hof is older than its sister hotel, the Grand Hotel Quellenhof, and it accordingly reigns as the Grand Dame of the Resort. Its gleam is full of tradition and trust, so deeply rooted in Heidiland and so inimitably venerable, and it shall remain intact, thoroughly unvarnished by the ambitious renovations taking place.

Within the previous two centuries, the historical palace, which served as the residence of the Prince Abbot until 1838, was supplemented by various hotel tracts. As a result, a rather heterogeneous structure of buildings came into being. Of course, they were each elegant, but all in all eclectic. Furthermore, these circumstances tended to complicate the goal of consolidating the hotel infrastructure and thus optimizing its management organizationally and economically. Ultimately, the concept of enhanced integration could not afford to put off any longer. The infrastructure and the services had to be renewed, permitting them to more effectively accommodate the modern demands and desires of the guests. A major renovation of the hotel already took place in the 1960's, initiated by Hans Albrecht. Additional renovation and construction projects followed, but more than a prestigious patchwork proved to be necessary.

At the present time, the decision-makers are committed to comprehensively equipping and revitalizing the Hof for the future. The Middle House, the so-called «Mittelbau», is to be demolished. A former outer wall located within the house was the



Traditional and modern – our new Deluxe and Comfort rooms.

principal reason for this decision. It had increasingly become an architecturally insurmountable problem. Without this «break-through» measure, a consolidation of the old, often narrow hotel rooms and their development as spacious and comfortable accommodations would not have been possible.

Luxury and Wellness

The traditional Hof shall offer increased comfortability, the former banquet halls in the first upper floor will make way for generously large Suites with a grand view of the park and Falknis Mountain. With the renovation of the Business & Events Center in the «Kursaal», all of the banquet and corporate happenings, will be concentrated, allowing their visitors to profit from a common infrastructure – without disturbing the peaceful atmosphere cherished by other guests. As a result, the restructuring grants the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz an even greater degree of serenity and elegance.

As of 2009, a total of 127 rooms and suites will fill guests with enthusiasm – and most of these eagerly awaited accommodations are to be designed and furnished by the prominent interior decorator Claudio Carbone from St. Gallen (Interview Page 7). The Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz will offer in the coming year 49 Deluxe/Grand Deluxe and 57 Comfort rooms in the traditional style as well as 21 suites. The bath rooms in the Middle House are to be completely modernized and luxuriously equipped, the interior design of the rooms in the Helena Tract will be significantly enhanced as well. In the Palace, which is landmarked and protected as an historic building, renovations are going to be undertaken in a most careful fashion. Furthermore, in the course of the total renovation of the house, each of the rooms will receive a modern air-conditioning system, an improvement which was previously impeded by technical restrictions.

Five stars verify a first-class setting

The reopening of the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz in April 2009 will correspond to its ascendance as a



Spa Suites – each with its own individual faucet for thermal water.

on a gradual basis for a number of years. At any rate, it is now obvious: The resort will soon function in its entirety as a five-star enterprise. The major difference can ultimately be found in the hotels and their characters. Characteristically traditional and designed with a passion for fine details, that explains the magic of the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz. The Grand Hotel Quellenhof, encompassing elegant suites and junior suites, is the place for those who treasure a timeless, neoclassic style embedded in superior surroundings. On the other hand, those who prefer purely contemporary, urban tones may relish in the 57 new Spa Suites.

Three different styles, three different tastes, three different price categories – all within the realm of five-star excellence. Indeed, the hotel management is dedicated to offering each and every guest the appropriate room or suite, corresponding to his or her desires as to size and design, while at the same time providing the benefits of a mutual infrastructure. The new label «Grand Resort Bad Ragaz» is more than just a name, for it reflects the dynamically implemented structural and qualitative expansion of the complex.

Certainly, the hotel management is committed to a fair structuring of its prices for rooms and suites. With merely moderate price increases, primarily mandated by inflation and increased operational costs, the management demonstrates its appreciation for the loyalty and contentment of its guest throughout the years. Long-term and long-standing guests shall feel at home – and they will naturally be entitled to special conditions on an individual basis.

For those interested in a short, nostalgic excursion that perhaps induces a smile: In 1904, the price for an overnight stay in the Grand Hotel Quellenhof amounted to 4 Swiss Francs. If a guest desired heating in the room, he had to pay an extra price of 1 Swiss Franc.

Surprising old and new components

As soon as the old and new guests enter into the esteemed atmosphere of the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz, they shall be heartily greeted by a variety of surprises. The new hotel hall, with its lounge, bar and reception areas, will let its old glance shine in modern splendor.

The reception and the concierge areas are being relocated, thus making room for the expansion of the cosmetic and coiffeur services respectively offered by To B. Beauty and To B. Hairstyling. With the arrival and engagement of James Good, the resorts and their guests as well as day-visitors shall enjoy the services of a renowned hairstylist.

The present-day bar is being transformed into an exclusive smoker's lounge, and will offer connois-

five-star hotel: With its added star, it will take its equal place alongside the Grand Hotel Quellenhof, which has been at the very zenith of the starlit sky in which Swiss luxury hotels gleam.

Although some guests may not have noticed, infrastructural changes have already been implemented

seurs of tobacco products, accordingly, an aesthetically designed retreat. Directly across the aisle, the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz shall open its extensive and exquisite wine cellar – easily accessible from the lounge area. That will allow guests to nonchalantly deepen their knowledge of the wine culture, to casually imbibe and, of course, to select an appropriate bottle for the evening.

«The way to a person's heart is through his stomach,» and in keeping with his adage, the gastronomic concept is being revised to accommodate the evolving demands and desires of each of its guests. In accordance with the philosophy underlying the «Metabolic Kitchen», individual health-oriented needs and culinary wishes shall be meticulously taken into regard.

Of course, the well-regarded gourmet kitchen of Chef Roland Schmid in the Äbtestube, honoured with no less than 17 GaultMillau points, shall remain intact. Simultaneously, the Zollstube will continue to invite diners to enjoy Swiss specialities in a rustic, cosy setting.

Nevertheless, the restaurants Belle Epoque and Olives will experience major changes. After the Mediterranean cuisine of Olives attained great popularity following the opening in 2003, the demand was too large to be contained. Thus, the larger, former Belle Epoque is being expanded to serve as a meeting point for fans of light Mediterranean cuisine. Additionally, the breakfast buffet in the modern atmosphere of Belle Epoque will be influenced by elements of the so-called «Front Cooking». E.g. eggs: As always, guests will be able to order their



The «Grand Dame» of our Resort: Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz in the 19th Century.

eggs just as they wish, but they will soon have the chance to witness the «live» preparation as well, with their own eyes. Still, guests accustomed to and preferring the previous dinner setting will not have to search at all, their familiar menus will be available just as before. Furthermore, all guests will have the opportunity to view the coming, most novel wine presentation within the comfortable confines of the restaurant.

There's more to come. Asian cuisine, with its exotic and stimulating spices, will occupy a notable position alongside the Mediterranean specialties. Within the resort, the strong demands for the Japanese gastronomy of Tadashi Aoki have been recognized. Sushi, Sashimi and Teriyaki – the invasion of such appetizing dishes in Europe can no longer be ignored. Thus, respecting this indisputable trend, the former Olives will be transformed into an Asian re-

staurant, bringing an additional whiff of the exotic into the house.

Consequently, the Grand Dame of the Resorts, the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz, will reopen its doors in the spring of 2009 with a modernized and diverse range of first-class attractions. Riet Pfister, the hotel management and the entire staff are already eagerly awaiting that chance to greet old friends and new guests in a wonderful ambience.

For our guests, around 70 rooms of the Helena Tract of the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz and partially the To B. Wellbeing & Spa will be reopened as of the middle of September 2008. Further information may be obtained per telephone via: + 41 (0)81 303 30 30. Or you may contact us per E-Mail at: reservation@resortragaz.ch

The beautiful hotel next door

Interview with the last guests in Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz before the temporary closing

(cf) – As the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz closed its doors in March, the Hotel Director Riet Pfister said farewell personally to Nilou and Arnold Saxer. Quite fortunately, it was only a temporary parting. The Saxers were namely one of the last guests of the house prior to the renovations. Before leaving, they were pleased to grant the following interview to Christina Fenyoedi, Manager for Public Relations.



We'll meet again: Nilou and Arnold Saxer.

Why did you choose Bad Ragaz?

«Bad Ragaz is always worth visiting – in summer and in winter,» asserts Mrs. Saxer. Her husband

agrees readily and adds: «Yes, regardless of the time of year, we can always relax. At the same time, we can relish in this so fascinating atmosphere. The range of services impresses us very much here in the Grand Hotels Bad Ragaz.»

During your visits since 1993, you have been regularly residing in the Grand Hotels Bad Ragaz. Alternately in the classic 5-star Quellenhof and in the historic ambience of Hof Ragaz. Do you have a preference between the two?

«Initially, we stayed in the Quellenhof, often with a lot of work in our luggage», explains Mr. Saxer. «You know, we just couldn't leave our professional duties behind – even though we yearned to visit to Bad Ragaz and get away from it all. One day, at any rate, we finally took note of the beautiful hotel next door. In our eyes, it appeared to be more attractive and was thus more inviting than Quellenhof. At that time, you see, Quellenhof was somewhat in need of repair. Therefore, we decided to check into the Hof Ragaz.»

Afterwards, however, you continued to alternate between both hotels. Why?

«That's true,» acknowledges Mr. Saxer. «In the summertime, we enjoy having breakfast outside, and that's why we stay in Quellenhof in the summer. It's nice having the first meal of the day in the morning sun on the terrace of the Bel-Air Restaurant, in the middle of such a flourishing green garden.»

«In the frosty winter months, on the other hand, we like basking in the warm atmosphere of Hof Ragaz,» adds Mrs. Saxer. «Yes, particularly in the Palais Tract. It's so cosy and comfortable. And, we have the pleasure of meeting other regular guests. Indeed, again and again. Furthermore, even at that

time, our rooms in the Palais in Hof Ragaz were spacious enough to accommodate our luggage. We tend not to travel too lightly, if I may say so. Winter apparel takes up so much space, you know, and anyway we always have the complete attire for the evening as well as for fitness and casual occasions.»

Mrs. Saxer, you often make use of the physiotherapy to strengthen your back. Do you enjoy an occasional massage for relaxation as well?

«Of course», confirms Mrs. Saxer. «Actually, we take advantage of all of the offers. As a matter of fact, we've started playing golf! It's really great! Yes, and we've already booked our next vacation here. Since Hof Ragaz is being renovated, we'll stay naturally in the Grand Hotel Quellenhof.»

And how do you feel about the present program of renovation?

«We agree whole-heartedly with these plans,» welcomes Mr. Saxer. «They are necessary, indeed inevitable, if the Grand Hotels Bad Ragaz wish to keep occupying their esteemed position in the hotel world. Anyway, we are always open for good ideas, as long as the cultural programs and the personal style of services – especially in Hof Ragaz – remain intact. It's also nice to know that many of the long-serving employees will retain their jobs, in spite of the temporary closure. That's a very sociable and responsible attitude towards your human resources. Oh yes, it means much to us as guests. You see, we've come to know so many of your fine employees within the past 15 years, and they've truly taken our hearts. We wish them well. Indeed, we wish the Grand Hotels much courage and success in this decisive period – and we look forward to meeting you again.»

Let there be Light – the Alpha and Omega of Design

An Interview with the interior decorator Claudio Carbone

Wolfhalden – (ch) Not a typical business card. Instead, a small and yet wonderful company portrait with 15 unusual theories revolving around the theme of interior design. It's a philosophy and a perspective at the same time, and both provide a great deal of insight into the world of Claudio Carbone. Born in Bavarian Oberstdorf, Carbone ranked among the most talented young professionals in the field of carpentry and cabinet-making in the 1980's. In the course of time, he has received a number of significant awards for his impressive crafts. Creative, visionary, individual – simply different. Today, he conceives and designs the interiors of various renowned hotels and restaurants world-wide. In the enchanting ambience of the Swiss Appenzeller Land, the amiable and ambitious designer receives much inspiration. In the following interview, the 42 year-old German-Italian explains his philosophy and his motivations with respect to the renovation of the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz.

First, Mr. Carbone, thank you very much for your precious time. As an immensely popular designer, jetting from one project to another, it is not easy to make an appointment with you. When do you ever have enough free time to cultivate new ideas for your many clients?

«Designing is my life's passion. As soon as my internal eye and my ardent imagination recognize the expectations and desires of my client, the concept starts developing inside of me. Even if I'm engaged in meetings or travelling somewhere else, the idea ripens within me. After a couple of days, I usually have my first firm draft. At this point, I'll begin to engage my interior architect, and together we'll work out plans for the best possible implementation.»

«With highly-trained employees and an excellent degree of motivation in my team, I view myself as the head of a blindly functioning designer system. Everyone contributes to the design process with his own personal qualities, and some of my employees have even more years of experience than I.»



Interior decorator Claudio Carbone.

What philosophy underlies your conceptions of interior design?

«Nature, genuineness, originality. We firmly believe that every material is animated and possesses its own individual language. Even stones, for example. Playing with materials and forms coming directly from the natural environment, that fascinates not only me, but my employees as well. Light and colors are the principal elements of our considerati-



A sketch of the new Smokers' Lounge in the renovated Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz.

ons. We've learned through our own experiences the importance of employing just the right amount of light and pairing it with well thought-out colors. By doing so, you can of light fill a room with so much life, allowing others to feel comfortable and cozy, without really knowing why.»

Does that mean that we can soon expect large windows and many sources of light in the renovated rooms of the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz?

«No, not at all. That is precisely the myth, the false conclusion reached by many who try to harmonize light and shadows with one another. Nowadays, many hotels utilize simply too much light. Indeed, often in the false places. To the contrary, creating a sense of well-being means using a moderate portion of lights and developing a clever plan for throwing shadows. It mandates technical know-how and the intimate awareness of how colors and light influence one another.»

«One of the thematic concepts we're advancing is rather promisingly named Let there be light. The light is nothing less than the Alpha and Omega. We involve light in our planning at a very early stage, permitting us to harmonize it naturally with every conceivable mood in the room. And, because we love light, we don't fear the shadows.»

What appeals to you most of all in the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz?

«First of all, it's a great honor for us to be involved in these ground-breaking renovations. We've demonstrated our knowledge and capabilities in various projects.»

«The Resort Ragaz is a further challenge – new, individual and special. By virtue of its generous structures and its grandezza, it is quite different. One of the challenges is reconciling the many wishes and needs. Clearly, the enterprise merits – with its two hotels and broad range of integrated services – for more attention than many other hotel projects. Furthermore, there's the matter of historical heterogeneity, primarily in the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz. In-

deed, its architectural styles, materials and technical facilities have spent more than 150 years together.»

You're actually involved in several partial projects within the wide-ranging construction and renovation program. Which ones are those?

«We're responsible for the architectural design of the interiors in the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz. Rooms, lobby, lounges, bar and restaurant. Additionally, the renewal of the wellness area To B. and the passages between the hotels and the public areas of the Tamina Thermal Bath and the Medical Center. A particular highlight for us is the the furnishing of the new Spa Suites of the Quellenhof.»

The Spa Suites are supposed to be outstanding. Is that something which is possible in this day and age of superlatives?

«Yes, it is indeed possible. And we at Carbone Interior Design follow the goal of creating something unique, something incapable of being confused with other projects. Each and every object has its own soul and its own radiance. Therefore, we use neither plans nor concepts which were already utilized somewhere else. And anyway, nature has the lovely practice of yielding a great deal of materials and possibilities, allowing us to always bring forth new concepts. Tobacco leaves, for example, artistically poured into tiles for the walls of smoking lounges. Or tiles made from sea shells decorating the wellness areas. Bamboo, rattan, coconut fibers, papyrus and countless natural stones. Yes, the Spa Suites shall be furnished in a most distinctive fashion. Furthermore, each suite will have its own thermal water from the faucet – directly on tap. That will transform the bath room into a small, private wellness oasis.»

«All in all, I view the Spa Suites with their amenities as offering a perfect addition to the traditional hotels of the resort. They supplement the remaining hotels, satisfying the desires and needs of guests who wish to experience an urbane environment, indeed in loft-style, while residing in a more or less rural region.»



A Sketch of the dining area of the Presidential Suite.

In contrast to the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz – a most venerable house. At any rate, some loyal guests fear a radical change of design. They're concerned about alterations which would banish the sense of warmth and disturb the sanctuary they've come to know and appreciate.

How do you intend to integrate tradition and change with one another?

«Believe me, we'd never consider dramatically modifying the very character of the hotel. To the contrary, we're reconstructing and polishing it up, strictly in accordance with its original condition. For example, the pillars in the entrance of the Hof Ragaz. Unfortunately, some 30 years ago, those ornately profiled structures were painted over, because that was the trend at the time. Our renovations will strip such structures, allowing their original surfaces to see the light of day again. Naturally, in this process of restoration, we shall involve modern elements as well, including materials of Swiss origin. We're committed to creating a most harmonic synthesis of light and shadow, enabling tradition and modernization to coexist in a wonderful manner.»

In conclusion, the inevitable question for you as a well-traveled, very experienced interior designer. What is your own personal favorite among the many objects you've seen in the hotel industry?

«Well, the hotel industry is a very dynamic business. Accordingly, my favorites can change from time to time. At the moment, the Peninsula in Tokyo, because of its innovative ideas, and the colorful, but unobtrusive Wynn Hotel in Las Vegas are among my personal favorites.»

Thank you very much for your attention.

Claudio Carbone Interior Design

Founder and owner: Claudio Carbone, married, father of two children.

Company base: Wolfhalden (Appenzell, Switzerland)

Employees: 12 + 3 Freelancer

References: St. Regis Mardavall Mallorca, Westin Grand Frankfurt, Radisson SAS St. Gallen, Arabella Sheraton Hotels, Hotel Pirmin Zurbriggen, Hotel Säntispark, exclusive private apartments.

www.carbone-design.ch

A Summer full of culinary Pleasures

Wild Bolivian couverture criollo and long Sundays in the garden

(ch) – What could be more desirable than spending a Sunday afternoon with the family or friends, enjoying a delicious, eventful barbecue beneath the open sky? In keeping with this tradition, the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz invite the public in the coming summer months to enjoy international culinary treats in the park on the terrace of the Bel-Air Restaurant. Gastronomic indulgences can be experienced in the classically rustic Zollstube and in the gourmet restaurant Äbtestube.



Gourmet Chef Roland Schmid

It's true, even star cooks require a little bit of time for themselves. For hungry gourmet fans that is often a time of abstinence. Nevertheless, Chef Roland Schmidt utilized his holidays not only for the purpose of relaxing. To the contrary, he actively developed and cultivated new, surprising delicacies for the plates of sophisticated gourmet lovers. Since the reopening of the Äbtestube on the 5th of May

2008, after a four-week vacation, Schmid has been delighting his guests with an excellently expanded menu. Among his special creations for the summer season are bison fillet carpaccio with scalloped rosette and fried quail eggs «sunny side up» on lentil sprouts-vinaigrette and roasted red mullet fillet on aquarell risotto with rucola and roasted zucchini leaves.

The table of the gourmets

As a special attraction, the Äbtestube will give its guests the opportunity to take over the role of the host. Indeed, they can experience the ambience of a restaurant with 17 GaultMillau Points, exquisite meals and an exclusive wine cellar, so to speak, from the other side, within the kitchen. The guest host cooks for family, friends or business partners alongside Roland Schmid, while benefiting, of course, from Schmid's creativity and refined tips and tricks. More information can be received directly from the chef himself via: roland.schmid@resortragaz.ch. Reservations per telephone are welcomed via: +41 (0)81 303 30 30.

Typically Swiss

Similarly, the popular Zollstube reopened its doors on the 5th of May. The atmosphere is rustic and simultaneously comfortable, the menu is uncomplicated. Following their short, well-deserved pause, Sandra Klotz and her team are serving happy guests with creative meals of the day, regional specialties, fondues, open wines and beer on tap. Have you ever tried «Capuns»? That's a Swiss treat from the neighboring Canton of Grisons, it is a sort of spätzle dough filled with bacon and wrapped in mangold leaves. Many guests from outside of Switzerland regard it as irresistible. Or enjoy the summer months simply on the terrace of the preserved palace building with a good glass of Herrschaftler Wine.

Due to the continued process of construction in the Grand Hotel Hof Ragaz, and as a result of the temporary closing of the mediterranean restaurant Olives, the Zollstube offers selected meals from the kitchen of Olives. Accordingly, those who enjoy pizzas, pasta, polenta and Latte Macchiato do not need to abstain at all.



Our line of cooks at the Quellenhof Barbecue.

Treats in good company at the Quellenhof Barbecue

Once again, and indeed by popular demand, the architects of the culinary art form are planning another summer of abundant, sumptuous Buffets and Grill Fests. Familiar and exotic treats can be tasted in a pleasurable outdoor setting, undisturbed by the ongoing construction and modernization of the buildings. It is an ideal chance for guests coming from the region to receive first-hand information about the ambitious renovation plan. The hotel management will be at the disposal of all interested guests and visitors, answering questions and welcoming comments.

Barbecue dates:

Sunday, 8. June 2008
 Sunday, 22. June 2008
 Sunday, 6. July 2008
 Sunday, 20. July 2008
 Sunday, 3. August 2008
 Sunday, 17. August 2008
 Sunday, 31. August 2008
 Sunday, 14. Sept. 2008
 Sunday, 28. Sept. 2008

Bands

«Jazzafinado»
 «Three for the Blues»
 «Moving Moods»
 «Ambassador»
 «Engadiner Ländlertrio»
 «Havanna del Alma»
 «Huusmusig Kollegger»
 «Duo Jazz Baumgartner/Steidle»
 «Bauernfänger»

Price per person 128 Swiss Francs
 children 12 to 16 years of age – 89 Swiss Francs
 and children 6 to 12 years of age – 69 Swiss Francs
 Regardless of weather conditions, the barbecues shall begin at 12:00 o'clock noon.

Reservations are welcomed via:

Telephone + 41 (0)81 303 30 30
 Fax + 41 (0)81 303 30 33
 reservation@resortragaz.ch

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