

# BELLAVISTA HOTEL

IN SURLEJ, ENGADIN, CAPTIVATES WITH NUMEROUS REMARKABLE FEATURES: AN EXEMPLARY HOTELIER FAMILY THAT EMBODIES AND EXEMPLIFIES HOSPITALITY, EXCEPTIONALLY FRIENDLY STAFF, INNOVATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE, AND A GASTRONOMY THAT ATTRACTS MANY ESTIMATED GUESTS. IN JULY 2015, THEY ALSO TOOK OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HOTEL RESTAURANT SALASTRAINS IN THE ST. MORITZ SKIING AND HIKING AREA. BY HELENA PERDOUX-FRANCES

# THE BELLAVISTA HOTEL, A FAMILY BUSINESS

It's truly something extraordinary when three children follow in their parents' footsteps and work in the same business. Nico (34), Fabian (32), and Elena (30) all attended the Belvoir Zurich Hotel Management School, where their parents, Beni and Corinna Kleger, first met.

#### A COUPLE ON THE RISE

Beni Kleger (60), a former top skier, completed his culinary apprenticeship with Plinio Testa at Salastrains, the very establishment now led by his son Fabian. He still speaks highly of his former mentor, saying, «The best and strictest boss you can imagine truly old-school.» In 1987, he and Corinna Kleger (60) purchased a residential property in Surlei, with an unobstructed view of Lake Silvaplana, and started running a very modest guesthouse with just one employee. Over seven major construction phases, they gradually transformed it into a four-star hotel with 31 rooms, several dining areas, a spacious wellness oasis, an underground parking garage with a passage leading to the annex across the street.

## WHEN PASSION BECOMES CULINARY STYLE

The three male Klegers are passionate hunters and go on high hunts together every September, occasionally venturing also into their hunting grounds Austria. The expertly prepared wild game, especially popular among their culinary-savvy guests from Italy, led to the development of a thriving gastronomy. Behind the terrace with its magnificent view of the Silvaplana region, there's a separately built «Baita,» the Italian word for «hut.» This charming space hosts all kinds of events that can get lively and vibrant without disturbing the hotel guests. For instance, an entire deer's back might be waiting for the joyful crowd to enjoy over an open fire. The Baita can also be transformed into a disco or, uniquely, a presentation room for luxury cars



### STAFF WHO ALWAYS STRIVE TO MEET THEIR CUSTOMERS' EVERY NEED.

Today, Bellavista serves many lunches and even more dinners, posing a tremendous challenge for the staff, always trying to fulfill all desires of their guests. Same also for the second restaurant and hotel "Salastrains" in St. Moritz, which is very busy during lunch in wintertime, serving extraordinary dishes directly on the slopes of famous ski-area "Corviglia".

"Not shying away from where help is needed". All Klegers are involved and can be found anywhere and everywhere. By the way, while it's often clichéd that Swiss hospitality lacks friendliness, the Klegers and their team defy this stereotype. They are incredibly warm and friendly, and the employees gladly embrace the example set by their bosses.

Bellavista Hotel Via de l'Alp 6, 7513 Silvaplana-Surlej, Switzerland





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