



## Fact Sheet

# Grand Hotel Kronenhof

## Pontresina, Switzerland



<b>Name</b>	Grand Hotel Kronenhof
<b>Category</b>	Five Star Superior Hotel Member of Healing Hotels of the World Member of Swiss Deluxe hotels Member of The Crown Collection
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**Location**

Grand Hotel Kronenhof is situated at the very heart of Pontresina, an idyllic mountain village lying at an altitude of 1,800 metres just six kilometres from St. Moritz. Surrounded by tranquil gardens and nestled amongst magnificent forests of pine and larch, Pontresina's only five-star deluxe hotel looks out onto breathtaking Alpine vistas.

Pontresina is one of the most attractive mountain resorts in Switzerland, the perfect location for a peaceful holiday or successful conference. Highlights include the typical Engadine architecture, the Santa Maria church with its Byzantine-Romanesque frescoes, the pentagonal Spaniola tower, the Alpine Museum and numerous art galleries. The Rondo Congress and Conference Centre features state-of-the-art technology designed to accommodate a wide variety of conferences, seminars and events.

For more information, please visit [www.pontresina.ch](http://www.pontresina.ch)

**Region**

The Engadine valley in Graubunden (or Grisons), the largest and most easterly of Switzerland's cantons, is one of Europe's highest inhabited valleys and stretches over more than 80 kilometres. The valley is divided into two parts, the Upper and Lower Engadine, connected by the high Punt'Otta bridge, which is over 300 years old. Of particular scenic beauty in the Upper Engadine, where Pontresina is located, are the Lakes of St. Moritz and Silvaplana, lush green valleys, alpine meadows and snow-capped peaks.

**History**

Founded in 1848 as the Rössli Guesthouse, Grand Hotel Kronenhof oozes charm and history. Over the years, it has been through several renovations, but the most dramatic was in 1898 when the hotel underwent an extensive remodelling and adopted its current horseshoe shape (three wings around a grand courtyard); it was at this time that the property was renamed Kronenhof-Bellavista.

Between the two World Wars, the tourism industry in the Engadine suffered, but the hotel survived by trading Veltliner wine from its extensive cellars and from business generated by the winter Olympics of 1928 and 1948, both held in nearby St. Moritz.

In 1989, having been owned by the same family for over 140 years, the hotel was sold to private investors, who – in turn – sold it to Engadinerkulm AG, owner of the renowned Kulm Hotel in St. Moritz, in 2004. Engadinerkulm AG is owned by the Niarchos family of Greek shipping fame.

### **Renovations**

In 2007, Engadinerkulm AG invested over CHF 35 million (approx £23.5 million) in extending and restoring Grand Hotel Kronenhof. Acclaimed architects Justus Dahinden and Rolf Som were responsible for the modern additions to the building, while renowned interior designer Jo Brinkmann took responsibility for the timeless elegance of the Grande Dame's interiors.

Alongside infrastructural improvements, such as a fully refurbished kitchen and a large underground car park, guests now benefit from a stunning 2000 m<sup>2</sup> wellness complex with 13 treatment rooms, as well as an additional 28 guestrooms and suites.

Developments are ongoing to ensure the hotel maintains its standing. For example, between April and June 2009, nine rooms were renovated and two new suites added; the 'Bellaval Suite' and the 'Engiadina Suite' in the Ganzoni wing are individually designed with luxurious bathrooms. A further improvement was the laying of cobblestones true to the originals in the grand courtyard.

Today, Grand Hotel Kronenhof is a registered historical landmark, recognized as one of the best preserved grand hotels of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Awards**

Grand Hotel Kronenhof was the third Top Hotel in Switzerland in the 2015 TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice® awards, having been named The World's Top Hotel in the same awards in 2014, as well as being ranked Europe's Top Hotel, Switzerland's Top Hotel, the fifth best Luxury hotel in Europe, the second most Romantic hotel in Switzerland and the top Luxury hotel in Switzerland. In 2014, Grand Hotel Kronenhof also won the Switzerland Tourism PRIX BIENVENU award as the most welcoming luxury hotel in Switzerland in 2014.

The restaurant 'Kronenstübli' has received many awards in its time, including first place in the 'Best of Swiss Gastro 2010' gourmet category and best Maître d'Hôtel in 2009 by 'Bilanz' the Swiss Business Magazine for its restaurant manager, Adriana Novotna.

### **In Good Hands – The Director**



Marc Eichenberger took over as Director of Grand Hotel Kronenhof, Pontresina, on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013, with responsibility for the hotel's operations.

A 39-year-old Swiss national, Marc Eichenberger is a graduate of the Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern, where he qualified as an Hotelier and Restaurateur. He has extensive knowledge of the luxury hotel segment in Switzerland, having

previously worked at the Arabella Sheraton Atlantis Hotel Baur au Lac in Zurich, Park Weggis Hotel in Lake Lucerne and Suvretta House in St. Moritz.

The four years he spent at Suvretta House means he also has excellent knowledge of the Engadine Valley.

### **Executive Chef and Maître d'Hôtel**

With Italian Executive Chef Fabrizio Piantanida and German Restaurant Manager Adriana Novotna, Grand Hotel Kronenhof is able to offer an outstanding level of dining experience in its gourmet restaurant Kronenstübli.



Piantanida graduated from the Hotel Management School Mellerio Rosmini in Domodossola, Italy in 1992 and has since worked in a number of luxury hotels in Italy, Switzerland and France, including Bürgenstock Hotels & Resorts in Bürgenstock and Grand Hotel Kronenhof and its sister property Kulm Hotel St. Moritz where he worked as a Sous Chef

during several winter seasons between 1995 and 2011. Piantanida's extensive experience throughout Europe has ensured his ability to produce refined French cuisine, traditional Italian cooking and classic dishes to which he adds his own creative flair.

Piantanida comes directly from the five-star boutique Hotel Vitznauerhof on Switzerland's Lake Lucerne, where he was also Executive Chef and earned 14 GaultMillau Points, overseeing three restaurants. Earlier this year, he graduated as a certified Executive Chef, a highly regarded qualification within Switzerland.

Kronenstübli's restaurant manager Adriana Novotna started her career in Vamp's in Dusseldorf, furthering her career at the Restaurant Rheinpark and Marcel's in Dusseldorf. She has been looking after guests in the Kronenstübli since 2003, gaining further experience at the 5 star Sheen Falls Lodge in Kenmare, Ireland where she managed Oscar's Restaurant.



### **Hotel Reception Rooms**

Space is a luxury at Grand Hotel Kronenhof. From the moment they enter the property, guests are taken with the grandeur of it all.

The majestic hotel lobby, with its ceiling frescoes completed by Otto Haberer in the early 1900s and fully restored today, reflects the glory of a bygone era in neo-baroque style, whether bathed in sunlight during the day or subtly lit at night. During the afternoon, a selection of teas and homemade cakes are served here, accompanied by a delightful tinkling of the ivories.

Other public rooms in which to relax abound. The fireplace lounge, with its warm crackling log fire, is the perfect spot for a cosy evening spent chatting with friends. Stucco ceiling decorations in pastel and gold adorn the tranquil Salon Bleu lounge, where guests can sit quietly and read a selection of domestic and international newspapers. With its golden wallpaper and stucco, the Roseg room is the ideal venue for afternoon bridge, family functions or social gatherings. If the occasion requires it, these three rooms can be connected, providing a stunning setting for seminars, conferences, congresses and banquets of between 6 and 250 guests.

### **Guestrooms**

All the rooms and suites that face south or southwest have wonderful panoramic views of the mountains, as well as the Corviglia and Roseg glaciers. Ranging in size from 35 m<sup>2</sup> to 75 m<sup>2</sup>, they feature bathrooms in marble and granite, and some have walk-in closets. Nine suites, 20 deluxe junior suites and 18 junior comfort suites feature separate living and sleeping areas, lovingly designed with their own individual style and attention to detail.

The Kronenhof Suite exudes the feeling of the Belle Epoque with stucco decorations and draped curtains in neo-baroque style. All the furniture and decorative details, which have been created in a turn of the century style, combine with the gold and royal blue hues of the wall fabrics to create a real feeling of both grandeur and nostalgia. Particularly charming are the generously sized double rooms of the Deluxe, Comfort and Standard categories, which have been lavishly furnished using Swiss pine and traditional Grisons-style ceiling panels.

All 112 rooms feature a mini-bar, a safe, satellite TV with integrated radio and WiFi Internet connection. Many rooms also have an ADSL port. Fax machines can be installed upon request.

### **Restaurants**

The Grand Restaurant, where breakfast and dinner are eaten, sets the standard of culinary excellence offered at Grand Hotel Kronenhof, serving Swiss specialties and a selection of international dishes. It has an imposing manor house style, with more beautiful ceiling frescoes by Haberer, as well as a minstrels' gallery and dazzling chandeliers, all of which provide a dramatic backdrop to both private and corporate events, whether romantic weddings or elegant gala dinners. Thanks to its outstanding acoustics, it also plays host to musical concerts on a regular basis.

The award-winning restaurant Kronenstübli, with its original Engadine furniture and Swiss-pine panelling, is a piece of living history and a haven for gourmets. Executive Chef Fabrizio Piantanida, restaurant manager Adriana Novotna and the entire team have really set new standards of excellence at Grand Hotel Kronenhof.

The 3-level Veltlin wine cellar built by Lorenz Gredig in 1867, with its original collection of wine barrels, old wooden skis and traditional bob sleighs, is among the Engadine's most beautiful and atmospheric. It is well suited for wine tastings, functions and intimate concerts.

Whether lunching in the old wooden Le Pavillon located in the gardens of the hotel, sipping cocktails in the legendary Kronenhof bar or enjoying Swiss raclette beside the old-fashioned bowling lane, Grand Hotel Kronenhof has a range of culinary experiences, each one unique.

Under the 'Dine Around' umbrella, guests staying on a half-board basis can also eat dinner in the restaurants of the Kulm Hotel, our sister property in St. Moritz.

### **The Kronenhof Spa & Wellness**

Enveloped by a soothing combination of water, scent and gentle sound, guests using the 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> Kronenhof Spa cannot fail to emerge with their bodies, minds and souls re-energized and re-invigorated.

One of the most impressive wellness complexes in the Engadine, if not the Alps, the spa has a substantial 20m indoor infinity pool with counter-current system, a spa pool with water jets, a relaxing flotation room with underwater music, a saltwater grotto, saunas, steam rooms, Kneipp footbaths, a solarium, a fitness room for yoga classes and a fully-equipped gym. And, after all that activity, a relaxation room with a crackling log fire to lull guests to sleep.

The Spa also has a hair salon, and 13 therapy and treatment rooms, where fully-trained therapists provide hydro jet, soft pack, massage and cosmetic treatments. Luxury French brand Carita and Alpienne, which harnesses the power of bio-active wild stock from the mountains, optimize the restorative effects of the professional treatments.

The pièce de la resistance is the Kronenhof Spa's private suite, where couples can enjoy a hydro jet bath together, before lounging on a double waterbed admiring the dramatic mountain vista, followed by a simultaneous 25-minute aroma massage and a rasul ceremony in the steam bath.

The Spa team includes therapists, physicians, instructors and wellness experts with a wealth of international experience who are available at all times to offer support and advice with regard to a guest's overall health, as well as to their choice of sports and recreational activities.

### **Activities**

57 ski slopes and ski lifts, 350 km of groomed slopes, 180 km of cross-country ski trails, 150 km of winter hiking trails and the hotel's own natural ice rink await the Kronenhof guests in the colder months. Other highlights include night time cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, as well as curling and paragliding. And, for pure romance, there are horse-drawn sleigh rides or skiing in the moonlight.

Summer visitors enjoy hiking, rock climbing, mountain biking and Nordic walking in the pure mountain air, as well as tennis on local courts. Sailing, wind- and kite- surfing can be tried at Lake Silvaplana, while the Inn river is perfect for

rafting, canoeing or fishing. Golfers can play the 9-hole golf course at the Kulm, our sister hotel in St. Moritz, as well the 18-hole courses in Samedan and Zuoz.

In summer, all guests who stay for two or more nights qualify to travel free on all mountain lifts in the St. Moritz/Engadine region. Magnificent views can be enjoyed by guests travelling on the panoramic Bernina Express. Since summer 2008, the train lines from Chur to St. Moritz and from Pontresina to Tirano have become UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Whether it's a boat trip on Lake Sils (Europe's highest scheduled boat service), an excursion into the Roseg Valley in a horse-drawn carriage, a day trip to the Swiss National Park, a ride to the top of Diavolezza or a helicopter ride over the magnificent Bernina mountains, guests' experiences are unforgettable.

### **Special Children's Programmes**

Professional nannies look after younger guests – aged 3 years or older – in the hotel's very own children's centre. The kids' programme changes daily so that younger guests can enjoy a diversity of age-appropriate activities during their stay at Grand Hotel Kronenhof. We even have our own children's restaurant, Rondelle, which serves supervised group lunches and dinners.

Families who book two connecting double rooms receive a 30 percent discount on the second room (valid if occupied by children up to the age of 14 years).

### **Getting there**

Pontresina, just 6km from the glitz and glamour of St. Moritz, is easy to reach via magnificent Alpine roads from Switzerland, Germany or Austria.

From Zurich, the journey by car takes around 2.5 hours (220 km), from Basel and from Munich (300 km) - via Innsbruck, Landeck and the Lower Engadine - around 4 hours. From Milan, Pontresina can be reached through Lecco, Lake Como, Chiavenna and the Maloja Pass in around 3 hours (170 km). A special sticker, available at the border and from service stations, is required for travelling on Switzerland's motorways.

Train passengers travel the awe-inspiring panoramic route of the Rhaetian Railway from Chur to Pontresina, a section served by the famous Bernina Express railroad, one of the world's most spectacular. Grand Hotel Kronenhof operates a car shuttle from and to the railway station.

The Upper Engadine Regional Airport in Samedan/St. Moritz can be reached by private jet or from Zurich, Geneva, Basel, Milan and Munich airports, using an air taxi to connect with international commercial flights. Air Engiadina, for instance, has a wide choice of aircraft and helicopters to meet individual requirements.

### **Rates**

Rates vary depending on room category, length of stay and date of stay.

Prices start at CHF 395 (approx £260) per night on a half board basis in a Standard single room and, for two people sharing, CHF 545 (approx £360) in a Standard double, CHF 860 (approx £565) in a junior suite Comfort, CHF 1020 (approx £670) in the Segantini Suite and CHF 1475 (approx £970) in the Kronenhof Suite.

During summer, the rates are CHF 325 (approx £215) per night on a half board basis in a Standard single room and, for two people sharing, CHF 465 (approx £305) in a Standard double, CHF 705 (approx £465) in a junior suite Comfort, CHF 810 (approx £535) in the Segantini Suite and CHF 1,100 (approx £725) in the Kronenhof Suite.

Minimum stays of between 3 and 10 nights may be required depending on the dates requested.

The winter season runs from mid-December to early April; the summer season from mid-June to mid-October. For further information on rates and availability, please visit our website at [www.kronenhof.com](http://www.kronenhof.com)

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