



Press Release

## **Claudio Laager to take over management of Grand Hotel Kronenhof Pontresina in January 2024**

*Pontresina, 6 September 2023:* The Kulm Group Board of Directors is pleased to announce that **Claudio Laager will take over management of the Grand Hotel Kronenhof Pontresina as of 1 January 2024.** For the 42-year-old Engadin native, the new position also means a return to his professional roots, as he began his career in the luxury hotel industry there. More recently, Laager was vice director at the five-star superior Tschuggen Grand Hotel Arosa from 2017 and has been director of the four-star superior Valsana Hotel Arosa, also part of the Tschuggen Collection, since 2021.

Claudio Laager began his professional development at the EHL Swiss School of Tourism and Hospitality in Passugg, graduating as a qualified Hôte­lier-Restaurateur. He continued his training in various other institutions, including the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration and the University of Applied Sciences (HTW) in Chur, where he earned a Master of Advanced Studies FHO in Hotel and Tourism Management.

Claudio Laager worked in various F&B positions at Badrutt's Palace Hotel St Moritz from 2010. He held the position of Food & Beverage Director from 2013 to 2015 and was also a member of the Executive Committee. He then worked as an independent F&B consultant for the World Ski Championships in St Moritz and obtained his first official title of vice director at the renowned Relais & Chateau Post Hotel & Spa on Lake Louise in Canada. In 2017, he responded to the call of the Tschuggen Collection and moved to the five-star superior Tschuggen Grand Hotel Arosa, again as vice director. The next career move came four years later when he was appointed director of the four-star superior Valsana Hotel Arosa, another property of the Tschuggen Collection. He will remain in this position until he moves to the Grand Hotel Kronenhof Pontresina.

The Engadin native is looking forward to this new challenge, bringing not only his high level of professional competence but also proven leadership skills and – thanks to his local ties – good market knowledge, allowing him to continue to successfully position the Grand Hotel Kronenhof on the national and international market. “This role as host of the legendary ‘Grand Dame’ of the Engadin is a real affair of the heart for me. I am already very much looking forward to tackling this challenge together with my future team, to bearing overall responsibility for the hotel, and to actively practicing the Kronenhof values, which are renowned far beyond the local area, especially in the area of sustainability.”

Bertrand Jungo, Kulm Group Board delegate, adds, “We are pleased to have found in Claudio Laager a locally anchored, well-connected, and deeply dedicated manager. He has a solid track record with many years of experience in the luxury hotel industry and we are convinced that he will apply his versatile core competencies in a profitable way and make a significant contribution to the further development of our excellently positioned hotel.”



**About the Grand Hotel Kronenhof Pontresina**

The historic Grand Hotel Kronenhof is situated in the heart of the Swiss mountain village of Pontresina. Guests will enjoy 112 elegant rooms and one of the most impressive wellness facilities in the Alps at an altitude of 1,800 metres. Renovations at the Kronenhof have been in the masterful hands of French interior designer Pierre-Yves Rochon since 2016. As the only five-star superior hotel in the village, this Engadin grande dame combines a stunning location with impressive architecture, breath-taking views, and multi-award-winning cuisine. Indeed, the Kronenstübli gourmet restaurant has consistently been awarded sixteen Gault Millau points since 2016. [www.kronenhof.com](http://www.kronenhof.com)

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