



GRAND HOTEL KRONENHOF
PONTRESINA



Press Release

The Engadine: Perfect for Quiet Autumn Breaks

Switzerland, August 2020: With travel to the United States currently curtailed for UK nationals, **Switzerland (rather than New England) is an obvious choice for a stunning Autumn break.** The Engadine valley, in the eastern canton of Graubünden, is particularly popular, offering the peace and quiet of wide-open spaces that can be explored on foot or by e-bike while admiring the spectacular panoramic vistas.



E-Biking & Hiking in the Engadine Valley in Autumn

Grand Hotel Kronenhof (www.kronenhof.com) in Pontresina has created a “September Mountain Escape” package to make the most of this very special time of year, once the summer holiday crowds have dispersed. In Autumn, the Engadine enjoys warm day-time temperatures and plenty of sunshine i.e. perfect conditions for hiking up a mountain, before enjoying a leisurely lunch on a restaurant terrace and then catching a train or gondola back to the hotel (unlimited use of all the mountain railways in the Engadine/St Moritz area is included in the package) for a late afternoon pamper in the Kronenhof Spa.

For those looking to explore further afield, the **Swiss National Park**, part of the worldwide UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, is a 45-minute drive away (guests travelling to the hotel by train can borrow a car for free – on a first come, first served basis). Eighty kilometres of footpaths and nature trails criss-cross the 170 magnificent square kilometres of National Park wilderness, offering visitors the chance to witness nature at its glorious best. Not just the landscape, but also the wild animals: ibex with their sweeping horns, cute-looking chamois, playful marmots, majestic red deer and maybe a golden eagle (six pairs are resident in the park).

For those who prefer to stick to train travel, there are plenty of day excursions to be made on the regional rail network. For example, to **Chur, the capital of the canton** with its car-free old town that is well worth exploring, and south over spectacular mountain passes and along scenic

valley routes, with piercing blue Engadine skies overhead, to Valposchiavo, in the Italian-speaking part of the country.



Autumn views from the Bernina Express; Grand Hotel Kronenhof & Bernina Gran Turismo

Closer to the hotel, **the Engadine valley hosts several events** during the Autumn, including free outdoor lunchtime concerts in the woods near Pontresina (till late September), a new digital art & culture forum called Window of the World and the Bernina Gran Turismo, which is recreating the historic St. Moritz Automobile Weeks of 1929 and 1930 by staging a series of hill climbs (open to classic racing and sports cars dating from the 1930s to early 1980s) on the Bernina Pass that are sure to delight both drivers and spectators!

Offered from 31 August to 1 October, Grand Hotel Kronenhof's **"September Mountain Escape"** package includes dinner, bed and breakfast, complimentary use of the hotel's stunning spa facilities, a 10% discount on spa treatments, unlimited access to the Kulm Golf St. Moritz golf course and tennis courts, and unlimited use of all the mountain railways in the Engadine/St Moritz area. Prices start from CHF 420 (approx. £350) per night for two people sharing a beautiful double room and staying for three to five nights, with the nightly rate reduced to CHF 395 (approx. £330) for those staying six nights or more. From 1 to 18 October, half-board room rates start from CHF 455 (approx. £380) for two people sharing a double room.

For more details and to book, please visit the Grand Hotel Kronenhof website www.kronenhof.com, email reservations@kronenhof.com or phone +41 81 830 3030.

Ends

Notes for editors

Grand Hotel Kronenhof (www.kronenhof.com), located in Pontresina, six miles from St. Moritz, offers the best of both worlds: the chance to enjoy the glitz of St. Moritz, while staying in a peaceful mountain village.

Grand Hotel Kronenhof has a rich and interesting history, having first opened its doors in the first half of the 19th century as a guesthouse. However, the main part of the current building, which is a registered historical landmark, was built at the very end of the 19th century in Neo-Baroque style. The latest wing, completed in November 2007 and costing CHF 35 million (approximately £24 million), consists of 28 new guest rooms and a stunning spa complex covering more than 2000 square metres. More recently, the internationally-renowned interior architect Pierre-Yves Rochon has been renovating a few guest rooms per year, in his own inimitable style, along with the creation of an elegant cigar lounge and adjoining billiards room.

The spa is certainly one of the hotel's highlights and has been named "the best Alpine spa" (according to Tyler Brule writing in the FT, November 2009). Facilities include a 20m indoor infinity pool with counter-current system, a flotation pool with underwater music, a wide range of saunas and steam rooms, a luxurious private suite for couples to enjoy wraps and massages together, and – for the perfect final touch – a crackling log fire in the relaxation room.

Gourmet cuisine is also a specialty at the Grand Hotel Kronenhof. Awarded the title of GaultMillau Hotel of the

Year in 2009, it has three restaurants (the formal Grand Restaurant in an elegant Neo-Baroque vaulted room, Gourmet Restaurant Kronenstübli serving Italian-Mediterranean cuisine with 16 GaultMillau points and the informal Le Pavillon for light lunches). In addition, the hotel features a 19th-century original bowling alley where Swiss raclette is served.

Finally, Grand Hotel Kronenhof is renowned for its extensive children's activities and facilities (a kids' playroom and Rondelle, a restaurant just for younger members of the family).

Recent awards for the Grand Hotel Kronenhof include:

- 2019 TripAdvisor Traveller's Choice Award (five years in a row) & TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence
Conde Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards: 3rd in the Top 20 Hotels in Central Europe category, 10th in the Top 20 Hotels in Europe category & 25th in the Best Hotels in the World category
Swiss business magazine Bilanz named one of ten best holiday hotels in Switzerland
- 2018 André Soares named Executive Housekeeper of the Year by Bilanz
PRIX BIENVENU awards, one of the top ten best luxury hotels in Switzerland
Trivago, best 5-star hotel in Switzerland
- 2017 World Luxury Spa Awards winner
Second place in NZZ's Swiss Hotel Ratings, named among the most beautiful holiday hotels

Both the Grand Hotel Kronenhof and its sister property Kulm Hotel St. Moritz are owned by the Niarchos family.

For more information, hi res images and to discuss a review visit, please contact:

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