





Here I am human, here dare it to be!

#### Gourmet cuisine with a view — 11

RESERVED FOR YOU



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#### Hubertus View — VOL. 3

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#### **ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS**

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## Dear guests and friends of the Hubertus!



It's three years ago now since we first came up with the idea of creating our own hotel magazine; at that stage it was a kind of experiment, to see if this kind of format would appeal to our guests. And today, as you hold the third annual issue in your hands, the Hubertus View magazine has taken firm root and grown to become a much-loved tradition. In this issue, we would like to give you a personal, behind-the-scenes glimpse into our hotel and our lives — insights which forge an authentic sense of connection with so many of our guests. In addition to our backstage tour, you can also look forward to

reading a wealth of interesting, absorbing articles

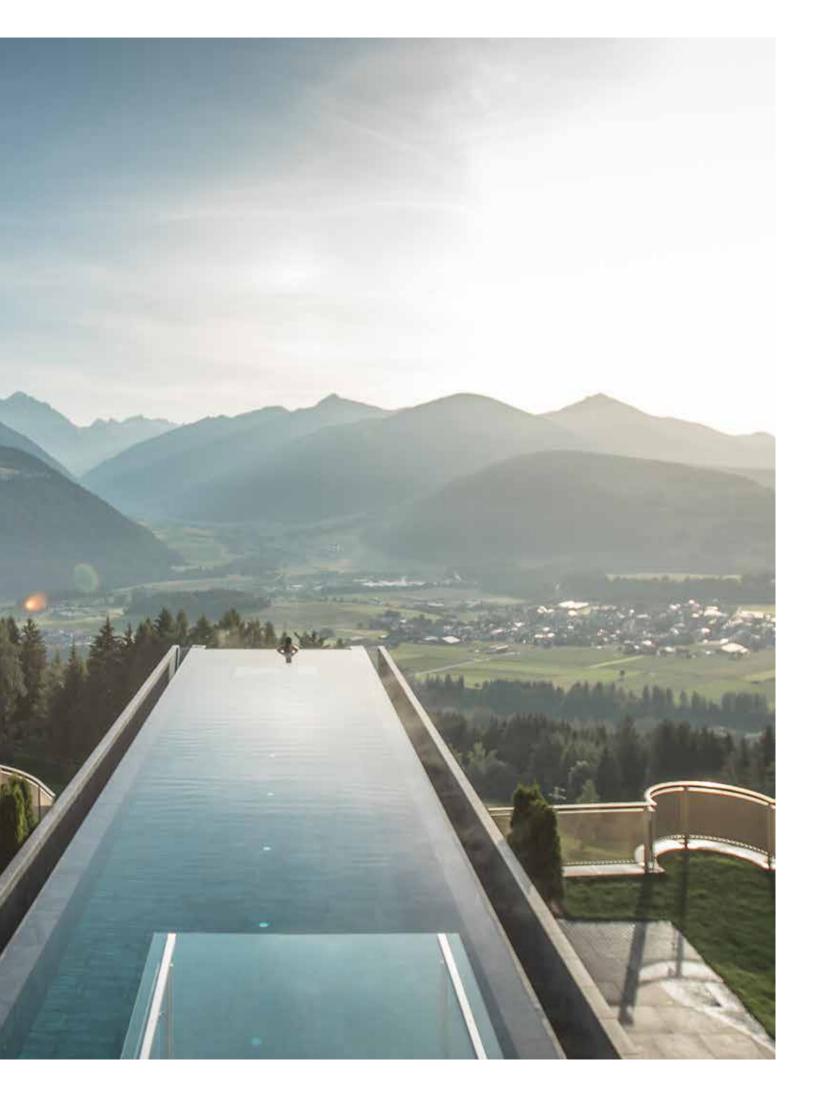
about our surrounding area.

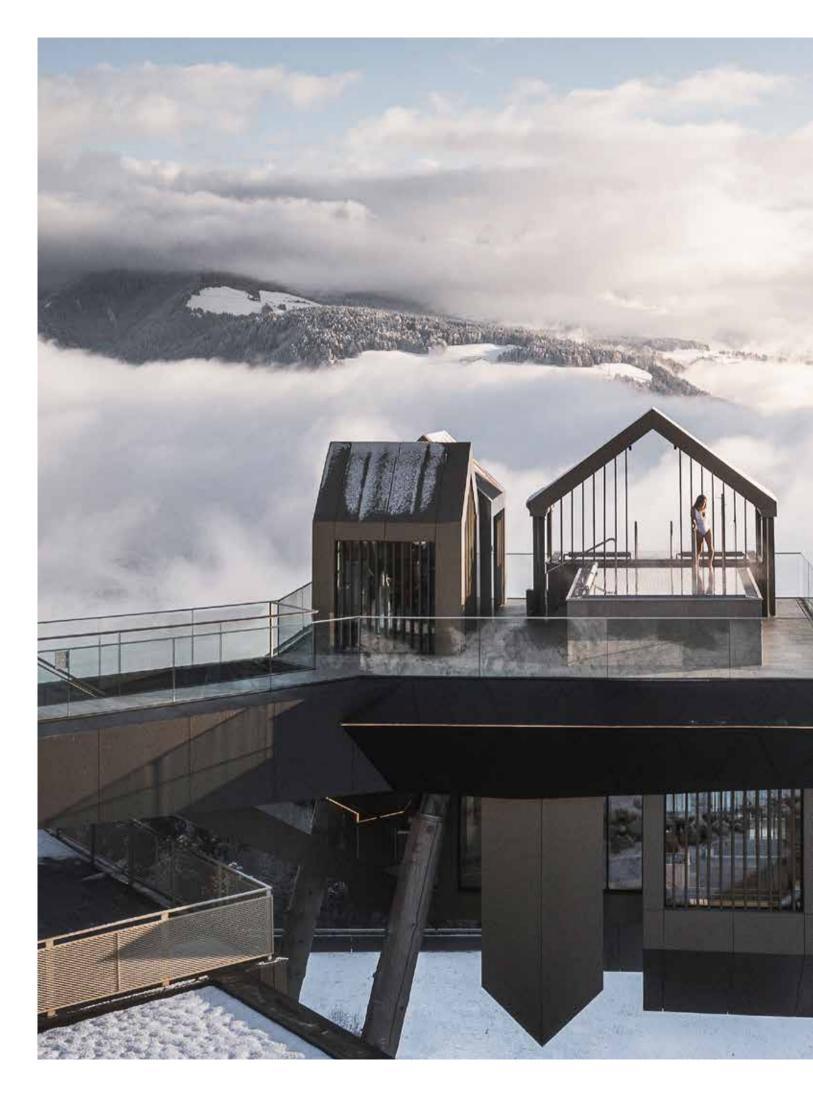
In the third edition of Hubertus View we have fixed our focus on the history of sport, with a firm emphasis on the Winter Olympics. Join us on our trip back in time to the Cortina 1956 Winter Games and a sojourn into the near future for the upcoming 2026 Winter Olympics when Antholz and Cortina will be playing a starring role as venues, within hand's reach of our Hubertus.

Our goal in creating this issue has been to compile an array of stories which have rarely or never been narrated, and present them from an interesting perspective. We hope you find them interesting and entertaining, and that you enjoy reading and browsing through the pages.

With kindest regards, Your hosts, Markus and Daniela Gasser

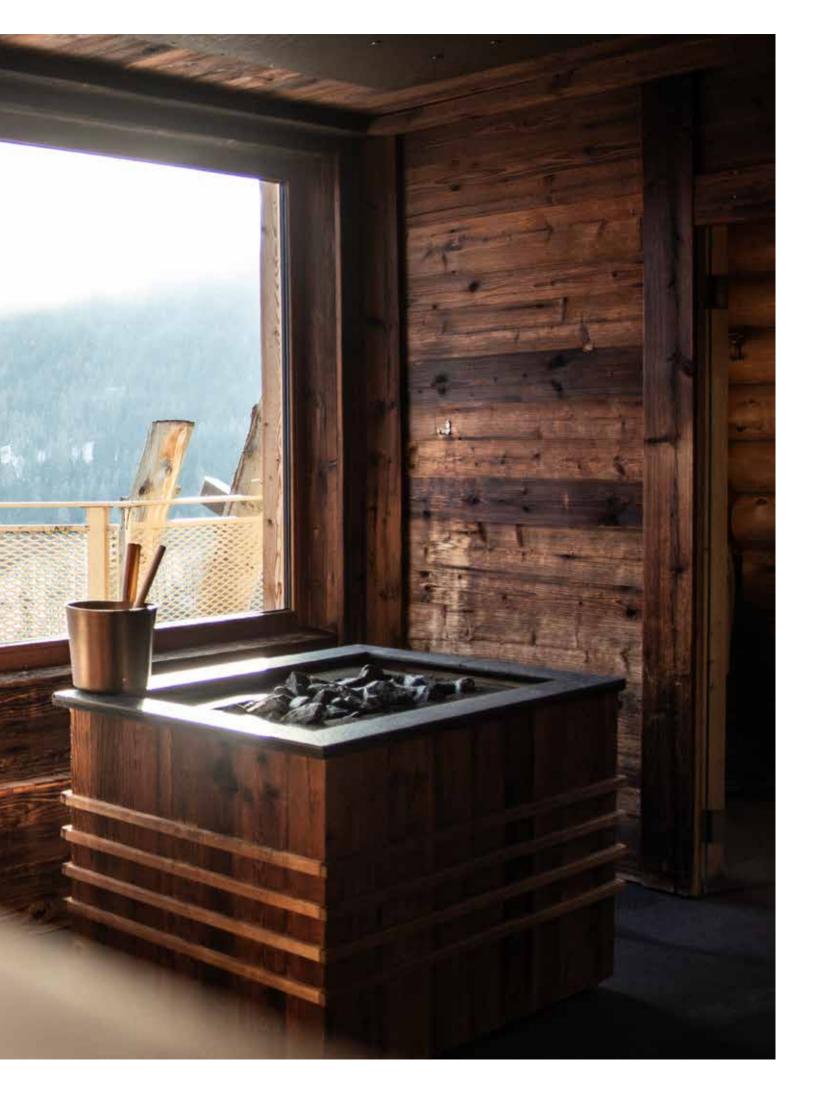














The Hubertus cuisine: Firm roots in the local area, and branches that embrace the world.



The taste of authenticity, prepared with love and skill.

The mountains surrounding the Hubertus inspire the tastes of authenticity. The heady scent of freshly cut alpine hay, the purity of clear mountain spring water, the warmth of the sun on a rocky mountain face and the crystal-clear air of the wind on the mountain peaks — all of this is mirrored in the tastes and scents of our dishes. In the hands of our skilled, talented chefs, traditional South Tyrolean recipes interweave and intertwine to form multifaceted cuisine inspired by our proximity to southern climes and the light delicacy of Mediterranean cuisine. Every moment of gourmet pleasure is an authentic encounter with the identity of our lands.

#### HOMEMADE, HOMEGROWN

Ingredients sourced from trusted hands, sophisticated recipes, and passion for the culinary arts:

Our promise to you is gourmet pleasure at its very best.



Regionality is dear to our hearts.



The taste of true craftsmanship.

In the Hubertus kitchen, head chef Antonio Triscari and his team guide you on a culinary journey of the highest order. They select all of their ingredients with uncompromising standards of origin and quality— we know a good many of our producers personally, and enjoy a long relationship of mutual trust. We also prepare many of our staple ingredients ourselves, including the oven-fresh bread baked every day with the very best of ingredients to envelop your morning breakfast with its warm, seductive scent, our creamy butter made with milk from South Tyrolean mountain farms, our jam made with sun-ripened berries, and our natural honey from Alpine mountain meadows. What a taste!





A sweeping view over the mountain-summit framed landscape right in front of the floor-to-ceiling windows. No matter where you sit in our restaurant, the atmosphere at the table will lift your spirits to heights untold. All of our dining rooms radiate Alpine elegance and warmth, while our service staff bring you welcoming hospitality with a smile. Sit back and bask in a sensation of true contentment that intensifies with every bite of our homemade delicacies.



Dining with a view in our restaurants

#### A STUNNING GOURMET VENUE

Gentle mountain summits together with rugged Dolomite peaks outside the window, discreet elegance and natural materials within. In our dining rooms, shapes, colours and textures flow into each other – just as they do in our beautifully-presented dishes.



Healthy and wholesome, with a touch of magic. The Hubertus cuisine.

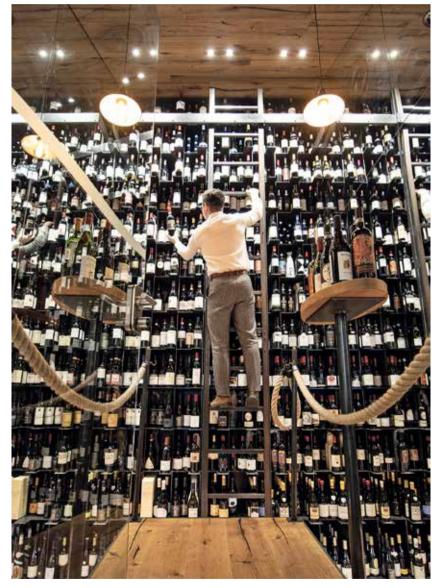


We're delighted to have you as our guest!

#### THE HOME OF CONNOISSEURS

Wines from South Tyrol, Italy, France and a number of other outstanding wine-growing regions, all lined up side by side in the Hubertus wine cellar. Ask our sommelier about his favourite wines, and benefit from his expertise.

We know our wines like the backs of our hands. And we love them! Our service team knows every bottle, every grape variety, and every story behind them. Our well-stocked wine cellar is home to the big names of the wine world and hidden treasures alongside them, all selected with skill and care by our own sommeliers. Regional classics and new entries, superlative Italian wines and rarities from around the world: with skilled expertise and well-honed intuition, we pair every dish with its own perfect wine. Do you prefer mineral wines with minerality and a subtle acidity, or do you lean towards full-bodied wines with an abundant bouquet and substance? The exclusive array at the Hubertus is waiting for you to explore its every nook and cranny - and is all set to whisk you off on an unforgettable journey from small hidden vineyards in South Tyrol, to renowned producers in Italy's top wine region, to outstanding international cellars. Yield to the seductive temptation!



The perfect pairing for your meal. It's waiting for you here.

# View +



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#### **OLYMPIC TALES FROM THE KRONPLATZ**

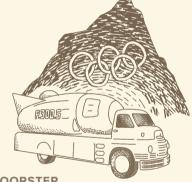
Time and again, our very own home-grown athletes from the local region have sparkled, shone and made Winter Olympic history. We have hunted through forgotten archives to bring you a few stories that have never been told before.

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#### **HOME OF CHAMPIONS**

Your at-a-glance guide to all of the medal winners from the Kronplatz.





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#### **OLYMPICS ON OUR DOORSTEP**

Two of the Olympic venues are just a stone's throw from our hotel.

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#### **OUR GRANNY HEIDI**

Shares the stories of her life in the city and the mountains.



## ON THE LEGACY OF FORESIGHT



When the Olympic rings shed their glow over Antholz in 2026, the honour is due in no small part to the foresight of Paul Zingerle who, many years ago, ploughed persistence, passion and endless vision into bringing the biathlon to Antholz in the 1970s.

A relative newcomer to the Olympics, it was only after World War II that biathlon—a blend of cross-country skiing and small-bore rifle shooting—became accessible to non-military athletes, and it was not until 1954 that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) recognised biathlon as a sport in its own right. Many years later Paul Zingerle, a teacher, sports enthusiast and man of great foresight, recognised the potential of biathlon. Together with a few colleagues, he pursued the ambitious aim of creating an international biathlon centre in his home community, despite the initial scepticism and occasional ridicule which met the plan.

Zingerle's first major breakthrough was due to happy circumstance: on hearing, by sheer chance, that the Italian biathlon team was training in Sterzing, he promptly contacted the trainer and persuaded him to visit the Antholz Valley. Zingerle's initiative thus brought the first biathlon event to Antholz in 1971—and it was followed by many more.

In 1975, Antholz was awarded the task of hosting a biathlon World Championship for the first time. In 1977 Paul Zingerle, who was also involved in the local tourism association, the local council and the sports association at that time, introduced the Biathlon World Cup together with Kurt Hinze, "Biathlon Pope" of the GDR. They swiftly compiled a series of regulations, purchased a 25kg trophy, and awarded it to the winner of the "International Biathlon Week". The official edition of this event was introduced just one year later.

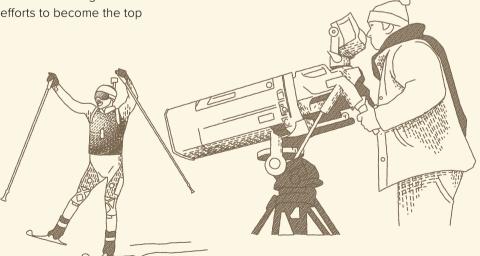
Following the World Championships of 1975 and 1976, the third World Championships were once again held at Antholz in 1983 – again, under the guidance of Zingerle and with the assistance of countless volunteers. In 1984, Zingerle handed over his role as President of the Biathlon Committee to Franz Rieder, who brought yet another World Championship to Antholz in 1995. Zingerle's love of biathlon, however, was of the enduring variety, and he maintained a passionate involvement with the sport for the rest of his days. Tragically, he died of heart failure during a trip to Moscow in 1992.

From 1997 onwards, Gottlieb Taschler, a former Olympic medallist, headed the committee. In 2016, Antholz hosted a World Cup for the fifth time and, under the current leadership of Olympic Committee director Lorenz Leitgeb, hosted its sixth World Cup in 2020. Together with Oslo's Holmenkollen, Antholz shares the top spot as one of the world's leading biathlon venues. In addition to its pre-existing infrastructure, one of the key arguments in favour of Antholz hosting the 2026 Olympic biathlon was the area's experience in organising large-scale events. Even after the Games are over, the facilities will be used in years to come both for major events and for the fostering of youth talent: Many children and teenagers have discovered that the biathlon centre provides outstanding facilities which support them in their efforts to become the top athletes of tomorrow.

"Biathlon is the third most popular television sport after football and Formula 1, in part because the broadcasters showcase the races as a work of art in their entirety."

(Tagesspiegel - Johannes Nedo)

The numbers are testimony to the success: At the 2020 World Championships alone, 649 hours of television were broadcast from Antholz—at 5.5 million viewers per race, this was the highest audience rating ever achieved for a winter sport in Germany. The Championships clocked up an average of 18.9 viewers per day, and 169.1 million overall: An advertisement of inestimable value for South Tyrol. "We are now looking forward to the 2026 Olympics with excitement and anticipation," adds OC Director Lorenz Leitgeb.



#### SOUTH TYROLEANS TAKE THE PODIUM

## THE HISTORICAL LUGE VICTORY OF 1964

Luge and South Tyrol are wed by an indivisible bond, and the Innsbruck 1964 Winter Games marked this connection with a historic victory: the first bronze medals for two South Tyrolean athletes. The 1964 Winter Olympics were the halcyon days of luge fans: this was the year that luging was listed as an Olympic discipline for the first time, when single-seater (women and men) and double-seater (men) races premiered in all their glory, and the beginning of the era when lightning-speed luge races became an integral part of the Olympics. And the best thing of all about this debut year was that, right from the very outset, South Tyrol ranked amongst the best of the best: lugers Siegfried Mair from the neighbouring Niederdorf and his partner Walter Außerdorfer sped to third place and took the bronze in the doubles event, in a thrills-packed race



of significance that far exceeded sporting triumph: In this podium ranking, Mair and Außerdorfer won Italy's first-ever medal in luge.

Siegfried Mair's achievements and dedication inspired countless young lugers, and he invested great passion into developing their skills. Tragically, this role model of sports left us all too young when he died in a car accident at the age of just 38. His legacy, however, lives on in the hearts of all sports fans in South Tyrol.

#### **MEDALS FOR ANTHOLZ**

#### 11 BRONZES - THE MIRACLE OF ANTHOLZ

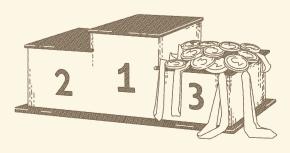
When a Bronze feels like a Gold: With an impressive double-ace of credentials to recommend it, the valley has made quite a name for itself in the winter sports scene: firstly, the region is home to no less than 11 Olympic medal-winners. And secondly, Antholz itself is a world-famous venue for biathlon World Cup races and World Championship events. In 2026, it is set to become the stage for the Winter Olympics, the top event for sports fans the world over.

Considered to be the cradle of Italian biathlon, no other part of South Tyrol can boast such an impressive collection of Olympic medals as our neighbouring community of Rasen-Antholz. And with its all-new biathlon stadiums, it is also home to one of the most spectacular biathlon centres in the world.

Just one look at the medal table says it all: to date, Rasen-Antholz has picked up 10 Olympic medals in biathlon and one in luge. All bronze, admittedly, but in biathlon you have to expect the unexpected, as everybody who is familiar with the sport is well aware: a missed shot or a sudden change in the weather is all it takes to change the outcome of the competition; oftentimes sheer bad luck alone has

prevented athletes from reached higher rankings, and sometimes just a pinch of luck has secured a medal. However, these training all tell a story of the athletic excellence, indefatigable training and immense passion that encapsulate the Antholz Valley to this day.

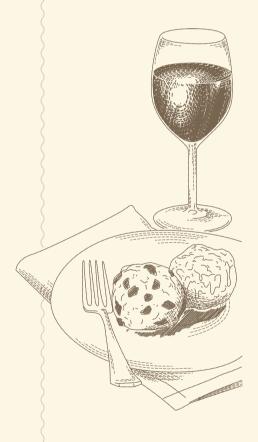
And it is these qualities that make the joy that the 2026 Olympic biathlon races will bring all the greater. Perhaps local athletes from the valley will make it to the podium once again – and who knows, maybe this time a gold medal will glow from our home while the whole world watches the Antholz Valley.



#### A HUMOROUS HISTORY OF RASEN/ANTHOLZ AND OLANG

#### IF IFS AND BUTS...

The towns of Olang and Rasen-Antholz are set in a small, beautiful corner of South Tyrol, where the mountains are almost as high as the athletes' dreams. But before we delve into the annals of the Olympic Games, we'd like to take you on a little detour into history – not without a laugh and a smile on the way!

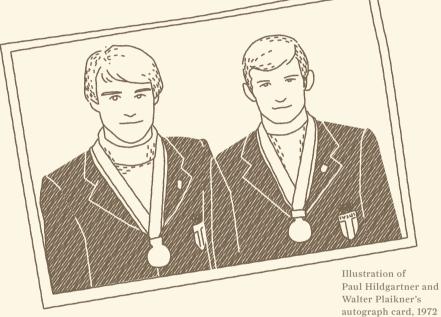


Once upon a time – in 1928, to be precise – the two hamlets of Olang and Rasen-Antholz met up for a drink. And as the night wore on and the wine flowed aplenty, in merry unison they cried "Let's come together as one! Let's be Rasen-Olang!" Here's to unity! And so it was to be.

Many years later wine got the better of them as it tends to do, and the two friends embarked on a heated quarrel over dumpling preferences: "I want the speck ones!" shouted one. "No. the cheese ones!" countered the other. And after much animated debate fuelled by yet more wine, they decided to go their separate ways once more. And that is the tale of how Olang and Rasen-Antholz came to be two separate towns once again. However, sports history conceals one small, quiet secret: if the two communities had stuck together, the tally of home medals would have been considerably higher: 14 to be precise, almost onethird of all the 47 medals which have to date been won by South Tyrolean athletes. "If only we had stayed together," some

inn-goers would lament, as they cried into their glasses over the medals which never were. However, 'if' is an insidious little beast that will not stop knocking. "If you hadn't split up, you would have the medals now," he whispers. The word 'if' could almost make you an honorary citizen. The two communities are now good friends once more. They meet regularly for sport – and for perhaps the most sociable discipline in the land: a "bit of speck and a drink or two." The question of the medals still comes up now and again on a particularly merry night, but people would tend to laugh about it these days. "What if...?"

# THE LEGENDARY RACE FOR THE GOLD ON THE ICE CHUIS



At the Sapporo 1972 Winter Olympics, two athletes from Kiens, a town at the Kronplatz, Walter Plaikner and Paul Hildgartner, wrote Olympic history when they won the first gold medal for South Tyrol. Over 50 years later, Walter Plaikner, double-seater luge champion and Arnold K. editor of the Hubertus View magazine, take a seat in the cosy Hubertus Stube lounge to look back on their memories over a glass of wine and bring the unforgettable day and the emotions of bygone times back to vibrant life.

Walter, it's hard to believe that more than 50 years have passed since you won the gold in Sapporo. I remember it as if it were yesterday. Back in those days, there was no TV in my small mountain village - all we had was the radio, and I sat there enthralled as I heard the news of your victory. "That was true excitement at its best!" Two men from our home lands, Olympic champions – I was so incredibly proud. By the by, there were actually three athletes from South Tyrol who left the world champs in their wakes that day: Ski racer Gustav Thöni also won the gold.

Walter Plaikner: Yes, Arnold, all of those memories are very much alive for me too. Paul and I did a lot of improvising and testing. Our luge was still just a shell, and we had the seat made in smooth leather by a saddler in Japan.

#### "Off to the Japan Olympics with a half-finished luge"

We hoped that this would improve our aerodynamics. We fitted longer runners too, on the suggestion of Sepp Mayer, our trainer from Lake Schliersee, who also built the luges for us – ultimately, it gave us a decisive advantage.

And your amateur engineering and will to win paid off! Do you remember, I asked you for an autograph card when I was a sports-mad schoolboy? I remember waiting for months, and how delighted I was when I finally received a reply and held the card with your photo on it.

Walter Plaikner: Yes, I remember the requests, they were still manageable. At that time, it was normally only ski racers who had autograph cards, never lugers. Back then, we first had to go to the photo studio in Bruneck to have our photos taken. Printed autograph cards were too expensive, so we had some black and white prints made.

And then there was all the drama with the restart after the GDR complained. That must have been incredibly nerve-wracking!

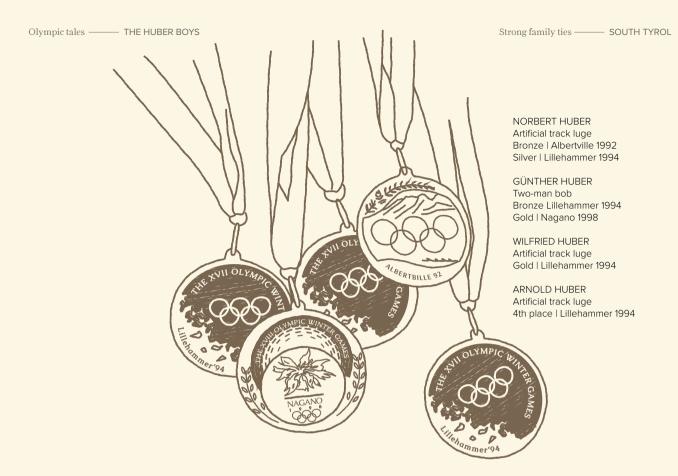
Walter Plaikner: Yes, it really was. During the race, the starting bars came a little loose, the trainers of lugers Bredow and Hörnlein complained, and the race was restarted. In the end, however, we still managed to secure an ex aeguo Olympic victory with our fellow racers. It was a crazy race six luge teams finished in the top ten with identical times: two teams in first place, two in fifth and two in ninth. It was the Sapporo race that prompted the International Luge Federation to change the timings in artificial luge to thousandths of a second.

It's incredible how stories like this can change the course of sport. But it wasn't just a question of technology: sponsorship also played an important role. I remember reading something about your racing suits in the papers at the time. What was the story there?

Walter Plaikner: Oh yes, a roof tile producer from our hometown donated our racing suits to us. It was a different time – details like that are what make the story interesting, aren't they? Today, it would be unimaginable. But it was precisely these make-do-and-manage solutions that enabled us to make progress at that time. Improvising was every bit as important as the training itself.

It's remarkable, Walter. It shows how much passion was put into what you were doing. This story of passion, lifeblood and community is still a living memory, and is a tale that deserves to be told.

Walter Plaikner: This kind of story is a rarity in professional sports today. Nothing is left to chance now, and everything is always organised to perfection. Looking back, alongside the victory, it is precisely moments like these that remain in our memories.



## THE HUBER BOYS

The "Huber boys" from the picturesque town of Montal in the Kronplatz area are a family who has made sporting history.

### OTHER CHAMPION FAMILIES

In the ranks of famous Olympic champion siblings, the "Huber Boys" take the undisputed title: to date, no other family has claimed three Olympic medals. This record has brought the Huber family to legendary status.

#### GERMANY

#### LOCHNER FAMILY

Johannes Lochner (Nephew, bobsledder)
Rudi Lochner (Uncle, bobsledder)

#### FRANCE

(Ski racer)

#### **GOITSCHEL SISTERS**

Christine Goitschel (Ski racer) Marielle Goitschel

#### E.

#### AUSTRIA

#### LINGER BROTHERS

Andreas Linger (Luger) Wolfgang Linger (Luger)

#### SWITZERLAND

#### **GISIN SISTERS**

Dominique Gisin (Ski racer) Michelle Gisin (Ski racer)



#### SPAIN

(Ski racer)

#### FERNÁNDEZ OCHOA SIBLINGS

Francisco Fernández Ochoa (Ski racer) Blanca Fernández Ochoa



Norbert, Günther, Arnold and Wilfried – four brothers whose incredible achievements have made an indelible mark on the sporting world. Their surnames a byword for determination and an exceptional ability to put their talents to the highest of tests.

Although a number of siblings have earned themselves medals in the long history of the Winter Olympics, The "Huber Boys" are a rare phenomenon: they are the only family in which three siblings have won an Olympic medal. This outstanding success has earned them a well-deserved place in the annals of Olympic history.

Their collective performance at the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics is more impressive still: Norbert, Günther and Wilfried all brought home medals from there while Arnold just missed a podium spot by a whisker. Although his fourth-place ranking may seem like a disappointingly near miss at an initial reckoning, when taken together with his brothers' overall performance it remains an incredible achievement.

The fact that four brothers have all reached the upper echelons of their sport is a unique occurrence. Their achievements are due not only to their talent, but to mutual support and a deep bond with their homeland. The successes of the Huber brothers remain unmatched to this day: three brothers who have won Olympic medals and, with them, made sporting history.

#### CROATIA

**KOSTELIĆ SIBLINGS** 

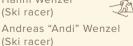
Janica Kostelić (Ski racer)

lvica Kostelić

(Ski racer)

#### WENZEL BROTHERS

Hanni Wenzel (Ski racer)



#### MAHRE BROTHERS

Phil Mahre (Ski racer) Steve Mahre (Ski racer)



#### NUBBERT HIIRE

The oldest of the brothers, Norbert opened the family's chapter of Olympic victories at the 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville where he won a bronze in the doubles luge. Two years later, at Lillehammer 1994, he demonstrated his talents once again, taking the silver. Famed for his rigid discipline and exceptional technical ability, Norbert was not only one of the most lasting lugers of his time, but also a role model for his younger brothers.



The second-oldest brother, Günther, opted for bobsleigh, and lived a sporting career of courage, precision and tactical skill. He won the bronze in the two-man bob at Lillehammer 1994, but the highlight of his sporting life came four years later at Nagano 1998 when, after exemplary runs, he and his brakeman were crowned Olympic champions, in well-deserved acknowledgement of both his sporting talent and leadership skills on the ice chute.

The third brother, Arnold, narrowly missed a podium in Lillehammer, ending the race in a thankless fourth place. However, he also left a lasting mark on the luge scene through his accomplishments. With a world championship, runner-up position in the world championships and countless World Cup podiums, Arnold proved beyond a doubt that he was by no means in his brothers' shadows, and his achievements rounded off the picture of a family of extraordinary athletic ability.



The youngest of the medal-winning brothers, Wilfried's career was no less impressive than his siblings'. He took the doubles-luge gold at Lillehammer 1994 – and this was the moment that raised the Huber family's success to a whole new level.

#### OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS FROM THE KRONPLATZ

## HOME OF

The Kronplatz region shimmers and shines as a diamond of winter sports, and sparkles and glitters with its astounding collection of Olympic medals. Many athletes from this area have made sporting history, particularly in biathlon and luge. The Huber family hold a very special place in the honours list: With seven medals to their name, they are the undisputed dynasty of luging, and have shaped an entire era. Antholz, home to ten medal winners, has made a significant contribution to Olympic glory and has proved worthy of its reputation as the centre of biathlon time and again. And with a tally of four Olympic medals, Olang also adds a chapter of pride to the Olympic tale. The Kronplatz region is not only a dream destination for winter sports fans, but also a location that can rightly call itself the "Home of Champions."

a	Paul Hildegartner	Gold	Sapporo 1972	Artificial track luge doubles
b	Paul Hildegartner	Gold	Sarajevo 1984	Artificial track luge singles
C	Paul Hildegartner	Silver	Lake Placid 1980	Artificial track luge singles
d	Walter Plaikner	Gold	Sapporo 1972	Artificial track luge doubles
е	Wilfried Huber	Gold	Lillehammer 1994	Artificial track luge doubles
f	Günther Huber	Gold	Nagano 1998	Two-man bob
g	Günther Huber	Bronze	Lillehammer 1994	Two-man bob
h	Norbert Huber	Silver	Lillehammer 1994	Artificial track luge doubles
i	Norbert Huber	Bronze	Albertville 1992	Artificial track luge doubles
j	Lukas Hofer	Bronze	Sochi 2014	Biathlon mixed relay
k	Lukas Hofer	Bronze	Pyeongchang 2018	Biathlon mixed relay
1	Kurt Brugger	Gold	Lillehammer 1994	Artificial track luge doubles
m	Christof Innerhofer	Silver	Sochi 2014	Alpine-skiing downhill
n	Christof Innerhofer	Bronze	Sochi 2014	Alpine-skiing super combined
0	Gottlieb Taschler	Bronze	Calgary 1988	Biathlon relay 4 x 7,5 km
p	Johann Passler	Bronze	Calgary 1988	Biathlon individual 20 km
q	Johann Passler	Bronze	Calgary 1988	Biathlon relay 4 x 7,5 km
r	Andreas Zingerle	Bronze	Calgary 1988	Biathlon relay 4 x 7,5 km
S	Dorothea Wierer	Bronze	Sochi 2014	Biathlon mixed relay
t	<u>Dorothea Wierer</u>	Bronze	Pyeongchang 2018	Biathlon mixed relay
u	Dorothea Wierer	Bronze	Peking 2022	Biathlon sprint
v	Dominik Windisch	Bronze	Sochi 2014	Biathlon mixed relay
w	Dominik Windisch	Bronze	Pyeongchang 2018	Biathlon 10 km sprint
X	Dominik Windisch	Bronze	Pyeongchang 2018	Biathlon mixed relay
у	Gerhard Plankensteiner	Bronze	Turin 2006	Artificial track luge doubles
Z	Karl Brunner	Silver	Lake Placid 1980	Artificial track luge doubles
a	Hansjörg Raffl	Silver	Lillehammer 1994	Artificial track luge doubles
þ	Hansjörg Raffl	Bronze	Albertville 1992	Artificial track luge doubles
Ç	Thomas Prugger	Silver	Nagano 1998	Snowboard giant slalom







## THE OLYMPICS OF THEN...

Initially planned for 1944, the Cortina Olympics were cancelled due to the Second World War and thus Italy did not begin writing its chapter of Winter Olympic history until 1956. Unlike today, the Olympics were held in one single location in those years, which meant that most athletes also met up outwith the races. Given the vast number of disciplines and competitors that

we see today, single-venue Olympics are no longer viable; the Games are held in a variety of locations, and the majority of competitors no longer come together in one single place as they used to. And it is a pity, as direct contact between athletes is becoming rarer and rarer.

#### **CORTINA 1956 WINTER OLYMPICS**

#### THE TREASURE CHEST OF MEMORIES

#### FIRST TELEVISION BROADCAST

For the first time ever, the Olympics were accessible to the general public.

#### A MEMORABLE MOMENT

Italian alpine-ski racer Giuliana Chenal Minuzzo became the first woman in Olympic history to take the Olympic oath during the opening ceremony. This was a groundbreaking moment for the role of women in Olympic sports.

#### **TONI SAILER**

The Austrian ski racer otherwise known as the "Blitz from Kitz" became the undisputed star of the Winter Olympics, taking all three gold medals in the alpine skiing disciplines (downhill, giant slalom and slalom). After retiring from competitive sports in 1959, Sailer enjoyed a successful career as an actor, singer and ski instructor.

#### FIRST UNITED GERMAN TEAM

The Federal Republic of Germany and the GDR competed as an all-German team for the first time.

#### ITALY TRIUMPHS IN THE BOB RACES

Italy's athletes dominated the bobsleigh events, winning three medals: Giacomo Conti and Lamberto Dalla Costa took the lead ahead of the favourite, Eugenio Monti. Conti joined the Italian Air Force during World War II, and was selected as bobsled pilot after the successful completion of a number of test runs. In the four-man bobsled event, Eugenio Monti took second place behind Switzerland.



The Spitlight P.300 – the mindblowing invention by Switzerland's Gianni Andreoli

#### THE SPITLIGHT P.300 – A MASTERPIECE OF ENGINEERING

During the 1956 Cortina Winter Olympics, the Spitlight—a spectacular invention by Gianni Andreoli from Ticino-projected images onto a rock face for the first time ever. The 5-tonne projector, packaged in futuristic aluminium casing, was mounted on a custom-extended Bedford truck with a built-in generator. Andreoli's arc lamp with its purpose-designed carbon fuel rods produced an incredible light density of 375,000 lumens, capable of projecting image widths of up to 1km for around 40 seconds over distances of up to 6 km. A team of four people was required to cool the light source, which reached temperatures of up to 7,000°C, and manage the onerous task of creating the optics. After a few more outings, including the Olympics, the Spitlight was initially stored well out of the reach of investors of dubious repute at a disused mine in Italy, and later removed to a variety of locations in Switzerland









## ...AND TODAY

#### **2026 WINTER OLYMPICS:** THE HUBERTUS TAKES THE SPOTLIGHT

The XXV Milano-Cortina Winter Olympics from 6 to 22 February 2026 will bring the apex of winter sports right to the doorstep of the Alpin Panorama Hotels Hubertus: The biathlon events will be held in our neighbouring town of Antholz, while Cortina, around an hour's drive to the east of the Hubertus, with its Sliding Centre for the bobsleigh, skeleton and luge events, the ski slopes for the women's events, and the ice stadium for curling, will be hosting the other events.

#### 31 MEDAL EVENTS IN ANTHOLZ AND CORTINA

Edge-of-the-seat excitement is guaranteed at the biathlon events in Antholz, where a total of eleven events will see Olympic champs and champesses battling it out for the much-coveted medals in five disciplines. The mixed event, with teams of men and women, promises even more thrill-packed moments. And that's not all: Just an hour to the east, in Cortina, the elite of winter sports will be putting their skills to the test in women's alpine skiing, luge, bobsleigh, skeleton and curling. Taken together, Cortina and Antholz will be holding 31 medal events, in an adrenalin-packed programme for all sports fans.

But the sporting fun and games don't end with the XXV Olympic Games: from 6 to 15 March 2026, Cortina will return to the heart of the sporting world for the Cortina Paralympic Games, when the area will be hosting the para-snowboard, para-alpine skiing, and wheelchair curling events. With their impressive achievements, these athletes earn the well-deserved respect and recognition of millions of live spectators and TV viewers the world over.

#### **OLYMPIC EVENTS IN ANTHOLZ**

#### **BIATHLON**

Men's sprint 10 km Individual 20 km Pursuit 12.5 km Mass start 15 km Relay 4 x 7.5 km Women's sprint 7.5 km Individual 15 km Pursuit 10 km Mass start 12.5 km Relay 4 x 6 km Mixed relay 4 x 6 km

#### **OLYMPIC EVENTS** IN CORTINA

#### **BOB**

2-man bob 4-man bob 2-women bob Women's monobob

#### **SKELETON**

1 Men 1 Women 1 Mixed

#### **LUGE**

1 men's singles 1 men's doubles 1 women's singles 1 women's doubles 1 team relay

#### **CURLING**

1 men's 1 women's

#### **ALPINE SKIING WOMEN**

Downhill Giant slalom Super-G Slalom Combined









## From merchant's daughter to "city grandma"

GRANDMA HEIDI



As a mother, a businesswoman and a grandmother, Heidi lived a life of common sense, generosity and kindness. Her grandchildren, Daniela and Markus in particular, remember her as a safe haven and a loving support at all times.

Although the name on her birth certificate is Adelheid—a name which she has never liked—Daniela and Markus' grandmother always introduces herself as Heidi. Even her parents called her Heidi. However, in 1939, the year she was born, the Fascists government was in power and all that was German was strictly prohibited, including first names. And given that the name Heidi has no Italian equivalent, her name officially became Adelaide," and later "Adelheid." Ultimately, the name on the birth certificate never stuck; Heidi, as she was always to be known, grew up as the second of four children in a German-speaking merchant family in Bolzano, and was the apple of her father's eye. Sadly, he died at a young age, and Heidi missed him terribly.

When she was old enough to begin an apprenticeship in one of the family's shops, rather than sending her to the family's porcelain shop in Bolzano's "Lauben" street her mother decided that she would go to their second shop, behind the Talfer bridge. In this part of the city, Heidi served almost exclusively Italian customers. This meant that she not only honed her language skills, but that many terms and phrases came more easily to her in Italian than in German. Normality in Bolzano, however, was intolerable in Bruneck. "This won't do! You have to speak German here!" her husband Franz demanded one evening, after a night out with friends in their local bar, the "Grüner Baum" in Bruneck's Stadtgasse. That was in 1961. They had only been married for a few weeks, and Franz insisted that Heidi stop mixing German and Italian expressions when she spoke. In those years, the rights of the German-speaking people of South Tyrol were not protected under the statute of autonomy as they are today, and the people of the Pustertal were more than irritated by Heidi's Italian-tinged manner of speaking.

The story of Franz and Heidi
Gasser is confirmation of the fact
that sport brings people together.
If the Giro d'Italia hadn't passed
through the mountains of
South Tyrol, they would probably
never have met.

Heidi and Franz met on 6 June 1958 on the Grödner Joch during the Giro d'Italia, the most famed cycling race in Italy. Heidi's older sister was desperate to go to this stage of the race, so close to home, with her boyfriend, and their mother would only allow her to go if Heidi chaperoned them. Franz Gasser, who was just starting out his career in the car trade in Bruneck, was also there at the Grödner Joch that day to cheer on Italian cyclist Fausto Coppi with his friends—just like all the spectators who turned out that day to support the national hero. Their first meeting ended with Heidi and Franz taking a trip to the "Grüner Baum" to continue the festivities.

Just a few months after their wedding, Franz wanted his wife to get a driving licence. Heidi was flattered: Her mother would never have allowed her to learn to drive, in part because it was too expensive, and in part because, in 1962, it was not the done thing for women to sit in the driver's seat. Like all learners, Heidi had to take her driving test in Bolzano, the capital of the province. As a native of the city, she knew her way around the town well, and handled all of the main roads and back roads with ease —and passed on her first attempt.

When their first child, Christian, was born, the couple's happiness was complete. Two more sons followed, but the first-born was already conscious of his place within the family.

fiebe Marna!

Du bist die Schönste.
Du hast mich lieb.
Du pfleget mich.
Du phristmich.
Ich hab Dich sihrt
lieb. Ich buinge die

un autes Zeugnus.
Ich habe jetzt auch
meine Bruden lieb. Ich

Small he may have been, but with a voice loud enough to keep Heidi and Franz awake the whole night through. Even her mother-in-law, known far and wide as the "Queen of Horses," as she would ride down to Bolzano from the family manor to do her shopping on horseback, felt pity for her: "I'm so sorry for you," she said to Heidi in compassion, "I had 13 children, but I never once had to get up at night for any of them. The maid always looked after them." At just 2 and a half years old, Christian was already at his ease on skis. His father Franz, who had grown up in Bolzano, had only learned to ski in his adult years, and wanted Christian, Alexander and Lukas to learn as young as possible. Christian proved to be a natural talent from the very outset: he was a member of the ski club when still in primary school and went on to become a member of the Italian national downhill team, to the great joy of his father, who was extremely supportive of Christian's skiing career. His mother Heidi was somewhat less enthusiastic and was always a little worried, particularly when he was racing in downhill events.

When Christian took over the hotel, he came up with a lot of innovative ideas for his guests. One of his many novel innovations was his Five O'Clock Tea: Every day, he would invite people to tea at the Hubertus, an event which Heidi thoroughly enjoyed. Always happy to help her son out wherever she could, she

Bruneck, 8 May

Dear Mummy,
You are the prettiest.
You love me.
You guide me.
I love you so much.
I'll bring you a good report card.
Now I love my brothers too. I want to help you. Thank you for everything.
Your Christian

Letter from Christian to his mother on Mother's Day 1972

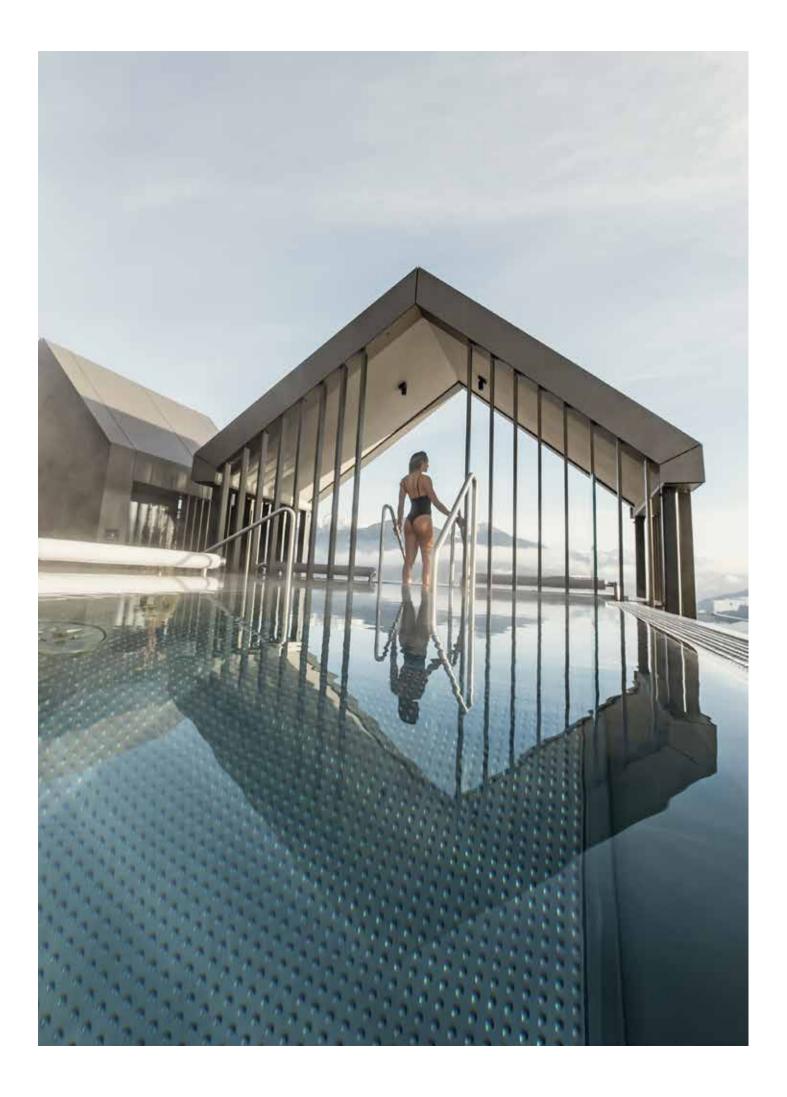
still recalls the times when she served guests behind the bar every day. She also has vivid memories of tour groups from England who came to the Pustertal through Christian's "KIGA Tours" travel agency, who she communicated with through hand gestures as she didn't speak a word of English.

The Hubertus of today stands on the same site as the erstwhile "Höhenrain" guest house, where Heidi and Franz would often sit on the terrace and gaze out at the beauty of the mountains. Franz loved this view and would often remark "Hoamelen tuats," – it reminds me of home. His own childhood home had an equally magnificent view down into Bolzano. When Franz had the opportunity to purchase the inn in Geiselsberg, he didn't have to think twice. However, as a passionate hunter, he immediately changed the name to the "Hubertus."

When Christian married Helga, Heidi retired from her work at the hotel as she wanted to make way for her daughter-in-law, the young "Ms Gasser" who, much to Heidi's joy, mastered the tasks of the Hubertus with flying colours— a joy which was all the greater when her firstborn had two children of his own, giving her her first grandchildren: first Daniela, and then, three years later, Markus. As a grandmother, Heidi was often called on to babysit, and she loved having her grandchildren close to her. She would drive the children from Geiselsberg to Bruneck, where she looked after them with loving care. Her grandchildren Daniela and Markus called her "City Grandma." "Daniela was an absolute gem. Such a nice, pleasant girl." Heidi says, recalling her granddaughter's childhood. As the father of three sons, Grandpa Franz was equally besotted with his granddaughter and loved the cuddly affection of Markus, who would often crawl under "City Grandma's" bedcovers at night; Heidi just wanted to cuddle him—he was always such a cute boy. Heidi adds with a touch of wistfulness that Markus still shows her the same affection to this day: "Come and get a hug, grandma!"

## Beautiful spots and intense emotions







The free-floating platform at the Hubertus gives wings to wellness.

Floating on air: Heaven & Hell at the Hubertus opens the doors to a new dimension of wellness.

Your head in the clouds, dancing through the day as light as the air around you, as carefree as a dream: Heaven & Hell, the masterpiece of architecture at the Hubertus, answers your longing for a spa experience beyond your wildest imaginings. Designed by South Tyrolean architects to a concept created by Senior Director Christian Gasser, the free-floating platform surpasses all frontiers of feasibility.

Towering far above the hotel, the mighty steel structure brings water and heat together on two levels: the lower section is turned on its head, and is home to two saunas and three hot tubs. Leisurely relaxation has never been buoyant – quite literally, you float above the world, returning to earth along a footbridge leading directly into the relaxation room, where large glass facades infuse you with a newfound sense of liberty and relaxation that will stay with you for a long time to come.

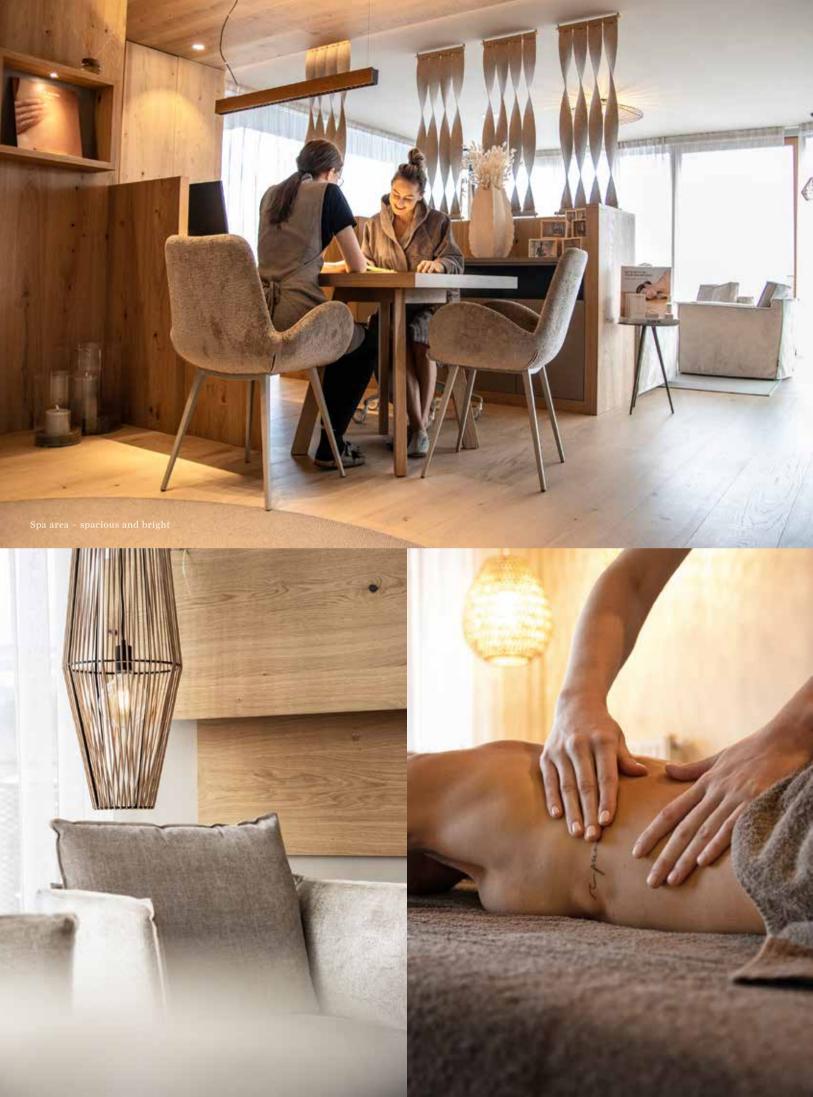


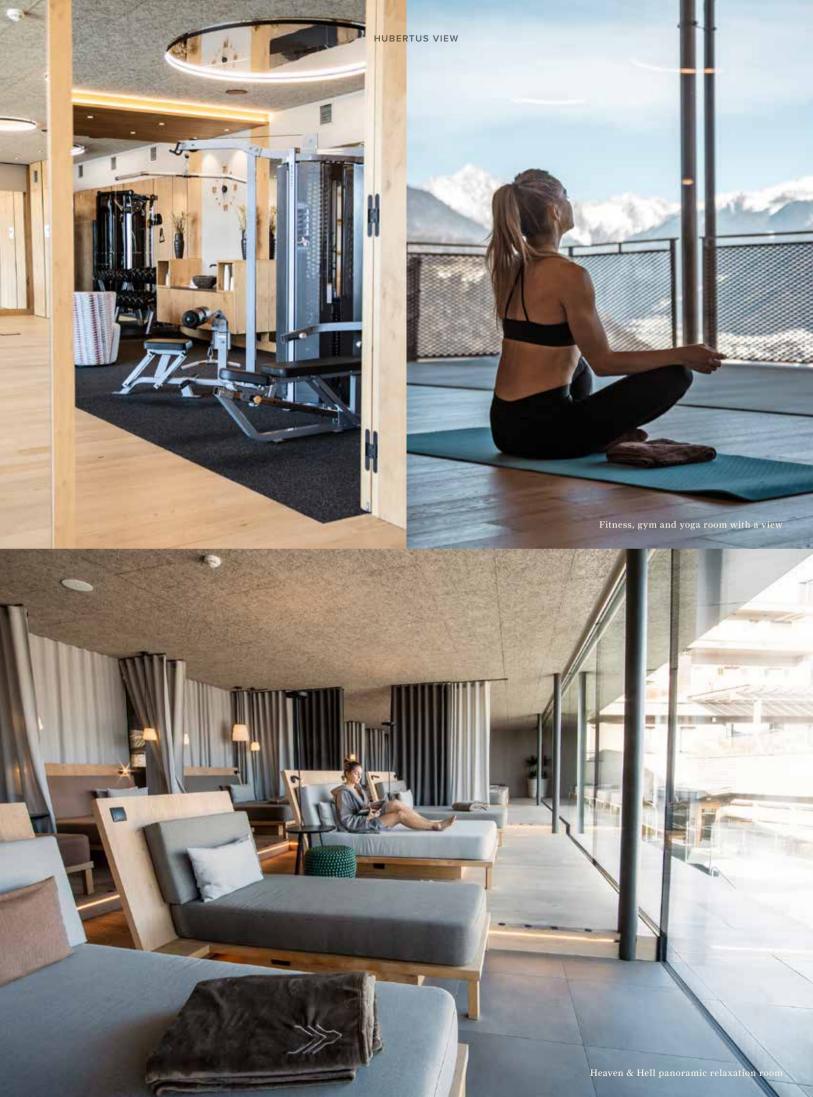
A sauna session above the clouds.

#### **HEAVEN & HELL**

An architectural masterpiece and superlative wellness experience rolled into one:

A dual-level spa with three hot tubs of heavenly relaxation and two saunas for a hellishly good sweat.







An absolute must, even in winter.

The Gassers, your hosts at the Hubertus, are a family with a pronounced spirit of innovation and intrepid courage - none more so than Senior Director Christian, who has played a substantial role in shaping the history of the hotel. His instinctive talent for visionary ideas can be seen in the very form of the Skypool: At a height of 12 metres above the ground, the 25-metre-long infinity pool appears to float above the landscape and the water merges seamlessly with the surrounding mountains, dissolving all boundaries in our eyes and in our minds. The view spreads out unfettered in all directions, and the strength of the mountains pervades you as never before, while a window on the bottom of the pool looks down onto spellbindingly original perspectives. Heated to 33°C all year round, the Skypool welcomes you in to enjoy unique moments of weightlessness: Surrender to the temptation of the warm waters, dive down into the depths, and emerge to a place of infinite leisure suspended between the earth, the mountain summits and the vastness of the sky.

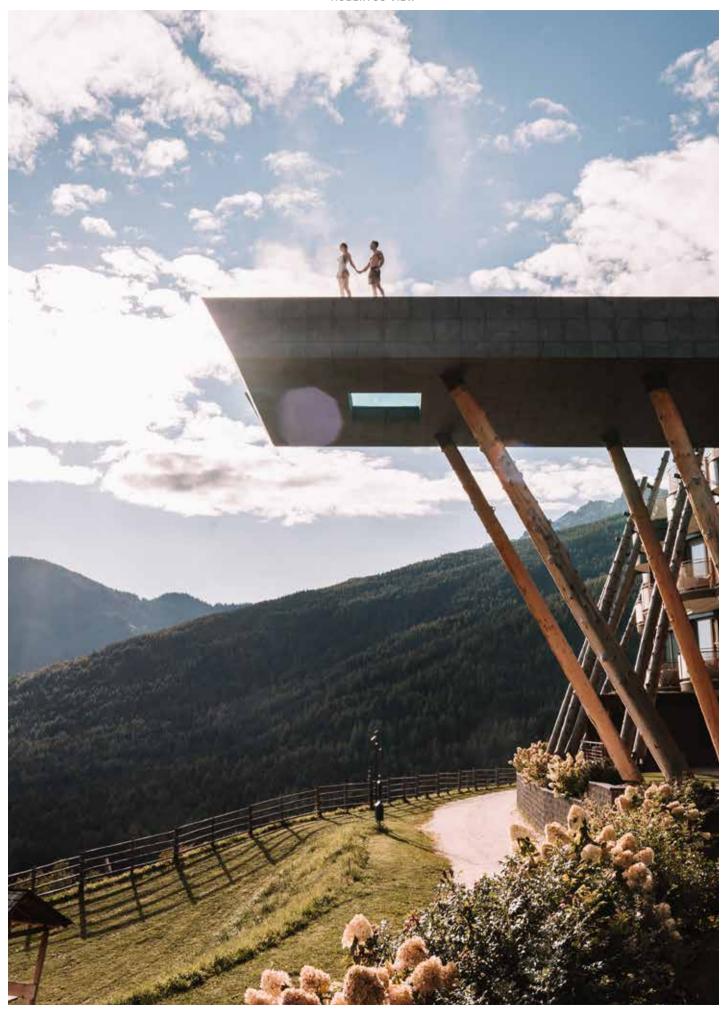
### THE HEIGHTS OF EMOTION

At a height of 12 metres, the Skypool at the Hubertus towers over the countryside.

A unique piece of architecture, where boundaries dissolve and emotions soar to newfound heights.



An infinity pool deserving of the name.





When Christian Gasser has set his mind to doing something, it's all or nothing. Standing by your decisions and working hard to see them through: this is the mindset that has accompanied him throughout his life.

Even as a youth, his willpower was such that he became a member of the Italian national ski team, where he was one of the most promising young talents on the downhill scene for two years. However, in 1986, he had to retire from his sporting career when, with no previous experience of the hospitality industry, he followed his father's wishes and took over the Hubertus at the age of just 22.

Rather than bewailing his fate, however, Christian rolled up his sleeves and briskly learned the art of thinking and acting as a hotelier. Not long afterwards, he had transformed the former two-star hotel into one of the most renowned wellness hotels.

In 2004, Christian stepped into his father's shoes after his untimely death, succeeding him as vice president of the cable car association Kronplatz Seilbahn AG, where he has held the office of president since 2020. With foresight and vision, he has directed the focus of the association towards diversification of services in addition to regular cable car operations and set the course for the future through the conversion of Kronplatz Seilbahn AG to Kronplatz Holding AG. Ever since Christian handed over the Alpin Panorama Hotel Hubertus to his children Daniela and Markus in 2021, the fortunes of Seilbahn AG have dominated his every day—as the guests at the hotel have witnessed for themselves. In the past, when he worked with the cable car association on a part-time basis and spent most of his time the hotel, he kept his role within the association under wraps to some extent. The reason was simple: At the Hubertus, he was carrying out market research, so to speak.

As bar manager, he was in the perfect position to do it. After he finished his day's work as a ski instructor on the Kronplatz slopes, he spent his evenings entertaining guests at the hotel bar, where the cheer and merriment would continue until the early hours.



Christian showed his skiing talent early on

The guests spoke honestly and informally about their experiences on the slopes, while skiing, and about the lifts and the mountain huts. The hotel bar thus provided the vice president with a wealth of valuable information. Today, Christian is certain that "If the guests had known about me leadership role in the cable-car association, they would probably never have talked so freely about their days at the Kronplatz. By taking this approach, I found out where all the weak spots were. However, rather than criticism, it was generally words of praise that I heard." On one hand this was a source of satisfaction for Christian, as it confirmed that the Kronplatz people were "doing a better job than we gave ourselves credit for."

Working together with people from the region is particularly important to Christian.

Working together with people from the region is particularly important to Christian: "It's not just me that supports our numerous partners, but they, likewise, support us," he emphasises.



Christian with his mother Heidi and father Franz

But these things don't just happen of their own accord: Mutual trust and fairness are priceless values that no amount of money can amplify. One particular instance of a technical emergency many years ago demonstrates just how important close partnerships are to the Hubertus; back when Christian first took over the hotel, the unimaginable occurred on 24 December, of all days: a faulty drain overflowed, flooding the ski room. All of the local companies had already shut up shop for Christmas, while crowds of guests were checking in at reception for their Christmas holiday. The prospects were grim to say the least. However, Christian got in touch with his home and farm plumber immediately. The boss arrived in person together with his wife and the requisite pumps, and they proceeded to pump the ski room dry. "I will never forget that emergency Christmas aid for the rest of my life!" says Christian to this day. And needless to say, he still works together with "his" plumbing company. Building is Christian's favourite pastime. "In the 38 years that I managed the Hubertus, I submitted 35 requests for construction permits," he says with a touch of pride. Effectively, there has not been a single year in which he hasn't extended, remodelled or expanded. The income for the works was generated through the season and channelled into renovations during the holidays. One major investment was the first "wave" of the hotel facade, which was designed to one of Christian's ideas. Fortunately, this investment paid off thanks to a notable number of bookings and good timing.

The renovation was completed the year before the euro was introduced. Christian's creativity seems to know no bounds: He has never stopped dreaming up new plans and putting them into action. One of his most remarkable visionary schemes was the iconic Hubertus Skypool; and although architectural

"In the 38 years that I managed the Hubertus, I submitted 35 requests for construction permits."

anxieties meant that the Skypool ultimately constructed was the "soft version," as Christian calls it, the response was immense: The Skypool brought the Hubertus hundreds of mentions in international media. With his son Markus' social media engagement, they have now reached 650,000 followers on Instagram, making the hotel one of the ten hotels in the world with the most "real" followers.

When Christian looks back on his early days at the hotel, when he had to run the whole show with no prior experience, he thinks of one person in particular: Martin Prugger, the former manager of the Hotel Post in Olang, to whom Christian feels an immense sense of gratitude. Prugger was always a fatherly figure who provided him with advice and support on many challenging occasions, including private matters. One particularly special illustration of this was Christian and Helga's wedding. At that time, Christian had his hands more than full: It was a weekend, and the last guest coach had just left on the Friday. A big celebration wasn't part of the financial plan, and it was a great stroke of good fortune for the couple that their date coincided with Martin Prugger's end-of-season Saturday at his hotel in Olang. He kept his hotel open for an extra day for his friend, so that the wedding could be held there.

The fact that the wedding festivities were on the quiet side did nothing to lessen Christian and Helga's marital happiness, and Christian still has fond memories of the day he first set eyes on Helga. It was the 5th of July 1987, and he and a few friends had set off from Mühlbach in Gais to hike up the Rieserferner glacier and ski back down on snow gliders. At the same time, Helga set off with a friend from Antholz, on the other side of the mountain, with the same intention. And they met for the first time at the mountain hut at the summit, at an altitude of 2,798 metres.

Christian lost his heart to Helga instantly, waved farewell to his fellow climbers and walked Helga down to Antholz. He knew from the very first moment he saw her: "This is my wife!". And he was right. Helga has been by his side for almost four decades now. With ahead for business and a will of steel, she has helped him on so many occasions, and has always been his staunchest ally. "The price of success is sacrifice," says Christian from experience, referring to the rare occasions he has been able to enjoy life with his wife, and to the times he would have like to spend with friends. Work has always been his number one priority. As the school of life has taught him, and as he was brought up as a child: "You have to get on with

"The price of success is sacrifice." things!" While Christian feels in awe of his father Franz's achievements, who amassed considerable wealth through ambition and hard work, he feels a profound sense of ap-

preciation for his mother Heidi. It was she who made sure that her sons – Christian, Alexander und Lukas – had a good education behind them. When their father returned home at around 7.30 in the evening, it was their mother who reminded the boys to turn off the television, put their shoes away tidily, and sit down at their desks. Tidiness and hard work were of the essence to their father, whose parenting style was of the "spare the rod and spoil the child" variety: the mere sight of the stick lying within hand's reach behind his seat at the dinner table was all it took to maintain discipline. Christian and his brothers were anything but spoilt. Their father set high standards for himself – and no less so from his sons. This childhood taught Christian to make hard work a central part of his life. At every building site, he was the first to arrive and the last to leave. And equally so, as President of Kronplatz Holding AG, he gives his all.

"I want to build it up, then step down and let others carry it forward."

Christian enjoys having a lot of work on, as he freely admits. But more important still is that he knows there's an end in sight, as his work has never been the vocation of his heart. "I want to build it up, then step down and let others carry it forward," he says. By handing over the Hubertus to his children, he has proven exactly that – that a lifetime of work will be continued in good hands.



Christian managed the Hotel Hubertus for 38 years.

Hubertus —— HOTEL MAP Overview —— Hotel



### Your own personal Alpine haven

The Hubertus is so much more than relaxation. It is a whole world of inspiration and buoyancy. Revel in a pampering session in our spa, dive into the pool, bask in the mountain sun on the terrace and round off your wellness experience to perfection with our gourmet regional delicacies.



#### 0 Level

- (1) Rooms 001 012
- (2) Rooms 014 027
- (3) Bike garage
- 4 Bowling
- 5 Orchard
- 6 Dogstation
- 7 Parking 4

#### 1 Level

- 8 Rooms 101 112
- 9 Rooms 114 123

#### 2 Level

- (10) Rooms 201 212
- (11) Rooms 214 223

#### 3 Level

- (12) Rooms 301 312
- (13) Alm sauna
- (14) Log cabin sauna
- (15) Fire pit
- (16) Cold-water Pool
- (17) Dolomite cave steam room
- (18) Saltwater pool
- (19) Hot tubs
- (20) Indoor Pool
- (21) Textile sauna and relaxation room
- (22) Changing room, guests' laundry room
- (23) Relaxation pavilion
- (24) Skypool
- (25) Hubertus oven
- (26) Ski & hiking gear depot

- (28) H-Lounge and smokers' room
- (29) Terrace
- (30) Dining rooms
- (31) Fitness & gym room
- (32) Conference room
- (33) Parking 1
- (34) Parking 2
- (35) Parking 3
- (36) Shuttle
- (37) Relax in the Sky
- (38) Heaven & Hell pools & saunas

#### 5 Level

- (39) Alpenreych SPA
- (40) Rooms 501 504

#### 6 Level

(41) Sun deck



## The man behind the scenes

CHRISTIAN KOFLER - THE TECHNICAL HEART OF THE HUBERTUS.

When you step into a hotel, the first thing you notice is the friendly, smiling ladies and gentlemen at reception, the hard-working restaurant staff, the bartender who mixes your drinks so skilfully and the spa staff, who ensure that peace and relaxation reign supreme. But one of the most important employees of all is the one you hardly ever catch sight of.

Day after day he ensures that everything runs smoothly throughout the hotel. And whenever a problem arises, everyone breathes a sigh of relief when he appears on the scene: yes, it's the technician. Hubertus technician Christian Kofler is our Man Behind the Scenes, and the one who makes sure that everything runs to slick perfection. An Olanger through and through, Christian lives just a stone's throw from the Hubertus together with his girlfriend Manu and their daughter Nina. Christian loves the variety of his job, and the fact that no two days are ever the same. Whether it's technical repairs in the hotel, maintenance work, or optimisation procedures: as long as he can work with his hands, keep everything under control, and improve anything that needs improved, he's in his element. One of the things he loves most about his job is the state-of-the-art technology of the hotel such as, for instance, the woodchip system fuelled by biomass from the surrounding forests, or the 320 KW solar-powered photovoltaic system which meets the majority of the hotel's energy requirements and provides an active contribution to environmental sustainability. One particularly innovative feature is the smart heat recovery system, which utilises the waste heat from the air conditioning system to heat the Skypool. These are the technologies that spark Christian's soul.



Making, mending and working things out is Christian's hobby

Although the responsibilities of a hotel technician are many and varied, one rule remains constant: everything has to be done in the background, so that guests can enjoy their holiday in undisturbed peace. Whenever technical problems crop up, a quick repair is needed, or it's time to check the daily balance of the water and heating consumption, Christian takes action quickly, flexibly and unobtrusively. And even when life gets stressful, he never loses his cool or his friendly manner. With a "quick check" as he walks through the hotel and instant action wherever it's required, he sees off any inconvenience before it even occurs.

"The Gasser family is always on the lookout for new, innovative possibilities, and that motivates me to give my best."

Why does Christian enjoy working at the Hubertus? In his opinion, it is the combination of a family-style working atmosphere, the exceptional benefits and the opportunity to work in one of the most modern hotels. "The Gasser family is always on the lookout for new, innovative possibilities, and that motivates me to give my best," he says. If everything at the Hubertus runs smoothly —from the technical systems to the restful atmosphere to the little behind-the-scenes miracles that happen every day—it is thanks to Christian. He is the one who uses his talents to ensure that guests arrive, switch off and enjoy themselves without having to worry about the "how." He considers the fact that his work is also his hobby, and his workplace close to his family, as an immense stroke of luck that fills him with gratitude.

## Belvita

LEADING WELLNESSHOTELS
SÜDTIROL

# Life in motion

With an exceptional outdoor and activity programme, the "Belvita Active" hotels provide the perfect setting for an active holiday that is sure to impress – with guided tours, free equipment rental, and much more.

As a member of the Belvita Leading Wellnesshotels Südtirol, this hotel guarantees the highest quality in all areas.





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