

BOUTIQUE HOTEL SCHMELZHOF

THE SCHMELZHOF SLOGAN, 'A HOME AWAY FROM HOME', COULDN'T BE MORE PERFECT WHEN IT COMES TO SUMMING UP THE CHARMING, FEEL-GOOD ATMOSPHERE OF THIS FAMILY-RUN BOUTIQUE HOTEL IN LECH AM ARLBERG. BOASTING A PRIME LOCATION ON A SUN-DRENCHED PLATEAU, THIS INDIVIDUAL FOUR-STAR RESIDENCE, WHICH WAS EXTENSIVELY REMODELLED LAST YEAR AND EXTENDED BY SOME 1,500 SQUARE METRES, OFFERS SKIING ENTHUSIASTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE A COSY, COMFORTABLE AND WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE FROM THE MOMENT THEY ENTER.

"THE REMODELLING PHASE LAST YEAR INVOLVED A LOT OF HARD WORK, both for us and for all involved, especially since we only had seven months during which to complete the work. But it was well worth it!" explains Robert Strolz as he guides us through the new feel-good Schmelzhof. Just like most of the guests who stay here, we are immediately captivated, in particular by the stylish interplay of authentic, regional design and cosmopolitan elements, which lend the newly created areas a very special, indeed unique atmosphere. All that is new blends in wonderfully and harmoniously with the already existing architecture, as if it had always been that way. The major changes to the hotel are almost invisible from the outside. Nothing, naturally, has changed when it comes to the hotel's prominent, sun-blessed location right beside the cross-country ski track and a popular winter walking track and just a few minutes' walk from the village centre. With its breathtaking panoramic view of the Omneshorn mountain the terrace is, and will surely remain, one of the most beautiful of its kind in the upmarket Arlberg ski resort. As soon as you set foot in the Schmelzhof it immediately becomes apparent that Gitti and Robert Strolz have really pulled out all the stops in order to offer their guests even more luxurious comfort and 'Gemütlichkeit'. In the newly created reception area the welcome is, as always, warm and friendly. However, what immediately enthralled all those who enter the Schmelzhof for the first time since its remodelling are the spacious lobby area and the adjoining 'Blue Bar.' Boasting a selection of exquisite drinks, including an impressively wide choice of delectable cocktails and finest Austrian wines, this is a place where the authentic art of bar-keeping is still celebrated. Exuding an air of

cosmopolitan panache, the interior takes guests in a journey through various European designs and decors. "I found the bar cupboards and tiles in London and I bought some of the decorative materials, fabrics and lamps in Paris. But the hotel also features many items that I found in our attic and, now that they have been given a new lease of life in a new setting, they help create an authentic, local feel," recounts Gitti Strolz. With the help and support of interior architect Gerald Schriebl, the very friendly and likeable host Gitti has, with her incredible creativity and her unerring flair for design and colour, created innovative, out-of-the-ordinary havens of feel-good comfort far beyond usual hotel standards. Quintessential example: the brand new 400 square-metre 'Schmelzhof Spa' with Finnish sauna, sanarium, brine steam bath, infrared cubicle, quiet room, 'chatting room' and two massage rooms. Here the professional team of spa specialists pampers guests using purely natural products from the Ligne St Barth range. The experts behind this luxury brand are highly discriminating when

it comes to selecting those spas in which their products may be used. They demand the highest standards not only when it comes to the ambience of the spa, but also with regard to the therapists employed. They supply their products, therefore, only to carefully selected establishments employing specially trained spa staff. Guests who would like to experience the effects of this high-calibre collaboration for themselves are recommended to try out the 'Head to Toe' treatment created exclusively for the Schmelzhof. A more relaxing end to a day on the slopes is hard to imagine! And it can even be enjoyed by parents too, since children are not only welcome in the Schmelzhof, they are expertly cared for too. While parents are unwinding in the spa, their offspring can play in the spacious children's room or watch a film in the hotel's own kiddies' cinema. Particularly popular with families are the four new Snowflake Suites. Boasting over 45 square metres of space, they offer a separate living room and bedroom (each with their own TV), bathroom with bathtub, separate shower, separate WC and



breathtaking panoramic views. Equally gorgeous and appointed with just as much meticulous attention to detail are the four new Atelier Rooms which, with floor-to-ceiling windows, incorporate the magic of the mountain landscape into their four walls. Some of the already existing rooms were also renovated in the course of the remodelling work. Non-resident guests also have cause for celebration – the à la carte restaurant 'Gittis Esszimmer' has, likewise, been granted a completely new design. Over and above the fantastic menus and vegetarian dishes, lovers of fine food

can also savour cheese fondue, raclette, fondue chinoise or, the latest addition to the menu, an Asian fondue. The excellent cuisine, overall, plays a major role in the success of the hotel. The highly inventive team of chefs conjures up an impressive variety of dishes, combining mouth-watering classic Austrian delights with internationally-inspired specialities. In the morning 'Grandmother's Breakfast' offers everything you could ever wish for, and in the afternoon skiers can fortify themselves with homemade strudels and hearty savoury treats. ■

BOUTIQUE HOTEL SCHMELZHOF

HOST: Gitti and Robert Strolz
ADDRESS: Omnesberg 370
A-6764 Lech am Arlberg
TELEPHONE: 00 43 - (0) 55 83 - 37 50 - 0
E-MAIL: hotel@schmelzhof.at
INTERNET: www.schmelzhof.at

Rates winter: from 180 Euro per person
in a double room inclusive HP

Open from: 3. 12. 2015 to 10. 4. 2016