

# Forbes

## Inside Gstaad's Le Grand Bellevue Hotel

Don't let its classic exterior fool you; Gstaad's Le Grand Bellevue is one cool and contemporary property, with interiors that are more Soho House than Swiss chalet. Located right in the village on The Promenade, this 57-room hotel was originally built in 1912, but since its acquisition by hotel gurus Daniel and Davia Koetser, it's seen a major revamp and now stands way out from the crowd in one of Switzerland's most upscale resort towns.



“My wife and I have a great affinity with Gstaad” says Daniel, which is not just convenient marketing talk. The couple actually got married in the town and spent their first night as a married couple at the very hotel they now own. “We want the hotel to feel understated and effortless yet imaginative and spoiling.” In that, they have succeeded – and then some.

Of course, the interiors are only half the story. From any of the 57 rooms, a quick glance through the window will see a world seemingly in high resolution, complete with crisp blue skies and panoramic views over the Alps. In the mini bars (which, hurrah, are complimentary), there is even Swiss chocolate to get you in the mood.



Hotel life begins in the Lounge, where a roaring fire, board games and a collection of books await. Rarely has there been a better place to drink a hot chocolate and plan a day's activities. It's quite possible not to leave the hotel, given its tempting amenities and home comforts but leave you must; this is one of the most pristine Alpine villages there ever was. Over the winter months, there is, of course, epic skiing and over the summer there is glorious hiking and high altitude rejuvenation. The hotel, conveniently, opens its doors for both seasons. Whatever the month, a day's activity in Gstaad should be swiftly followed by some long and lazy time out in the hotel's exceptional spa. There are 17 heat therapy experiences to sample (a scented hay sauna, anyone?), outdoor pools overlooking the mountains and the requisite gym, yoga and pilates studios.



Further indulgence awaits in the form of the hotel restaurants, one of which boasts Michelin-starred chef Urs Gschwend at the helm, as well as an utterly charming mini chalet in the hotel's grounds, serving up fondue and other locally-inspired dishes. Add to this a cigar lounge, a cocktail bar, a private cinema and a basement nightclub – and you have one extraordinary Alpine hotel.