

T H E O M N I A

CHRISTIAN ECKERT IS HOTELIER OF THE YEAR 2023

On the eighth occasion of the hoteliers' gala, Christian Eckert, Managing Director of the The Omnia Mountain Lodge in Zermatt, was elected Hotelier of the Year 2023. Only the second time a nominee has been picked in the luxury category, Association President André Witschi and a select jury based their deliberations on such factors as excellent managerial skills, stellar online reputation, creative innovative skills, and outstanding financial results.

Attended by 750 hoteliers and branch experts the award gala has been held for the third time as part of the hospitality summit at Hall 550 in Zurich.

The award Hotelier of the Year is presented annually to an exceptional member of the hospitality community who stands out through success, creativity, and innovation, and is therefore deemed a leading light in the field of national hospitality.

Zurich, June 14, 2023 – The award gala was attended by approximately 750 hoteliers and branch experts and took place for the third time as part of the hospitality summit. The award Hotelier of the Year honors a personality who stands out through success, creativity, innovation, and makes an important contribution to the image of national hospitality.

This now third hospitality summit is sponsored by a wide alliance of significant branch organizations amongst others HotellerieSuisse, the SECO, Switzerland Tourism, the Hospitality and Hotel Management Schools of Lausanne and Thun, the VDH Swiss Hotel Management Association, the SGH Swiss Hotel Credit Center, and Hotela. The award gala was launched in 2015 by marketing agency smarket ag and has become an annual convention. Additional patrons of the event are Aruba, Arvi and HotelPartner.

Jury Selection Criteria – Hotelier of the Year 2023

Christian Eckert is a perfect match to all the criteria and achieves a high number of regular guests and extremely complimentary online reviews. Phrases such as “loving attention to detail”, “a natural host” and “innovation” appear frequently. His welcoming positivity, openness, and authenticity to his guests, is also directed at his staff. He is an approachable leader and communicates his aims, concepts, and expectations clearly. At the same time, he allows a lot of space, gives everyone the opportunity to live their creativity and expects a similar personal approach from his staff. This results in a harmonious environment that is seldom found even in this highest category of hospitality. His generous spirit often remarked on by guests is also directed at his team. Furthermore the jury also took into consideration financial results. THE OMNIA is one of the most profitable five-star hotels in Switzerland and its guests are clearly prepared to reward the excellent level of service. Christian Eckert represents the young generation of General Managers. With its focus on team spirit and cooperation, modern leadership recognizes that an excellent team is needed to manage a hotel and succeed in the highly competitive hospitality business.

T H E O M N I A

Christian Eckert

Christian Eckert (born 1984) did an apprenticeship in hospitality at the Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains in St. Moritz. After several years of professional experience at the Kempinski in Food & Beverage, Catering and Event-Management, he went on to study at the Hospitality Management School of Lucerne (SHL). After graduating he worked in various positions such as Food & Beverage at Hotel Beau-Rivage Palace in Lausanne as well as Front Office at Relais & Château Hotel Le Vieux Manoir. He then went on to become a Management Trainee at the Cooperative Society Migros, Basel. Subsequently he joined THE OMNIA team in 2015 as Deputy Director and took over as Managing Director in 2017.

THE OMNIA

THE OMNIA opened for business in 2006 and represents a contemporary interpretation of the classic American mountain lodge. Designed by New York architect Ali Tayar it is a captivating blend of American mountain lodge and European Alpine environment. Using the resulting dialogue between these two cultures as a starting point for the interior design, materials, fabrics, and artisanal know-how were sourced in the Valais. The interior architecture and furniture however are inspired by American Modernism.

The hotel in the middle of Zermatt, is built on top of a large rock, 45 m high, and overlooks the village. Guests arrive at the hotel lobby at 1'649 meters above sea level by taking an elevator located in a tunnel cut into the rock.

The hotel consists of 30 rooms, 12 of which are suites, a library and a restaurant with a fireplace, a lounge bar, a boardroom, a cavern, hewn into bare rock, and two sun terraces high above the roofs of Zermatt – with the Matterhorn as its neighbor. The spa facilities are a further highlight.

THE OMNIA in Zermatt belongs to Alexander Schärer and his sister, Judith Stuber-Schärer. Together, they are the proprietors of global brand USM Haller which designs iconic furniture, on display in museums, such as the MOMA, New York.