

Stans, 21 June 2017

Press release

Bürgenstock Resort: opening on 28 August 2017

Following nine years of planning and construction, the new Bürgenstock Resort Lake Lucerne is opening on 28 August 2017. By then, the complex construction work on the main part of the kilometre-plus long resort will have been completed, as will most of the work on the resort's 30 heritage-protected and repurposed buildings. The following hotels and facilities will be opening for business:

- Bürgenstock Hotel (5* Superior)
- Palace Hotel (4* Superior)
- Grand Residence Suites
- Panorama Residence Suites
- 10 out of a total of 12 restaurants and bars
- Diamond Domes (events & tennis)
- Staff quarters
- Museums and cinema
- All the public places and viewing terraces

Reservation enquiries regarding residential events and conferences have been buoyant for months, and there is a great deal of interest in the Residence Suites.

The following facilities have been up and running for some time: the Taverne 1879 (3*), the Blockhaus, the Spycher, the 9-hole golf course, the Hammetschwand Lift and the Cliff Path. Opening in the autumn will be the Waldhotel – Health & Medical Excellence (5*) with its Verbena restaurant, and the Alpine Spa with its Oak Grill & Pool Patio restaurant. The Grand Opening party for the new Bürgenstock Resort will take place in spring 2018. This will also be open to the public.

The recruitment process for the resort is in full swing, with more than 200 members of staff already under contract and others being hired all the time. The Bürgenstock Resort needs around 400 staff by the time it opens in August – a figure it is confident of reaching. The recruitment process will continue following the opening in August: by the time the resort is running at full capacity in 2020, it will be employing around 800 staff.



Rail and boat

The public transport links will also be commencing operations on 28 August 2017. The Lucerne – Kehrsiten-Bürgenstock shuttle boat service and the completely rebuilt vintage-look Bürgenstock Railway, which takes guests and visitors into the heart of the resort, will be providing a direct and highly entertaining link between the city and the resort; it will be operating to a 1.5 hourly daily timetable between the early morning and midnight. A brand-new shuttle boat will come into service in spring 2018 to coincide with the Bürgenstock Resort's Grand Opening, resulting in an hourly timetable between the resort and Lucerne. Once that happens, journey times between Lucerne railway station and the Bürgenstock Resort will be cut to around 30 minutes. Details of the timetable and prices may be obtained from the Lake Lucerne Navigation Company SGV (www.lakelucerne.ch) and the Bürgenstock Resort (www.buergenstock.ch).

The round trip with boat and railway in standard class will be CHF 42.20 for an adult with a Half-Fare travelcard/SwissPass, or CHF 25.00 with a GA travelcard/SwissPass.

Guests staying at the resort travel free, i.e. they will benefit from unrestricted travel on the Bürgenstock Railway and the shuttle boat. Attendees of events and resort staff will be able to take advantage of heavily discounted fares. In addition, five discounted packages will be available for the boat and railway.

A convenient land route involving a bus ride from Stansstad railway station to the new Bürgenstock Resort will also be available. The resort will be served with four different bus stops. The cantonal road between Stansstad and the resort has been specially extended and widened in recent months. Car drivers should note that parking provision at the resort is limited: although it offers 700 indoor and outdoor parking spaces, the wide-ranging resort itself is car-free.

Sustainability and value creation

With its environmentally friendly approaches to energy generation, construction and logistics, the resort's sustainability concept represents a landmark in ecological thinking. The planners and developers of the new resort took a leaf out of the book of its original pioneers, Franz Josef Bucher and Josef Durrer: in as early as 1888, the two innovators had obtained a concession to extract potable water from the lake. The same approach is now being adopted to derive energy from the lake. Eighty percent of the new resort's thermal needs and 100 percent of its cooling needs are circulated via a network of highly insulated pipes issuing from an energy distribution centre. The heating and cooling provided by the energy distribution centre, which is already in use, is almost CO₂-neutral. As for the resort's construction and concrete needs, the developers sourced raw material in the form of stone and aggregate from the Bürgenberg itself. Where possible, use was made of gabions (cages filled with rocks) instead of concrete walls; they provide valuable habitat for flora and fauna. With regard to forest management, the entire resort has been planted with mixed woodland. In terms of the project's logistics, truck movements were reduced by through the reuse of excavation material: 165,000 m³ of reused material meant 18,400 fewer truck journeys up and down the mountain – equivalent to nine circumnavigations of the planet by one truck.



A study by BAK Basel Economics has indicated the Bürgenstock Resort's immense value-creating potential: once the resort is fully up and running, it could be contributing some CHF 140 million to the Central Swiss economy in terms of gross value creation (resort: 100 m, suppliers: 40 m). It is creating a total of 1100 direct and indirect jobs, making it the second-largest employer in Canton Nidwalden.

Bürgenstock Hotels & Resort Lake Lucerne

The Bürgenstock Resort Lake Lucerne is part of Bürgenstock Selection, which is headquartered in Zug Switzerland. The car-free resort (opening in August 2017) comprises four 3 to 5 star Superior hotels with 383 rooms and suites, a Health & Medical Centre, 12 bars and restaurants, 67 Residence Suites, a 10,000 m² Alpine Spa and a wide range of leisure pursuits. The Bürgenstock Selection portfolio consists of the Bürgenstock Resort Lake Lucerne, the Schweizerhof Hotel & Spa in Bern (99 rooms) and the Royal Savoy Hotel & Spa in Lausanne (196 rooms). The total being invested by Bürgenstock Selection is in the region of one billion Swiss francs.

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