



## **OFFICIAL GUESTHOUSE OF THE SWISS GOVERNMENT:**

### **THE BELLEVUE PALACE IN BERN**

The people of Switzerland have a love affair with Bern. It is more than merely their capital city – it is a unique architectural gem, listed since 1983 by UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage. Even the great and widely-travelled German poet, Goethe (1749-1832), was moved to write of Bern's old town as "the most beautiful we have seen." A stroll along its cobbled streets is like taking an architectural journey back through time to the Middle Ages. To this day stately sandstone houses, historic towers and fountains, market squares, tiny tucked away alleys and cellars still dominate the centuries-old townscape. Six kilometres of attractive arcades make this one of the longest weather-protected shopping promenades in Europe, and its wealth of boutiques and bistros beckon you to linger longer.

Bern is also renowned for its Bundeshaus, the seat of Switzerland's federal government and parliament. So it is hardly surprising that the leading hotel in the capital is the BELLEVUE PALACE, which is located right next to the government buildings and is the only 5-star luxury property in the city. Since its opening in 1913, the hotel has served as the Swiss government's official "guesthouse", extending a warm welcome to world leaders, members of the diplomatic corps and other visiting VIPs.

The BELLEVUE PALACE is located on a terrace above the rolling River Aare and offers some of the city's finest views of the distant Bernese Alps. Together with the adjacent buildings of the Bundeshaus, the hotel forms an imposing architectural ensemble on the southern edge of Bern's beautiful old town quarter. The hotel's location and eventful past are as unique as its interior design and superior service. Elegant event rooms, stylish restaurants, dining of distinction – for nearly a century the BELLEVUE PALACE has enjoyed acclaim as the focal point of social life in Bern.

The hotel, built in neoclassic style, combines old world charm with the most modern comforts. In addition to welcoming many visiting statesmen and other eminent guests, it regularly plays host to top business leaders and discerning leisure travellers. The hotel comprises 130 newly-renovated rooms and suites, as well as state-of-the-art conference facilities.

The BELLEVUE PALACE has been a member of "The Leading Hotels of the World", since 1973, and in 2007 became a member of the exclusive VICTORIA-JUNGFRAU COLLECTION.



The VICTORIA-JUNGFRAU COLLECTION company owns the VICTORIA-JUNGFRAU Grand Hotel & Spa in Interlaken, the PALACE LUZERN in Lucerne and the EDEN AU LAC in Zurich. It manages the BELLEVUE PALACE, which is 99.7% owned by the Swiss government.

## **WHERE CELEBRITIES STAY**

The BELLEVUE PALACE is a grand hotel in the classic style and of great national, historical and cultural importance. Over the past century it has played host to many internationally eminent guests, ranging from monarchy and ministers to musicians, movie stars and even astronauts. Emperor Akihito of Japan, Queen Elisabeth of Britain, Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Herbert von Karajan and Johnny Cash – these are just a few of the visitors to Bern who have passed through its distinguished doors.

The BELLEVUE PALACE closed throughout 2002 to undergo complete and careful renovation, and now offers some of the finest guest facilities to be found anywhere in Switzerland. The hotel's 130 luxury rooms and suites offer the ultimate in elegance and comfort. Adjustable air conditioning, fresh flowers and mineral water, a minibar and personal safe are standard in every room. Technical amenities range from wireless LAN, high-speed Internet and fax/modem connections, to telephone with voice-mail and satellite TV. Spacious bathrooms with marble or granite baths, exclusive care products and underfloor heating complete the top quality comforts.

The hotel offers special facilities for business guests, with a business floor which includes very comfortable rooms with a whole range of attractive features. These include extra large desks, a special lighting system, contemporary art, as well as modern and antique furniture. Additionally, the hotel's suites and Junior Suites also include award-winning DUX beds acclaimed for their superior sleeping comfort.

When it comes to the ultimate in luxury, guests are offered a choice of three beautiful Tower Suites, all with fine views of the distant Bernese Alps. Additionally, the 110 square metre Presidential Suite comprises one bedroom, a lounge, meeting room and attractive kitchen, assuring guests of maximum privacy and personal security.

The superior service which the BELLEVUE PALACE is proud to offer its privileged guests is legendary. It includes a 24-hour floor service: ironing, laundry and dry cleaning; babysitting; chauffeur-driven limousine and transfer services; and much more besides. Whatever guests' requests or requirements (from sightseeing excursions and cultural attractions to hair-styling,



translation or photographic services), there is one man who can always assist or advise – the Concierge of the BELLEVUE PALACE.

## **TOP OF BERN**

The BELLEViE GYM completes the facilities of Bern's leading hotel since October 2009. The 200 square meters spacious fitness area is located on the fifth floor and the attic and satisfies even highest requirements for a workout with its state-of-the-art TechoGym equipment. It is hard not to get distracted by the sportive, contemporary design and the breathtaking view on the Bundeshauskuppel (Swiss Parliament), the old town of Bern and even the Bernese Oberland. After the training the terrace invites for relaxation or step into the sauna area (separate sex).

## **EVENTS OF EXCELLENCE**

Every year the BELLEVUE PALACE hosts hundreds of banquets, receptions and other festive events of national and international importance, attended by leading representatives from the field of politics, business and culture. Hardly a day goes by without the hotel staging such prestigious functions in its stately stylish salons.

Focal point of the hotel is the lobby, with its art nouveau glazed dome, imposing pillars and air of casual elegance. The five event rooms of the BELLEVUE PALACE recall the golden age of Switzerland's luxury hotel industry a century ago. The 300 square metre "Salon Royal" is notable for its sparkling chandeliers, ornamental stucco and gilding work. On one wall hangs an oval painting by Otto Haberer-Sinner dating from 1913, the year the hotel opened. Two side doors lead to the smaller but no less stylish "Salon Rouge" (112 square metres), originally intended as a room for ladies. This salon – with its festive yet intimate ambience – features white stucco work in Empire style, contrasting curtains and wall coverings in red, high arched windows and parquet flooring.

The "Salon Rouge" and the "Salon Casino" are corner rooms, both linked with the "La Terrasse" restaurant and ideal as private dining rooms for smaller functions and festivities. The "Salon Casino" (71 square metres) is distinguished by its impressive Murano glass chandeliers and elegant wood panelling, and served in early times as the Bridge Salon. The amusing genre paintings by Otto Haberer-Sinner were uncovered in 1987 and carefully restored.



**BELLEVUE PALACE**  
*Bern*

Particularly impressive is the sumptuous splendour of the "Salon du Palais" (240 square metres). The ceiling, lacquered in coral red, reflects fine crystal chandeliers; the walls are decorated with white stucco work in Louis XVI style.

Finally, the "Salon d'Honneur" has lost nothing of its exclusive old-world ambience for the most elegant of receptions and other festive events. The finest features of this room include Corinthian columns of marble with patinated gilded bases and capitals, precious mirrors, wall tapestries and antique chandeliers dating from the Belle Epoque.

For smaller events, board meetings, seminars or simply discreet discussions of any kind, the hotel offers a first-floor conference area equipped with the most modern amenities. The area comprises four separate rooms, all enhanced by natural daylight and accommodating from eight to 25 persons. They include the stylish "Salon Lafayette", which is used during state visits for the signing of agreements or the presentation of gifts to visiting dignitaries.

## **DINING OF DISTINCTION**

The name of the BELLEVUE PALACE needs little explanation. From its attractive "La Terrasse" restaurant, guests are indeed offered the most beautiful view extending over the River Aare as far as the distant Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau peaks. Pleasures for the palate and a feast for the eyes, so to speak. From April to October, this is one of Bern's most prestigious venues for dining of distinction.

The interior of "La Terrasse" – with its fine wood panelling and impressive vaulted ceiling – can seat up to 80 persons. Here guests are served with a delicious buffet breakfast, a tempting choice of lunches and evening dishes as well. The culinary delights of the BELLEVUE PALACE (16 points GaultMillau) are Swiss and international "Cuisine d'aujourd'hui" creations, prepared to perfection with the finest market-fresh ingredients. *Prawns with champagne vinaigrette, calf's liver with raspberries, bass on lemon-tomato-rice* – these are just a few of the many seasonal specialities on offer. Attractive vegetarian dishes are also available, together with a selection of choice cheeses and delectable desserts.

The hotel's extensive wine cellar comprises no fewer than 500 of the finest reds and whites, with exclusive Bordeaux red wines particularly well represented. In addition, the champagne card – listing more than 100 varieties – is one of the most extensive in Switzerland.



## LEGENDARY BELLEVUE BAR

The legendary "BELLEVUE Bar" has long enjoyed renown as the meeting point in Bern for politicians, diplomats, businessmen, the media – and movie makers. Down the decades the hotel has become a setting of sophistication for screen epics about the world of espionage and intrigue. From femmes fatales to agents of elegance, the BELLEVUE PALACE has played host to many such fictional characters here in the heart of neutral Switzerland. The hotel was the setting in 1981 for John le Carré's spy thriller "Smiley's People" starring Sir Alec Guinness. John le Carré himself was a student at Bern University in the late 1940s.

The "BELLEVUE Bar" is open daily from 8 hrs. to 24 hrs. and is the ideal venue for a light lunch of the season, an evening snack, aperitif or a cocktail after a concert or theatre visit. Here too, the BELLEVUE PALACE is one of Bern's most preferred venues for visiting and local guests alike.

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