



## **SWITZERLAND'S VICTORIA-JUNGFRAU GROUP TAKES OVER BELLEVUE PALACE MANAGEMENT**

Switzerland's Victoria-Jungfrau group of leading luxury hotels is taking over the management of the Bellevue Palace Hotel in Bern – the only 5-star hotel in the Swiss capital.

The two parties today concluded a leasing agreement, under which the Interlaken-based Victoria-Jungfrau group will take over the management of the Bellevue Palace on 1 January 2007. The accord will take effect initially for a 10-year period, but envisages cooperation on a long-term basis.

The Victoria-Jungfrau group already comprises the Victoria-Jungfrau in Interlaken, the Palace Luzern in Lucerne and the Eden au Lac in Zurich.

The Bellevue Palace is located next to the Swiss Houses of Parliament and the main buildings of the Swiss government. The government acquired the property from the Swiss National Bank in 1994, and has since operated it through a specially-created company. In more recent years, however, the government has indicated its interest in relinquishing the management. Various offers have been considered and the government has now opted for a cooperation with the Victoria-Jungfrau group as the most suitable solution.

The Victoria-Jungfrau group is already well-established internationally as a flagship of the Swiss luxury hotel industry, with extensive marketing and sales contacts worldwide. It is also one of the most traditional and prestigious hotel groups in Switzerland. The Victoria-Jungfrau was opened in 1865 (the same year as the Bellevue Palace) and the Eden au Lac in Zurich in 1909. The Palace Luzern this year celebrates its centenary.

The Bellevue Palace comprises 130 luxury rooms and suites and in recent years has invested heavily in modernisation and renovation. The establishment has been a member of The Leading Hotels of the World for many years.

Its guests have included royalty, history's most eminent international statesmen (including Winston Churchill, Mikhail Gorbachov and Nelson Mandela) and leading figures from the world of sport and entertainment.

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