



## PRESS RELEASE

### **A new captain at the helm of the flagship.**

**Interlaken, Switzerland, 2 August 2011 (IB) – In mid-November, 51-year-old Stefan W. Bollhalder will take up the position of General Manager of the long-established Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa in Interlaken. This native of Wil in the Swiss canton of St Gallen is returning to Switzerland after almost 30 years working abroad, including more than ten years in Asia and a total of eight years in Germany, having nevertheless made regular visits to his homeland during this period. “After the appointment of Markus Iseli at the Palace Luzern, we are very pleased to have been able to attract a General Manager with such wide-ranging international experience to our eponymous hotel in Interlaken,” enthuses Dr. Peter Bratschi, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Victoria-Jungfrau Collection. “His career path from commis in the Montreux Palace to General Manager of the official Beijing 2008 Olympia Hotel is very impressive indeed – he is a genuine pro of the hotel business.” The current management team of Hans-Rudolf and Elisabeth Ruetti will leave the five-star establishment as announced at the end of November. “We thank them for their commitment and wish them every success for the future,” continues Dr. Bratschi.**

The hotel career of the new General Manager of the Victoria-Jungfrau began in the kitchens: after a kitchen apprenticeship in Davos, Stefan Bollhalder's first professional steps took him to the Montreux Palace and the Gstaad Palace. He then took up posts in New Zealand, Brunei and Indonesia, where he began a 16-year association with the Hyatt Group. From 1991 to 1996, at the Hyatt Regency in Cologne, Stefan Bollhalder made the jump from the kitchen to management, filling various positions right up to Executive Assistant Manager. It was from here that this committed hotelier started out on a dream management career: after working as Resident Manager at the Grand Hyatt Jakarta, he oversaw the opening of several Hyatt hotels as General Manager in various prestigious destinations in the Far East. Following a brief interlude at the Grand Hyatt Hamburg, he returned to Asia in 2001 to a market that he knows like the back of his hand and where, with the help of his excellent contacts, he will make Interlaken an even more attractive destination. As General Manager with the exclusive Shangri-La Group, he spent ten years managing five-star hotels in Jakarta, Beijing and most recently Hong Kong, where he also held the post of Area Manager. This father of two grown-up children is now looking forward to a new challenge in the Bernese Oberland.

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