

THE AFICIONADOS

GORGEOUS HOTELS
OF CURATED STYLE

ECLECTIC REBELS



HERITAGED PURLIEU

GASTHAUS TRAUBE

Buchs, Switzerland

Images by Roland Lichtensteiger

New and old, dark and light, modern yet aged with heritage, spatial but restrained are the paired contrasts at play at Gasthaus Traube in Buchs, northeastern Switzerland, where a contemporary rebuild links to a historic 200-year-old restaurant with startling acclaim.

Like many of life's great passion projects, Gasthaus Traube was the amalgamation and vision of a few determined souls who persisted in bringing a challenging manifestation to life, tying the past of the building's bones to a new restoration, creating a spot-on style commune for the townsfolk of alpine settlement Buchs.

Paragons of the local community, owners Kathrin Schertler-Secli and Ivan Secli were already deeply embedded in the culture of their town Buchs when the opportunity to take on the dilapidated Gasthaus Traube appeared. Bringing on board Jan Schmid from Berger + Partners AG and the aesthetic interior design eye of Ruth Kramer, famed for her Vals enclave Brücke 49 was a smart, bold move and one which safeguarded the project.

In these trusty hands, the Gasthaus took shape, with the renovated barn becoming the new hotel, a lighter, brighter contrast to the old restaurant, with lofty high ceilings and a luminous new addition: a Garden Room, its glass frontage seamlessly flowing into the verdant exterior landscaping. Inside, soft pink and green tones allow the build to have a light touch feel, with drama coming from large format gold-flecked frescoes adorning the walls, hand painted by Brazilian artist Heloisa Ackermann.

Although the primary barn was dismantled to honour its original form, the hotel was rebuilt as a pure wooden structure, clad in charred larch wood, using a Japanese technique of carbonisation, but with locally sourced wood. The subtle hand of Ruth Kramer and her modern Swiss and Scandi aesthetics can be seen across the hotel and its suites, cocooned in wood with mid-century furnishings and Scandinavian design icons such as the Pelican chairs from Finn Juhl, Papa Bear chairs in lamb's wool by Hans J Wegner, loungers from Space Copenhagen and lighting from Aqua Creations. Soft linens flirt around the picture windows that look out over the castle and hilly Buchserberg.

The restaurant in the historic Traube Hall by contrast is reversed with its low height, carved panelling in dark woods and north-facing aspect. Restored murals from 1884, decorative boiserie and Swiss walnut dining tables add to its grandiose nature, delicately worked upon by dedicated woodworkers applying their skilled crafts. Cocooned by history, guests can dine out on 200-years of heritage, peeled back with painstaking precision.

Pioneering a new guise for the Gasthaus Traube – the creative drive of the makers is clearly evident throughout – completing the circle of thoughtfulness embedded into this reimagined historical charmer.





