

## St. Moritz Gourmet Festival 2020: 31<sup>st</sup> January - 8<sup>th</sup> February

### Fantastic end to the festival - Woman power captivates around 4,000 guests in the Upper Engadine

**The culinary woman power of ten top international female chefs together with the exceptional cooking skills of the host Executive Chefs from the festival partner hotels combined to serve up pure delight at the St. Moritz Gourmet Festival 2020. A total of more than 40 different pleasure events over the past nine days of the festival experienced a tremendous reception from the guests, the likes of which have never been seen before in the history of the cult festival that ended last night with the magnificent Porsche Gourmet Finale at the Suvretta House.**

This year, for only the second time in the history of the St. Moritz Gourmet Festival, ten top female chefs from the international fine dining scene had been invited. The organizers were thus consciously highlighting the fantastic amount of woman power in top gastronomy, where normally it is mainly men who stand in the spotlight. Fabrizio Zanetti, culinary director of the festival and Executive Chef at the festival partner hotel Suvretta House in St. Moritz, showed he had the Midas touch with his selection: the top female chefs Lanshu Chen from Taichung, Bel Coelho from São Paulo, Carolina Bazán from Santiago de Chile, Renu Homsombat and Bee Satongun from Bangkok, Emma Bengtsson from New York City, Kamilla Seidler from Copenhagen, Cristina Bowerman from Rome, as well as Asma Khan and Judy Joo from London formed this year's line-up.

Swedish two-star chef Emma Bengtsson from New York City said, "Never before, I have experienced such personal interaction with the guests and other chefs. It was a fantastic experience to make the taste of my home country accessible to the festival guests here". "The hospitality and the support I experienced from my host, Executive Chef Mauro Taufer and his team at the Kulm Hotel St. Moritz, surpasses everything, even what I'm used to in India," says Asma Khan with a smile on her face: "Everything runs like Swiss clockwork. Within next to no time, I had the freshest ingredients of incredible quality here at my disposal with which to prepare my authentic Indian dishes."

The mixture of Taiwanese, Brazilian, Chilean, Thai, Scandinavian, Italian as well as Indian and Korean eating culture in interaction with the excellent culinary skills of the local Executive Chefs at the partner hotels, has fascinated about 4,000 guests at more than 40 different pleasure events over the past nine days. A real success for the organisers: "Along with our official events, the Gourmet Diners at the partner hotels as well as the special events, were all fully booked", explained Martin Scherer, President of the St. Moritz Gourmet Festival Association.

"Women have the power", was also the summary of Bel Coelho, who rocked the culinary Upper Engadine as guest chef of Executive Chef Fabrizio Piantanida at the Grand Hotel Kronenhof in Pontresina. "To have such a massive joint presence and also to be able to extend our network amongst ourselves is absolutely terrific", said Italy's most influential female star chef Cristina Bowerman, who was guest chef with Heros de Agostinis at the Carlton Hotel. "The days have been very intense - but there was always a smile", relates Lanshu Chen, "and I myself am able to take home many enriching experiences from the excellent collaboration with Fabrizio Zanetti at Suvretta House". This peer collaboration between local chefs and guest chefs has characterised the cult festival from the very beginning. "The festival period intensely inspired both sides. Exotic ingredients from the home countries of this year's female guest chefs, unknown to us until now, will certainly become a part of our own new creations - the personal networking between guest chefs and local chefs will have a positive effect in the long-term, far beyond the days of the festival", explains Fabrizio Zanetti.



Last night, the **Porsche Gourmet Finale**, the culmination of the nine-day festival, was celebrated at the extremely elegant Suvretta House. To start with, five local chefs spoiled the guests with delicious appetizers at the champagne reception, before guest female chefs Emma Bengtsson, Cristina Bowerman, Kamilla Seidler, Bee Satongun and Asma Khan each prepared one course of a spectacular gala menu. The gala night was charmingly presented by Annina Campell and the live band, the Walter Ricci Quartet, provided atmospheric musical accompaniment.

“Ladies first” was also the evening’s motto for the grand announcement and presentation ceremony for this year’s best **Young Engadine Talent**. At the competition of the same name - held prior to the festival for the ninth time already, but for the first time in association with the Swiss Hotel & Gastro Union - it was **Chiara Courtin** who was selected thanks to her excellent skills by a specialist jury as top of the participating trainees. The cookery student, in her third year of apprenticeship under Executive Chef Fabrizio Zanetti at Hotel Suvretta House, can look forward to having won several prizes, among them a period of training with master chef Rolf Fliegau at Hotel Giardino Ascona, as well as a training weekend with the Swiss national junior cooking team. Second placed Maximilian Thöny from Hotel Waldhaus Sils, and third placed Marino Taisch from the Consorzi Chasa Puntota in Scuol, were both announced and presented before a major audience on the evening of the finale.

The highlight of the magnificent evening was the presentation of diplomas and gifts to the guest female chefs and the local chefs by Michael Glinski, CEO of Porsche Schweiz AG, festival Title Sponsor & Official Car.

**The date of the St. Moritz Gourmet Festival 2021 will soon be announced.**

Current news can be found on the website [www.stmoritz-gourmetfestival.ch](http://www.stmoritz-gourmetfestival.ch) and on [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#).

**The following festival partners look forward to welcoming gourmet fans from all over the world at the festival:**

The **partner hotels** Badrutt’s Palace Hotel\*\*\*\*\* Superior, St. Moritz; Carlton Hotel\*\*\*\*\* Superior, St. Moritz; Grand Hotel des Bains Kempinski \*\*\*\*\* Superior, St. Moritz; Grand Hotel Kronenhof\*\*\*\*\* Superior, Pontresina; Hotel Saratz\*\*\*\* Superior, Pontresina; Hotel Giardino Mountain\*\*\*\*\* Superior, Champfèr/St. Moritz; Nira Alpina\*\*\*\* Superior, Silvaplana-Surlej; Hotel Waldhaus Sils\*\*\*\*\*, Sils-Maria; Kulm Hotel St. Moritz\*\*\*\*\* Superior, St. Moritz, and Suvretta House\*\*\*\*\* Superior, St. Moritz, as well as the **event locations** Cava Bar, Hotel Steffani\*\*\*\*, St. Moritz; CheCha Restaurant & Club by Reto Mathis, St. Moritz.

**The festival is supported by the tremendous commitment of the following sponsors:**

**Title sponsor & official car:** PORSCHE Schweiz AG; **Title sponsor:** Bank Julius Baer & Co. AG; **Co-sponsors:** Caratello Wines St. Gallen, Confiserie Sprüngli AG, G. Bianchi AG, Laurent-Perrier Suisse S.A., Martel AG St. Gallen, Maura Wasescha AG, Rageth Comestibles AG, SIRUS Saffron, VALSER; **Suppliers:** Bader + Niederöst AG, BRAGARD SUISSE AG, CERUTTI „il Caffè“, Hugo Dubno AG, Schwob AG, sknife AG; Antony Eleveur de fromages; **Local carrier:** Massé and Partner Transports GmbH; **Local media partner:** Engadiner Post/Posta Ladina; **Media partners:** enjy.tv, Gault&Millau Channel, htr hotel revue, marmite – magazine for eating and drinking culture; **Partner of Young Engadine Talents:** Swiss Hotel & Gastro Union.

St. Moritz, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020

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**Current festival impressions in print quality** are available for download at:

<http://db.pprmediarelations.ch/customer/stmoritz-gourmetfestival>

**Text copy as well as brief portraits and photographs of the female guest chefs in print quality** are available for download at: <https://www.stmoritz-gourmetfestival.ch/en/media>