HOTEL SCHWEIZERHOF BERN

ANDY WALCH WINS THE SWISS COCKTAIL CHAMPIONSHIPS ONCE AGAIN

Bern, 9th September 2014 – **On Monday, 8th September, the 2014 Swiss Cocktail Championships took place under the auspices of the Swiss Barkeeper Union. The competition was held at the ZAGG, the Swiss Exhibition for Hospitality, Hotels & Contract Catering, in Lucerne. Some 60 professionals from all over Switzerland squared off against one another in four separate competitions. In the category "Classic", Andy Walch, the Lobby-Lounge Bar Manager of the Hotel Schweizerhof Bern – and Swiss Cocktail Master 2013 – convinced the judges again this year. And the hotel brought home another first place trophy, as our bartender Sarah Leuenberger won top honours in the category "Up and Coming Talent".**

Following the honour of being named "Bar Manager of the Year" in the prestigious hotel ratings conducted by the magazine *Bilanz*, Andy Walch, the 26-year-old manager of the Lobby-Lounge Bar at the Hotel Schweizerhof Bern, claimed another laurel at the 2014 Swiss Cocktail Championships in Lucerne, as his cocktail creation "Floral Temptation" was awarded first place in the "Classic" category. With this trophy, Andy could successfully defend his title, having won last year as well. On top of this honour, Andy Walch won an additional award for "Best Technique".

Our award-winning barman has been working in this profession for about eight years, and has been with us at the Hotel Schweizerhof Bern for over two years now. Having won this title, Andy qualifies to compete in the 2015 Cocktail World Championship in Sofia, Bulgaria. But first, as the reigning 2013 Swiss Cocktail Champion, he will represent Switzerland at the 2014 Cocktail World Championship, to be held in Cape Town at the beginning of October.

Sarah Leuenberger, our second award winner, joined the Hotel Schweizerhof Bern as a bartender earlier this year. As a first-time contestant at the championship, she also impressed the judges with her mixology skills, and they awarded her the top prize for "Up and Coming Talent".

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About the Hotel Schweizerhof Bern

The Swiss Capital Leading Hotel: For 150 years, the Hotel Schweizerhof Bern has been the leading hotel in Switzerland's capital city, attracting a demanding clientele of business and event visitors, and guests from Bern itself. Located at Bern's most central location near the train station, the five-star superior hotel blends classical grand tradition with contemporary flair, elegant design and world-class service. After a two-year renovation programme, the hotel reopened in spring 2011, marking the return of a legend following six years' closure. Reborn, the Schweizerhof offers 99 stylish rooms and suites, the 800 m² Bel Etage with 11 salons and meeting spaces including the Salon Trianon, a legendary ballroom appropriate for all types of events, Jack's Brasserie with its 14 Gault Millau points, the modern Lobby-Lounge Bar, a sophisticated Cigar Lounge, THE SPA with its 500 m² of luxurious wellness facilities, and the unique Sky Terrace.
www.schweizerhof-bern.ch

Bürgenstock Selection

The Hotel Schweizerhof Bern is part of "The Bürgenstock Selection." Based in Zug, Katara Hospitality Switzerland AG is the company operating the Swiss hotels owned by Katara Hospitality in Doha. Under the leadership of Managing Director Bruno H. Schöpfer, it is responsible for developing the hotel concepts and renovating, reconstructing and reopening the legendary establishments in its portfolio, which currently comprises the Hotel Schweizerhof Bern, the Bürgenstock Resort near Lucerne, and the Hotel Royal Savoy in Lausanne. While the Hotel Schweizerhof Bern was successfully reopened already in June 2011, work on the Bürgenstock Resort and the Hotel Royal Savoy continues in full swing.
www.buergenstock-selection.ch

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