



## BELLEVUE PALACE *Bern*

### The BELLEVUE PALACE in Bern: living history in tune with the times



Located right next to the Federal Houses of Parliament in Bern, the BELLEVUE PALACE has been the first port of call and an attraction in its own right since opening in 1913. The five-star hotel serves as the Swiss government's official guesthouse. Offering the ultimate in elegance, the 126 rooms and suites harmoniously combine historical elements with contemporary luxury and comfort. The stately hotel also impresses with a range of culinary delights. Besides offering the most beautiful panoramic view of the River Aare and the Alps, the award-winning (16 GaultMillau points) restaurant «VUE» tempts guests with delightful dishes to combine and share, drawing its inspiration from brasserie-style French cuisine. In the «BELLEVUE Bar» and «Le LOBBY», exquisite cocktail creations combine with the stylish interior to make the BELLEVUE PALACE a social meeting place, while the uncomplicated and trendy NOUMI, which opened in early 2019, invites guests to grill, chill and enjoy. The focus here is on grilled specialities – including vegetarian variations – and fine bowls inspired by food markets all over the world. You almost forget that the BELLEVUE PALACE is also the perfect venue for meetings and celebrations with its 16 different event rooms. [www.bellevue-palace.ch](http://www.bellevue-palace.ch)

Bern is more than just the capital city of Switzerland – it has also been listed as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site since 1983. A stroll through the Old Town is like taking an architectural journey back through time to the Middle Ages: stately sandstone houses, historic towers and fountains, market squares and picturesque alleys dominate the centuries-old cityscape. Six kilometres of attractive arcades make Bern the city with one of the longest weather-protected shopping promenades in Europe, and its wealth of shops, boutiques and restaurants in medieval cellar vaults is one of a kind. The Old Town is also home to the Bundeshaus (Federal Palace), the seat of Switzerland's federal government and parliament. Right next to the government building is the BELLEVUE PALACE, which has been the first port of call and an attraction in its own right since opening in 1913. The BELLEVUE PALACE is owned by the Swiss Confederation and run by the VICTORIA-JUNGFRAU COLLECTION on a lease basis under the direction of Managing Director Urs Bühler. The five-star hotel serves as the Swiss government's official guesthouse, is a venue for international state visits and provides an annexe for the Federal



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Council and the diplomatic corps. Built in neoclassical style and located on a rocky terrace overlooking the River Aare, the BELLEVUE PALACE affords magnificent panoramic views of the Bernese Alps. Together with the representative buildings of the Federal Houses of Parliament, the hotel forms a striking architectural ensemble on the southern edge of Bern's Old Town. Its location and eventful past are as unique as its service culture and superior interior design. The architectural charm of the palace hotel is harmoniously combined with modern-day comforts. The BELLEVUE PALACE is a grand hotel in the classical style and of great national, historical and cultural importance. It has played host to countless heads of state and leading figures from the world of politics, industry, culture and society. Everyone from the monarchy and heads of state to musicians, movie stars and sporting greats from all over the world reside in the BELLEVUE PALACE when staying in Bern. Emperor (then still just a Crown Prince) Akihito of Japan, Jacques Chirac, Nelson Mandela, Sophia Loren, Herbert Grönemeyer and Cristiano Ronaldo are just a few of the names to adorn the hotel's impressive guest list.

### **Contemporary comforts meet old-world elegance**

Dream to panoramic views, overnight in luxurious comfort. 126 luxurious rooms and suites await guests in the BELLEVUE PALACE – all offering the ultimate in elegance, valuable antiques, state-of-the-art technology and wonderfully comfortable box-spring beds. Business guests will find highly comfortable rooms with extra-large desks on the business floor on the fifth floor. While those looking for a little extra space have a choice of three Tower Suites and the 160-square-metre Presidential Suite. Carefully designed in the style of an elegant private apartment, unique highlights can also be found in the inspiring view of the Aare and the mountain panorama of the Bernese Oberland. Besides incorporating a bedroom, two lounges and a private kitchen, the Presidential Suite also meets the highest security standards. No matter which category of room guests choose, the BELLEVUE PALACE provides the same level of service throughout – from room service to babysitting and catering to the every need of guests. For those in need of shopping tips, wishing to take advantage of the city's many cultural attractions or looking for a private city tour, there is one man who can (virtually) always assist or advise: the hotel's very own concierge.

### **Top of Bern: gym and sauna**

The 200-square-metre BELLEVUE GYM is spread over two levels on the fifth floor and the attic and satisfies even the highest requirements for a workout with its state-of-the-art TechnoGym equipment. It is hard not to get distracted by the sporty, contemporary design and the breathtaking view of the parliamentary dome, the Old Town of Bern and even the Bernese



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Oberland. After working out, the sauna entices visitors to relax (in separate areas for men and women), while the terrace invites guests to unwind on the loungers.

### **Culinary excellence from all over the world**

The name of the BELLEVUE PALACE needs little explanation. Guests have the most impressive panoramic view from the terrace of its restaurant «VUE», extending over the River Aare and the distant Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau peaks. During the warmer months, from April to October, this is Bern's most prestigious venue for dining of distinction. Arched floor-to-ceiling windows, an impressive vaulted ceiling and fine wood panelling grace the interior of the restaurant «VUE».

Overseen by Executive Chef Gregor Zimmermann and the recipient of 16 Gault Millau points, the BELLEVUE PALACE kitchen is inspired by brasserie-style French recipes and offers «cuisine néo-artisanale» with fresh ingredients, encouraging diners to combine and share. Vegetarian and vegan creations as well as a large selection of choice cheeses and delectable desserts feature on the seasonal menu, too. Gregor Zimmermann is also a member of the world's most exclusive gastronomic society – the Club des Chefs des Chefs, where he represents Switzerland.

No less cosmopolitan is the NOUMI, which opened its doors in January 2019. The cult restaurant is located on the spacious former premises of the Bernese coin press and boasts a trendy interior, open kitchen and large bar. Copper-coloured basalt stones, light colours and natural materials such as wood and marble create a casual and stylish urban ambience. Diners are served simple dishes with a focus on grilled specialities – including vegetarian variations – and fine bowls inspired by food markets all over the world. NOUMI creates an atmosphere of sharing, combining and trying – a concept that appeals to both urban nomads and widely travelled connoisseurs. The bar serves signature drinks from the mixologist and fine, cult Swiss beverages to the sound of lounge music from popular DJs.

«Le LOBBY» is the Renaissance of a classic, coupled with urban existence. A place to chill and chat, enjoy fine snacks and discover no less than 99 exciting gin creations from all over the world under Switzerland's most beautiful glass dome. During the winter, «Le LOBBY gets Lounge» gets under way every Friday and Saturday evening, while the «Avant Club» brings the weekend off to an exciting start with sushi creations, pre-clubbing drinks and new gin cocktails coupled with lounge tunes from talented DJs.

The legendary «BELLEVUE Bar» has long enjoyed renown as a magnet for politicians, diplomats and journalists, a meeting point for travellers and locals, a trading place for businesses, a place to exchange society gossip and a workplace for film crews. Many people who have never even



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set foot in Bern are already familiar with the BELLEVUE PALACE and Bar: the hotel was the setting in 1981 for John le Carré's spy thriller *Smiley's People* starring Sir Alec Guinness. The «BELLEVUE Bar» is a relaxing venue for a light lunch, an evening snack, an aperitif before a concert or a cocktail after a theatre visit. It includes the cosy «Le Fumoir», which was given a facelift in 2018 and features comfortable leather chairs, dark parquet flooring and wooden panelling reminiscent of a library – not to mention the finest rums, the most exquisite digestifs and premium cigars.

### **Bern's finest lounges**

Celebrate the finer things in life, indulge in luxury, host important meetings in a sublime atmosphere – hardly a day goes by without the BELLEVUE PALACE staging conferences and receptions of national and international importance or festive dinners for representatives from the world of art, culture and business in its listed lounges. The focal point of the hotel is the lobby with its ornamental art nouveau glazed dome and striking pillars, which serves as an elegant foyer for pre-drinks. The five event rooms of the BELLEVUE PALACE unveil the golden age of Switzerland's luxury hotel industry. In true royal style, the «Salon Royal» (300 m<sup>2</sup>) is notable for its opulent crystal chandeliers, lavish ornamental stucco and gilding work. On one wall hangs an oil painting by the Swiss painter Otto Haberer-Sinner dating from 1913. Two side doors lead to the «Salon Rouge» (112 m<sup>2</sup>), originally intended as a room for ladies. This salon – with its festive yet intimate ambience – features white Empire-style stuccowork, curtains and wall coverings in chimney red, high arched windows and fine parquet flooring. The «Salon Rouge» and the «Salon Casino» are corner rooms, both linked with the restaurant «VUE» and thus ideal as private dining rooms for smaller functions. The «Salon Casino» (71 m<sup>2</sup>) is distinguished by its impressive Murano chandeliers and wood panelling, and served in early times as the Bridge Salon. The amusing genre paintings recovered in 1987 and carefully restored are inspired by late baroque and also came from the studio of Otto Haberer-Sinner. Particularly impressive is the sumptuous splendour of the «Salon du Palais» (240 m<sup>2</sup>): the ceiling, lacquered in coral red, reflects three striking drop-shaped crystal chandeliers; the walls are decorated with white stuccowork in Louis XVI style and shimmering gold marble. Finally, the «Salon d'Honneur» has lost nothing of its exclusive old-world ambience for the most elegant of receptions and other festive events. The finest features of this room include Corinthian columns of marble with patinated gilded capitals, precious mirrors and antique chandeliers dating from the turn of the century. Thanks to its bright conservatory, private terrace and view of the city and the Alps, the Orangerie (205 m<sup>2</sup>), which was renovated in 2018, is the epitome of the five-star hotel's modernity.



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For conferences, board meetings or confidential talks, the hotel offers six conference rooms equipped with the finest amenities and state-of-the-art infrastructure and enhanced by natural daylight. They include the stylish «Salon Lafayette», which is used during official state visits for the signing of agreements or the presentation of gifts to visiting dignitaries.

Bern/Zurich, April 2019

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