



**1892–2017 – With spring start „Bike Hotel“ Belvedere Locarno goes „back to the future“:  
200 years ago Drais invents the first two-wheeler, 125 years ago Hotel Belvedere is mentioned  
as a hostel for the first time and today the Belvedere celebrates its premiere as a Bike Hotel**

*Locarno / march 2017* – In 1817 Karl Drais invents the original form of the bicycle. The origins of Belvedere's historic fountain even date back until 1815 and in 1892 the Belvedere is first mentioned and starts its „career“ as a guest house. In the 1920s it experiences a heyday. After long-term family management the Belvedere falls only for a short while into other hands before it is taken over in 2000 by the Ticino family Lissi. They continue with constant renovations without neglecting the valuable testimonies of the history. In the last 16 years continuous investments are made which also leads to the fact, that the hotel can register record years in 2015 and 2016. Even during the anniversary year the Belvedere does not stand still: 13 rooms have just been „updated“.

Since the beginning of this month all props have been available for the „bike hotel“ certification:

A separate storage room for the bikes; cleaning spot with running water; repair set; documentation and counseling regarding bike routes and tours and last but not least the Spa and swimming-pool for guests' relaxation.

The biker and cyclist meets a real paradise in Ticino. Via funicular railway and cableway you reach the Monte Cardada, a good starting point for mountain-bikers - you will be stunned by the beautiful alpine panorama. For other bikers the Valle Maggia would be the place to go. After your tour you find relaxation in the hotel's Mediterranean garden or the Spa and swimming-pool area. Guests can also book a special bikers massage to relax from their daily activities and then go on to dine in the trendy „La Fontana Ristorante & Bar“ with its view-kitchen enjoying the Mediterranean-regional cuisine.

The Hotel with its 89 rooms – all providing a wonderful lake view - is located directly on the foot of „Madonna del Sasso“, famous pilgrim place. It is the only four star superior hotel in Locarno that remains open all year around. For those who like to take it easy the hotel is reachable directly by the funicular railway (stop „Belvedere“). Walking one easily reaches the historic city center and can enjoy the film festival city's Mediterranean charm and climate. Other activities in the Lago Maggiore area include hiking and golf which, thanks to the mild climate, is also possible in wintertime. Lugano airport Agno is 40 km distant, a 45-minute car drive. The Milan Malpensa airport remains 110 km south. As the new Alp-Transit has been finished the hotel can be reached via the Gotthard base tunnel from Zurich, Lucerne and Zug by train within a good two hours.

For further information or photo material please contact our press office:

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or visit our website: <https://www.belvedere-locarno.com/en/corporate/press>