

NEWS



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More than 500 guests of the international wellness industry and luxury hotels celebrate the SENSES Wellness Awards together with Hollywood stars and celebrities from film and television

Berlin, March 10th 2008 (rg). Industry experts and hoteliers from all over the world know it for nine years now: The SENSES Wellness Award, originating from the SENSES wellness magazine, which is traditionally exchanged during the ITB, the world's leading travel trade show in Berlin. However, this year all expectations were excelled: For the first time, inventor and editor in chief Dr. Peggy E. Bien invited guests to the Rocco Forte Hotel de Rome where more than 5000 guests of the international wellness industry and luxury hotels celebrated the SENSES Wellness Awards on March 5, 2008 together with Hollywood stars and celebrities from film and television. But not only the guest list was reflecting the "Who is Who" of the industry dealing with such subjects like wellness, spa, beauty and travel –the presenters came from all over the world to Berlin in order to present the award.

However, always after the order: After the guests were spoiled with champagne from Laurent Perrier, wines from wein.kaltern from South Tirol, a caviar bar by AquaOrbis, oysters, Vodka 360 and many things more in the exceptional ballroom of the hotel, presenter Anne Sophie Briest officially opened the evening through which she led gallantly. The actress born in Berlin is currently inspiring the film audience at the side of Till Schweiger in the box-office hit "Keinohrhasen" and has produced the TV hit „The woman of Checkpoint Charlie" with Veronica Ferres last year.

Besides the Rocco Forte Hotel de Rome as a new venue, the presentation of the popular trophies by celebrity presenters was also recentness. In total, 283 international hotels and resorts were to be selected by an international jury of more than 200 managers from the hotel and wellness industry. Merely the winners of the Visions as well as the Lifetime Awards were chosen by the SENSES editorial office. And thus the following winners and presenters arose:

- 1. Best Beach Spa – Beau Rivage Mauritius**, represented by Jean-Francois Rivière, Chief Marketing Officer of Naiade Resorts, presented by Miss British Virgin Islands, Leilani Stevens
- 2. Best Country Spa – Hotel Schloss Elmau**, represented by Nicole Huesken, Marketing and Communication, presented by actress Andrea L'Arronge
- 3. Best City Spa – Mandarin Oriental New York**, represented by Susanne Hatje, General Manager of the Mandarin Oriental Boston, presented by actor Bruno Eyrton
- 4. Best Alpine Spa – The Fairmont Chateau Whistler**, represented by Jeff Senior, Senior Vice President Chateau Whistler, presented by actor Lorenzo Patané
- 5. Best Boutique Spa – Carlton Hotel St. Moritz**, represented by Ina Bauspieß, PR Manager of Tschuggen Hotel Group, presented by actress Michaela Merten
- 6. Visions Award - Diagnostic & Prevention Center Schwez AG in St. Moritz**, represented by Sales Manager Vivian Lorenz, presented by SENSES publisher and CEO of Paradise Productions, Bernd Johannes Fuerst

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7. Lifetime Award – Kurt Wachtveitl, General Manager of the Mandarin Oriental Bangkok, presented by entrepreneur and SENSES jury president 2008 Walter Junger and Hollywood star Sydne Rome

The guests were indulged by the culinary creations of chef Raffaele Cannizzaro and his team - the Italian by birth served lusciousness like geese darning liver Crème Brûlée with braised fig, smoked rabbit tureen with artichokes, olives and tomatoes and Tartar of the Blue Fin tuna with Gremolata.

However, not only the palate was spoiled during this evening - also the eyes and the ears: Exclusively for this evening the art gallery GALERIE JUNGER exhibited works of the Berlin artist Sascha Kramer in the ballroom of the hotel. Kramer is a famous photo artist who already portrayed worldwide musicians and actors for national and international advertising campaigns, and produces music videos, television films and promotional films for movies since 1993.

Musician Roger Pabst and his Big Band were entertaining the crowd until the early morning hours. And they had reason for the celebration: Besides the awards, the magazine SENSES is currently celebrating its 10th birthday. Therefore, Chef de Cuisine Cannizzaro surprised the two SENSES managers Dr. Peggy Bien and Bernd Johannes Fuerst at the end of the presentation together with the general manager of the hotel, Thies Sponholz and his team, with a nicely decorated birthday cake.

Peggy Bien is proud of the Award and the development of the industry: " This year's result shows that the economy is recovering – because especially the international and distant destinations are in the trend. Our jurors have recognised the spirit of the times and before all things the present need by international destinations with world-first-class spa. "

Host Hotel de Rome, but also the long-standing partner BABOR Cosmetics, supported the SENSES Wellness Award together with many other partner companies. BABOR Cosmetics is a traditional enterprise founded more than 50 years ago. It is worldwide a synonym for exclusive cosmetics and wellness products as well as professional systems of treatment and has risen by his experiences to one of the leading cosmetics brands.

The evening was organised by Walter Junger and Friends, Ltd. – a company based with headquarters in Berlin and Singapore. The service company supports spas, hotels and restaurants as well as also other service suppliers in the areas of branding and service excellence, art consultation, event creation as well as in the general concept creation.

Further information is available under www.paradise-productions.de, www.walterjungerandfriends.com as well as www.hotelderome.com. **General information:** SENSES, the international wellness guide, appears in its 10th year in German, English, Russian and, in the meantime, also French. SENSES introduces the finest wellness oases and spas worldwide. In addition, the publishing house also brings out PARADISE GOLF with the special editions PARADISE Weddings, PARADISE Gourmet and PARADISE Traveller as well as RICH REPORT.