

PRESS RELEASE

Volkshaus Basel – opening of No. 1 (Bar) & No. 2 (Brasserie)

Basel, 5 March 2012 – with renovation work complete, Volkshaus Basel's Herzog & de Meuron-designed bar and brasserie are ready to celebrate their culinary revival on 6 March 2012

After several months' planning and rebuilding, the traditional Volkshaus Basel is showing a new face. The bar and brasserie have been completely rebuilt and designed by Herzog & de Meuron. "Based on the original architecture of 1925, the Volkshaus will be preserved in all its diversity and complexity and will reflect the spirit of its own history," says Herzog & de Meuron Senior Partner Ascan Mergenthaler. "Our intention aims to revitalize the diversity of this location which is so important to the life of Basel, while at the same time restoring its architectural identity."

Along with the architecture the new occupants are concentrating on good, value-for-money cuisine as well as friendly, efficient service. The aim is for guests to feel completely comfortable in the Volkshaus and find a Kleinbasel home-away-from-home. And so the bar will be open from 6.00 a.m. for the early risers and will offer a small menu of selected Volkshaus classics throughout the day along with the daily menu. In the evening it will transform into a meeting place for the beer lovers (glass: CHF 4.50), cocktail fans and wine connoisseurs.

The brasserie offers a selection of French and Swiss dishes, balancing simple home cooking and fine dining. "We're going all out to attract diverse groups with value for money and a terrific, lively atmosphere which will even entice customers over the Rhine from the Greater Basel area," says Gilles Hoffer, *Chef de Brasserie*.

Along with the bar and brasserie, the rebuilt Volkshaus kitchen with its *Executive Chef* Marc Arnold will be supplying the three large halls (No. 4, No. 5 and No. 6) with their extensive banquet service. The halls are outfitted with modern technology and can be booked for all types of business and private events. "After the renovations we're in a position to fulfil all customer requests, from simple stand-up drinks or association events to large banquets and weddings with multiple high quality courses – we're now in a position to do it all," says Sandra Haingartner, *Head of Banqueting*.

“With the completion of the bar and brasserie we’re closer than ever to our goal of completely revitalizing Volkshaus Basel and achieving the marriage of cultural and musical events with innovative gastronomy that we’ve always wanted; music and events accompanied by affordable, home-style cooking under one roof,” says Adrian Hagenbach, co-owner and board member of Volkshaus Basel Betriebs AG. Martin Reinshagen, former Deputy Hotel Director at *Fairmont Le Montreux Palace*, will be responsible for implementing the concept. “I’m looking forward to the challenge of steering the Volkshaus professionally into the future and tailoring our service to meet the demands of the overall concept and the needs of our guests.”

For operational and financial reasons the rebuilding of Volkshaus Basel is being planned and executed in various phases. “After taking over the establishment on 1 July 2011 and the completion of the bar in March 2012, next up is the opening of the Biergarten in the courtyard on 1 May 2012. Further steps include the renovation of the ballroom in summer 2012, the opening of the Club in autumn and in the last phase the opening of the hotel and delicatessen in the front section of the Volkshaus building around 2016,” says Leopold Weinberg, co-owner and director of Volkshaus Basel Betriebs AG.

The bar and brasserie will open from 6 March 2012, starting at 6.00 a.m. The new Volkshaus Basel celebrates its opening on 17 March 2012 as of 2.00 p.m. and invites all interested parties for a drink in the new premises.

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