



Seezeitlodge Hotel & Spa
Press Pack
Gonnesweiler/Bostalsee, Germany



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Category	Four-Star Superior
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Seezeit Lodge

HOTEL & SPA

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Hotel

The Seezeitlodge Hotel & Spa opened in July 2017, and its location in the Saar-Hunsrück Nature Park in north-eastern Saarland makes it a real gem just waiting to be discovered. This spa resort offers a retreat in the heart of nature and a prominent location on a small, wooded headland in the county of St. Wendel with views over Lake Bostalsee. Its closeness with the surrounding region and the creative mindset of hosts Kathrin and Christian Sersch are evident throughout the entire hotel. Guided by their motto “Real beauty. Beautifully real.” the hosts have created a hotel exuding ingenuity and attention to detail that will appeal to spa-goers, sports enthusiasts, connoisseurs and lovers of culture and nature. Awaiting guests are 98 modern rooms and suites, the Restaurant LUMI including terrace, Bar NOX with its fire lounge, a library, three conference rooms and the Seezeit Spa. The renowned Berlin-based architecture company, GRAFT, was commissioned with creating the heavily nature-inspired architecture. The interior design and lighting concept was developed by Birgit Nicolay of NICOLAY DESIGN based in Stuttgart and New York. The hotel is a member of the Hideaways Hotels Collection, Wellness Hotels & Resorts and, since the beginning of 2019, of Design Hotels™. According to GEO Saison, it is one of the “100 most beautiful hotels in Europe 2018”.

Location

The Seezeitlodge Hotel & Spa is situated amongst a haven of greenery in the county of St. Wendel, right next to Lake Bostalsee – a natural powerhouse nestled in the surrounding low mountain region with close ties to its local cultural history. At one time, the Celts occupied the Saar-Hunsrück Nature Park in north-eastern Saarland and the forest still houses stone relics from this era such as the Celtic ring wall in Otzenhausen, which is just twelve kilometres away from the hotel. The district town of St. Wendel, after which the surrounding region is named, is 22 kilometres from the Seezeitlodge. Saarbrücken and Saarlouis are approximately 55 kilometres away in the south-western part of the county. The next largest cities in Rhineland Palatinate - Trier and Kaiserslautern - are about a 50-minute drive by car.

The brains behind the success

Hosts Kathrin and Christian Sersch knew right from the start that their ideal hotel would be situated in Saarland. Their family is deeply rooted in the area and they had been visiting Lake Bostalsee ever since they were children. Kathrin and Christian Sersch researched the location heavily, which was initially just a wooded hill.



“We knew right away that this location was a special place. Guests will sense and experience the power of this site when they arrive at the hotel: the natural setting with its polarising forest and lake, a region steeped in Celtic history and our family tradition are all reflected in the various realms of experience and design of the hotel.”

The young hosts work in partnership to look after their guests. They are supported by deputy hotel manager, Kilian Rau. Other areas have been divided amongst themselves. Kathrin Sersch, a trained hotel specialist and media economist, looks after guest-related services, marketing and the spa. Christian Sersch, a graduate in business administration oversees management, accounts, building services and the kitchen.

History and philosophy

The parents of Kathrin Sersch supported the hosts in developing and implementing their ideas. Anette (née Wagner) and Gottfried Hares are shareholders in HotelKultur Betriebs GmbH and invested heavily in the development of the hotel. They are shareholders in Wagner Holding, originally known as Wagner Tiefkühlprodukte GmbH, and now hold shares in various companies. There is no longer any association with Wagner Tiefkühlprodukte GmbH under company law. The hotel displays references to the family roots, whose story of success began in Braunshausen in 1952 with the grandparents of Kathrin Sersch, Ernst and Herta Wagner, who founded Wagner Tiefkühlprodukte GmbH in 1969. In 1952, her grandparents opened a bakery and Peterberger Hof, a guest house with a hotel attached, which was one of the most well-known restaurant retreats in Saarland at that time. Both the hotel industry and bakery trade run in the family’s blood. Kathrin and Christian Sersch have continued this tradition alongside her uncle Günter Wagner, owner of Hotel La Maison in Saarlouis. The family’s roots can be seen in the open bakery at Seezeitlodge Hotel & Spa with its large bread-baking oven and conscious focus on the bakery and patisserie trade as well as original past photos.

Architecture

Based on the unique topography of the headland on Lake Bostalsee, the international architecture company GRAFT designed a building harmonious with the character of the area that positively enhances its inspirational surroundings. .../5

Guests approach the hotel through a thick forest. Upon entering the lobby, guests are greeted with breathtaking views of the lake. From here, you can head to Restaurant LUMI via Bar NOX and the library on one side, and to the conference rooms and Seezeit Spa on the other. The main zones of activity such as the restaurant, conference rooms and spa area all open out onto the hill towards the lake, offering magnificent panoramic views. Hotel guests can access their rooms via the lift situated in the lobby. Almost all of the 98 rooms and suites have views of the lake. The side facing south-west soaks up the evening sun and views of the southern side of Lake Bostalsee, while the opposite north-east side gets the morning sun with treetop views on the northern side of the lake. The top floor of the hotel boasts suites with spectacular panoramic views of the headland and lake. The building was designed as a high-quality, solid construction. The façade consists of wooden slats which turn a silvery-grey colour on the surface over time due to their natural ageing process.

Interior design

Birgit Nicolay from NICOLAY DESIGN based in Stuttgart and New York was responsible for developing the overall concept and oversaw the special design of the hotel. The design and storytelling of all the interior areas, rooms and suites, the lobby, restaurant and bar, library, shop and spa were her doing. The interior designer opted for a style based on clear lines with a casual and cosy element, but always with a touch of surprise. It was particularly important to her to integrate the location between the forest and lake, the Celtic history and the solstice and equinox axes and bring them to life for guests. She therefore orchestrated three lines for the equinoxes as well as summer and winter solstice, each with a brass beam flowing from inside to outside as a work of art. The winter solstice axis (21 December) runs from the lobby via a brass beam to a fire pit on the terrace. The ancient Celtic element of fire is ignited each evening by the hotel team. The summer solstice axis (21 June) and brass beam run through Restaurant LUMI across the Community Table out onto the terrace, finishing off with a beam raised vertically towards the heavens.

This work of art is called “Heaven on Earth” and symbolises a ray of sunshine with its summer solstice. The spring equinox (21 March) and autumn equinox (21 September), the so-called equinox axis, begins in the lobby and runs through Bar NOX of the same name onto the terrace, culminating with a piece of art in the form of a scale to represent the balance between day and night. These outdoor works of art are creations by local artist Katharina Bender. Display cases embedded into the floor give guests insight into the Celtic symbols and names of the celestial axes.

Birgit Nicolay placed particular emphasis on the use of natural materials, sand, white and brown colour tones, woven cotton materials, oiled parquet, braided materials in lamps, wallpaper with designs featuring Celtic knots and local wood such as oak. The lighting concept, designed by NICOLAY DESIGN featuring circadian control, offers different light settings for atmospheric effect in the bedrooms, restaurant and spa area. The Celtic history is visible in some of the designs and lights developed by Nicolay including projected Celtic designs, floating candles and light walls. The design of the furniture alludes to nature and the lake: some of the knitted lampshades resemble fishing nets, sofas made of reeds can be found, a table in the library is made from petrified wood and mirrored balcony partitions enhance awareness of the lake. Rocking chairs in the lobby and hammocks on the balconies in the suites add a playful touch. In the restaurant, focus is placed on presentation of the product, encouraging the team to opt for large, open cupboards. The long Community Table encourages conversation and a tree in the centre of the restaurant brings nature indoors.

Rooms and suites

The 98 rooms and suites range in size from 30 to 80 square metres. Furnishings include four-poster beds, some rooms feature a forest shower and a mirror on the balcony. All king-size box-spring beds face the window with views of the lake and surrounding nature. The Oasis, Forest Room, Lake Room, Family Nest and Small Suite include a sofa, desk or console, minibar, safe, free WiFi, flat-screen satellite TV, bathtub or rain shower, separate toilet, hair dryer and a spa kit to use during your stay. The Family Nest also includes a separate children's room.

All suites include a Nespresso machine and are adorned with special subtle details: The Dream View Suite features a corner balcony with a hammock, while the Sweetheart Suite includes a fully-equipped bar, a wooden bathtub in the bedroom with views of the lake and a walk-in wardrobe. The Fire Suite is guaranteed to impress with its own fireplace and views of the fire pit in the garden as well as a walk-in wardrobe. The Forest Lodge features two corner suites connected via a door in the hotel corridor. All rooms and suites feature a sustainable, zero-emissions solution to air conditioning known as concrete core activation. Each room is fitted with poles in the floor and ceiling which can be either cooled or heated via a control.

Restaurant



The cuisine by chef Daniel Schöfisch (born in 1986) is characterised by simplicity and authenticity. With its spacious terrace and views of the lake, visitors to Restaurant LUMI can enjoy high-quality, fuss-free dishes that are nonetheless seasonal and made using herbs and spices from our garden. Among the 40 different herbs are plants such as wild garlic, various cresses, cow parsley, sorrel and ground elder, which were used by the Celts. Ancient types of grain such as spelt, einkorn and emmer wheat are used in addition to shoots from the forest, mushrooms and old vegetable varieties such as Tondo di Chioggia (beetroot), oxheart carrots and Nero di Toscana (black cabbage) in the preparation of seasonal dishes. The chef also uses traditional methods of preservation as favoured by the Celts, such as smoking, pickling and fermenting. The majority of ingredients are locally sourced: vegetables come from the Wendelinushof, fish is delivered by the Forellenhof Trauntal and dairy products are sourced from the Johanneshof. It is particularly important to Schöfisch that the individual products can be tasted in his dishes and are not overpowered by other ingredients. Daniel Schöfisch discovered a love of cooking from a young age thanks to his mother and grandmother, going on to undertake an internship at the Hilton Hotel in Berlin. After working in the USA, as a sous chef at the Grand Hyatt Berlin and finally as Chef de Cuisine at the Park Hyatt Vienna, he looked for a new challenge in Saarland. He describes his cooking style as cosmopolitan with traditional roots and a Mediterranean influence.

Bread and pastries are baked each day by two bakers in keeping with family tradition, and breakfast includes a variety of local produce and organic products. Service is friendly and informal, highlighting the relaxed atmosphere that resonates throughout the entire hotel. Guests can also borrow retro picnic baskets for lake trips.

Bar NOX

Bar NOX and its Celtic-style fire lounge is situated along the so-called equinox axis in the hotel lobby. Whether during the solstice or on other evenings, guests can enjoy signature cocktails such as Ginessa, Bui, Epona and Uvarum based on herbal ingredients. Bar manager Andreas Wendel and his team also offer other drinks, aperitifs, digestives and selected wines, often from local vineyards, on the bar menu.

Andreas Wendel is the creator of the hotel's own "Equinox" gin, a form of high-proof homage to his bar. The name derives from the location of the bar on the equinox axis and takes up the Celtic theme of the hotel. The Celtic tree of life, Yggdrasil, also known as ash tree, plays an important role. As with every gin, juniper forms the basis of gin distilling. In the case of the "Equinox", the macerate is additionally mixed with the bark of the ash tree, giving it a robust taste. Almost all of the other 18 botanicals, such as coriander, catnip, wormwood or mugwort, come from the hotels own herb garden. The Saarland distillery Penth is responsible for the distillation.

Seezeit Spa

The 2,700 m² Seezeit Spa brings nature indoors and is centred around Celtic medicine and nature rituals which were followed by the region's people in earlier times. Ancient knowledge of pace of life, the seasons and medicinal herbs are incorporated into the sauna rituals, signature treatments and well-being programmes. All offers and treatments provided by Rizzato Spa Consulting follow four experience qualities which consider the needs of the guest and transform them into a special kind of experience. Guests will be able to recognise these from four Celtic symbols. They serve as a guideline throughout the spa. They are: Feel tranquillity = tree of life symbol; Restore energy = spiral symbol; Find inspiration = triangle knot symbol; Experience clarity = labyrinth symbol. Those wishing to better understand Celtic culture should find out about the secrets of trees and the Celtic tree circle which contains 21 varieties of tree, four of which play an important role in the Seezeit Spa. Oak, ash, willow and birch are not just trees native to Saarland; they also represent strength, energy, vitality and light and are incorporated into the well-being programme as forms of tree and forest meditation, during yoga on the forest platform, on the sensual barefoot path and the smoking rituals in the spa. They are situated in the park and garden area.

The Celtic outdoor sauna village with its large ritual site, smoking fireplace and wood fireplace and relaxation room with views of the lake is a particularly powerful and energising area, arranged in line with earth energies existing in the area by geomancer and diviner, Bernd Traber from the Rizzato Spa Consulting team. The Earth sauna, organic sauna and herbal sauna offer sauna rituals based on the four experience qualities. The "Pure Power of Nature" treatment, which combines herbal stamps and facial therapy and the "Celtic Power of Stone" massage, which involves a Celtic pole made from basalt stone, are based on ancient Celtic knowledge. The spa team uses Thalgo, Team Dr. Joseph and PINO products.

Celtic references are incorporated into the hotel's sports and well-being programmes. Various meditation sessions, morning greetings and yoga on a forest platform are all available for guests. A 23-metre long indoor and outdoor infinity-style pool, heated to 31 degrees and with views of the lake provides a feel-good atmosphere, along with an indoor sauna area with panorama sauna – also with lake views –, an aroma steam bath, herbal bath, biosauna and aroma steam bath exclusively for ladies and available once or twice a week for families, a spa bistro, a rest room with hanging loungers and alcoves for relaxing as well as outdoor loungers. Active holidaymakers can take advantage of the fitness room with the latest equipment from Techno Gym or try various activities on and around the lake.

The hotel's activity and spiritual programme has Celtic references. Flowing movements in harmony with breathing characterise the Seezeitlodge style of yoga, instructed by Stefanie Dell, a Saarland native and qualified yoga teacher. Classic yoga mat exercises are taught, as well as aerial yoga and stand-up paddling yoga, also known as SUP yoga, performed on the water. Yoga retreats are held on a regular basis. Different types of meditation, morning greetings and yoga are offered on a platform situated at the edge of the forest. The meditation area "zeit raum" is located on the slope south of the sauna village.

The concept developed by artist Katharina Bender makes it possible to experience time and space in different ways: The central path crosses the area like a timeline. The focus is on a linear understanding of time. Wooden decks representing the passing of time are small islands to daydream on, meditate or practise yoga. The adjoining forest invites you to take a walk in the forest. The aim here is to perceive the surroundings with an alert mind, following your own path. Golden star stones furnished with inscriptions serve as energy sites.

Conference rooms

With a total of three light-flooded conference rooms with lake views, Seezeitlodge offers the perfect setting for atmospheric celebrations for up to 140 guests in the heart of nature. Celebrations are guaranteed to be an unforgettable experience with the spacious banquet terrace amongst an incredible forest and lake setting. The dedicated team at Seezeitlodge provides an atmospheric dramaturgy including detailed planning, creative decorations, musical entertainment and much more.

Activities

Active holidaymakers can explore the region around Seezeitlodge via the well-managed cycle and walking paths. The hotel currently has ten e-bikes and a range of standard bikes available to hire. Routes are well signposted and take you either around the lake or through the pastures and forests of Saar-Hunsrück Nature Park and Hunsrück-Hochwald National Park (www.radfahren.saarland). Those interested in history can discover the region's Celtic influences: One sight not to miss is the Celtic ring wall in Otzenhausen, an impressive ground monument which is one of the best-preserved Celtic monuments in Germany. It is situated just twelve kilometres away from the hotel in a destination well worth a visit. The Saar-Hunsrück-Steig (Saar-Hunsrück Hiking Trail) is one of Germany's top long-distance hiking routes spanning 410 kilometres in total – from Mosel via Idar-Oberstein on the Rhine – with one section passing close to the hotel. The route begins with an ascent to the dam in Nonnweiler and continues along to the Celtic ring wall in Otzenhausen. From the ridge of the Dollberge hills, surrounded by beech woods and plenty of nature, the route continues along to the Tiroler Stein monument before descending into the scenic Trauntal valley.

In addition to hiking and cycling, the surrounding area lends itself perfectly to Nordic walking and a variety of watersports activities. Thanks to its exclusive location next to Lake Bostalsee - the largest recreational lake in south-western Germany - activities range from traditional sports such as swimming, sailing and fishing to modern activities such as diving, surfing and standup paddleboarding. Guests can try their hand at archery in the nature park. Golfers can take advantage of the golf area right in front of the Seezeitlodge. The hotel's nine-hole golf course at Golfpark Bostalsee is just five kilometres away.

Anyone looking for a little more culture and shopping can head for the beautiful old town of St. Wendel as well as the neighbouring countries of France or Luxembourg. It is well worth paying a visit to Germany's oldest city of Trier, 60 kilometres away.

Seezeitlodge is a partner of the Saarland Card (www.card.saarland) and guests can enjoy free entry to over 65 attraction and free use of the buses and trains with this card.

Arrival

By car

Seezeitlodge is just one hour from the state capital of Saarbrücken via the A1 towards Trier.

It is around two hours from Frankfurt via Kaiserslautern and the A62, and around two-and-a-half hours from Cologne via the A1 and A62. Munich is approximately 500 kilometres away and a good five hours by car.

By bus and train

Regional trains from Frankfurt take around two hours to the nearest train station, Türkismühle. Flixbus takes you to Saarbrücken in around three hours. From Cologne, the train takes between three to three-and-a-half hours to Türkismühle. From Munich, the train takes just under six hours to Türkismühle and 6.5 hours from Zurich. You can reach Türkismühle from Saarbrücken central train station in 40 minutes using public transport. From here, a guest shuttle bus brings you to the Seezeitlodge upon arrangement.

By plane

Luxair offers daily flights from Hamburg and Berlin to Saarbrücken Airport. From Saarbrücken, guests can travel to Türkismühle train station and take the free shuttle to the hotel.

Prices

Prices start at Euro 348 for two persons in the Cosy Nest. The Seezimmer costs Euro 388 for two persons. The prices for Small Suites start at Euro 436 for two persons, in the Sweetheart Suite Euro 516 for two persons. All room prices quoted include 3/4 board. This includes the breakfast buffet with home made bread, regional and organic products, a healthy smoothie bar at midday - ranging from superfood to green vitamin power smoothies, home made cakes, tarts, speciality coffees and Celtic tea blends in the afternoon, as well as the evening gourmet menu with crunchy salads and your choice of 3 further courses. The price also includes a bottle of water, WLAN, parking space, access to the spa, a spa bag filled with items for the duration of your stay and a varied activity programme.

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