

# 111 Years Waldhaus Sils

The Curious Tale and Incomplete History  
of an Alpine Grand Hotel and Its People

by Urs Kienberger

Including conversations with eye witnesses  
by Andrin C. Willi  
and texts by Rolf Kienberger

New photos by Stefan Pielow

Scheidegger & Spiess

# Contents

|     |    |                                 |
|-----|----|---------------------------------|
| 6   |    | 111 Years Waldhaus Sils. Why?   |
| 9   |    | The beginning                   |
| 12  |    | <i>Josef and Amalia Giger</i>   |
| 18  |    | Choosing a location             |
| 26  |    | The architect: Karl Koller      |
| 31  |    | Capital matters                 |
| 35  |    | Construction                    |
| 45  |    | Furnishings                     |
| 47  |    | Welte-Mignon                    |
| 51  |    | Built-in efficiency             |
| 56  |    | My Dear Mr. Koller              |
| 64  |    | A sense of place                |
| 80  |    | 1908–1918: peaks and valleys    |
| 84  |    | Fine and distinguished company  |
| 90  |    | Hotel life in 1908              |
| 98  |    | Maybe it was Uncle Gustav       |
| 104 |    | World War!                      |
| 115 |    | Capital, revisited              |
| 122 | rk | Oskar Kienberger-Giger          |
| 138 | rk | First additions and renovations |

|     |    |   |
|-----|----|---|
| 140 | rk | The automobile                                |
| 144 | rk | Hotel Phoenix                                 |
| 150 | rk | The third generation                          |
| 158 | rk | Reintroduction of the winter season           |
| 167 | rk | Guests  |
| 177 | rk | Maintenance and improvements, 1955 to 1983    |
| 186 | rk | The fourth generation                         |
| 193 | rk | Working relations                             |
| 204 | rk | What will the future bring?                   |
| 207 |    | 1984–1988: changing of the guard              |
| 216 |    | “A Cast of Thousands”                         |
| 234 |    | Records and challenges                        |
| 245 |    | Thoughts in autumn                            |
| 251 |    | Change and continuity                         |
| 269 |    | How to square a bathroom                      |
| 275 |    | A hotel with culture at the core? Well ...    |
| 281 |    | The leased Parnassus                          |
| 298 |    | From 2010: a new generation steps in. And up. |
| 314 |    | The overture to our new era                   |
| 321 |    | Where are we now and where are we headed?     |
| 329 |    | Appendix                                      |