



BASIN Glacial Waters

Press Kit

Embargoed: Until 10:00 A.M. MST, Tuesday, 21 January 2025

## Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise Unveils “BASIN Glacial Waters”, Opening Summer 2025

CONSCIOUSLY DESIGNED AND CONTEMPORARY, INDOOR-OUTDOOR, LAKESIDE THERMAL BATHING FACILITY TO REVOLUTIONIZE WELLNESS IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES.

LAKE LOUISE, AB, 21 January, 2025 – Today, Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise introduces, “BASIN Glacial Waters”, the official identity of its highly-anticipated, alpine-wrapped, thermal bathing experience.

Resting along the shore of Canada’s iconic lake and thoughtfully designed to appear to be embedded into the natural landscape, the indoor-outdoor, all-sensory space is currently in the final stages of completion – ahead of its anticipated summer 2025 opening.

Honouring its Lake Louise locale – a natural basin – and its direct glacial water source, BASIN Glacial Waters represents the convergence of natural elements and contemporary wellness, interpreted through a luxury lens. Within the space, a highly-curated series of experiences allow for personal interpretation, defined as self-guided journeys of reflection, renewal, and vitality. BASIN Glacial Waters’ foundation rests upon the traditions of thermotherapy – the ancient healing practice of flowing through diverse water temperatures to stimulate and restore both body and mind. Complemented by a contemporary approach, its debut sets the stage for an entirely redefined wellness experience, within the most spectacular of landscapes.

Consciously designed and presented in minimalistic grandeur, with organic textures, BASIN Glacial Waters – a vision two decades in the making and realized by internationally-recognized AD100 architect, Matteo Thun – will be a multifaceted wellness experience unlike anything else within Canada, marking a

“wellness first” for Fairmont Hotels & Resorts.

“BASIN sets a new worldwide standard for thermal spa luxury and will be a flagship for Fairmont’s new wellbeing platform. We’re confident that this is the most exciting wellness opening of 2025, representing a groundbreaking shift to the meaning of wellness within the breathtaking Canadian Rockies.” comments Emlyn Brown, Senior Vice President of Wellbeing, Strategy, Design & Development at Accor.

He continues: “This incredible space encompasses the trifecta of luxe wellness in the modern age; the wide-open vistas directly exposing world-renowned Lake Louise and its surrounding peaks – seen from the interior of the space yet magnified from the outdoor wellness terrace; visionary, naturally-inspired architecture and superior thermal bathing features; and finally, Fairmont Hotels’ approach to world-class service and luxury in every detail. BASIN will present an unrivalled, truly indelible, 360-degree wellness experience. There’s no other bathing facility like it in North America.”

General Manager, Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, Tracy Lowe, adds:

“Introducing this impressive facility as a world-class wellness destination in its own right, here at Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, is an invite for guests to take their interpretation of wellbeing discovery to an entirely different level, and speaks to the Group’s continued vision of blending first-class, contemporary wellness experiences with remarkable hospitality.”

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Hot.  
Cold.  
Breath.  
Pause.





## THE SPACE; A THERMAL JOURNEY

Hot. Cold. Breath. Pause. Natural elements of water and air are the basis; three distinct journeys expertly-curated to guide guests on a personal pathway of self-discovery, based on a wet, dry, or combined experience. Natural light, atmospheric cocooned spaces, striking temperature contrasts, and the healing power of water in all its forms – from crushed ice to steam mists – having flowed naturally from BASIN's pure glacial source, sets the stage for the all-sensory circuit.

Guests first make their way through a low-lit, sensory, calming passageway. Dramatic arched windows that mirror the original style of the hotel's exterior allow for streams of natural light to flood into the space, speaking to the seasonality of Lake Louise and inviting in the outdoor elements. Uninterrupted views onto the lake, and the dominating glacier above, lay the foundation for the experience.

Setting an intention for a personalized wellness journey, guests flow through a self-guided hydrotherapy sequence – to their own pace and preference. Curated to allow for moments of solo reflection, balanced with spaces for collective pause and quiet relaxation, BASIN encourages a sense of discovery as guests move between the hydrotherapy components; from hot to cold, from a sharp breath to a deep exhale, from calm reflection to a sense of invigoration, BASIN becomes the alchemist to connect body, mind, and overall wellbeing.

For dry heat, traditional Finnish and Bio Saunas present a choice of higher or lower humidity. An outdoor Aufguss Sauna, a steam bath with traditional heat – its roots in European sweat culture – will become a signature BASIN experience, an 'Aufgussmeister' performing closed, small-group ceremonies by following the traditional ritual of circulating oil-infused steam around the space. Two traditional steam rooms enhance the wet circuit, one of which featuring aromatherapy oils, for 100% humidity detoxification and soothing steam inhalation.

The infinity pool sprawls from the interior onto the outdoor deck, leaving no part of the impressive oncoming views obstructed. Adding to the thermal bathing circuit, is the series of varying-temperature pools, including a circular reflexology pool, waterfall feature pool, and 'Kneipp Walk' for standing contrast bathing. For cold impact, the outdoor, ice-temperature plunge and cold bucket drop are an instant, and dramatic, refresh.

Post bathing, the Silent Salt Relax – with its gently warm glow from the Himalayan salt wall, naturally ionizing the air – is a quiet, reflective, closed sanctuary for pause, meditation, and purification. The Hot Stone Room is an invite to rest. Guests can settle into the heated stone slab beds for full-body muscle relaxation.

The expansive outdoor terrace has dedicated space for open-air rest, either reclined on the lounge chairs or seated on the wood-paneled benches for quiet communal gathering.

Continuing the 'pause' component of the thermotherapy sequence, the 'Glacier Lounge', is an open space, to rehydrate and restore indoors, with a menu of simple, freshly-prepared small dishes and curated selection of nootropics and adaptogens on hand.



"The oldest wellness practice is bathing, it's a universal wellness language across traditional cultures, from The Romans to Indigenous Peoples" – EMLYN BROWN.







## REDEFINING WELLNESS IN THE CANADIAN ROCKY MOUNTAINS

As the setting for BASIN Glacial Waters, Lake Louise, sitting at an elevation of 1,600 m (5,200 ft) and immersed in over 6,500 square kilometres of protected pine forest – at the very heart of Banff National Park, a UNESCO heritage site – is unparalleled. It's one of the earth's great wild places, activating awakening experiences, and long-revered as a place of healing and transformation.

The remarkable landscape tells a story of the dramatic impact of the natural elements, deep geological shifts shaping it over time. The interconnectedness of water and land present a raw, powerful energy that leaves a long-lasting mark.

The purity of the water that will naturally flow into the thermal baths, from the towering Victoria Glacier, is seen from BASIN's outdoor terrace. This is a dedicated wellness experience deeply connected to the raw elements of the park; Canada's first national park, named as such in 1885 when railway workers discovered a natural hot springs source, prompting the national protection and preservation of this special place – and further defining the appreciation of the healing powers of warm waters to heal body, mind, and soul, by the peoples that have passed through and called this land home across the ages. In this sense, thermal wellness runs deep within this spectacularly natural wilderness we today call the Canadian Rockies. BASIN is the evolution of how the raw elements and holistic wellness converge; a modern-day interpretation of the wellness gatherings that have taken place here since time immemorial.

"The oldest wellness practice is bathing, it's a universal wellness language across traditional cultures, from The Romans to Indigenous Peoples", says Brown.

He continues: "Hot springs and glacier-fed lakes have long been gathering places, and BASIN is the evolution of this tradition. It brings modern-day modalities

and contemporary thermotherapy together with the timeless wellness practices rooted in nature. There is simply no better location for BASIN Glacial Waters than the Canadian Rockies, and we believe it's poised to become the world's next natural wonder of bathing, joining the ranks of Iceland's Blue Lagoon and Switzerland's Therme Vals."

Also running deep within Lake Louise, and Chateau Lake Louise itself, is the spirit of mountaineering – and a European-inspired culture of alpinism. With the arrival of the Swiss Mountain Guides in the late 1800s – brought to the region by the Canadian Pacific Railway, at that time owners of the hotel – Lake Louise became known as a mecca for mountain discovery.

And with European circles, particularly within Nordic cultures, having long embraced the combination of alpinism and thermotherapy, BASIN becomes the elevated après; the perfect body-mind antidote to high-elevation pursuits. Traditionally enjoyed – post ski or hike – as a humble log sauna cabin followed by a natural cold plunge or rolling in fresh snow while unclothed, "sweat culture" is revolutionized for a modern traveler, as a way to recover muscles, reduce tension, cleanse the body, and purify the mind after exerting days within the alpine.

"The heritage of alpinism lies at the very essence of Lake Louise," says Tracy Lowe, General Manager, Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise.

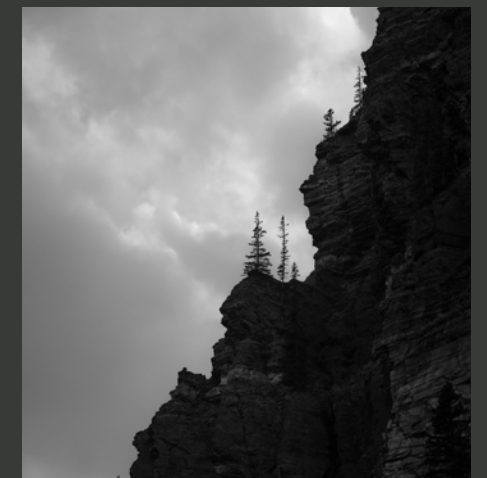
"Connecting to the wild, breathtaking nature of the Rockies is what draws visitors here from all over the world, year after year. And our heritage hotel on the lakeshore has been welcoming guests to experience the finest of the region, while indulging in the comforts of a full-service resort hotel, for over a century".

Lowe continues:

"The introduction of BASIN Glacial Waters is the

reimagining of alpine wellness in Lake Louise, and marks a brand new chapter for Chateau Lake Louise. As a world-class facility, it elevates the resort

experience entirely, becoming a destination in its own right. We could not be more excited to unveil BASIN to the world."





Highlighting the 'genius loci', the soul of Lake Louise.



## CONSCIOUSLY-DESIGNED; INSPIRED BY NATURE

For internationally-recognized AD100 architect, Matteo Thun, the approach to the brief came down to one thing: highlighting the 'genius loci', the soul of Lake Louise. This was to be the convergence of nature and architecture, to bring the outside inside.

"Capturing the spirit of Lake Louise was at the heart of the architectural intention, to respect the richness of the landscape with a design that represents simplicity, purity, and the uniqueness of the location. Nature and the beautiful surroundings of the lake and the forest become the protagonist – architecture and interior design the stage," says Thun.



Inspired by the lake, watercolour by Matteo Thun

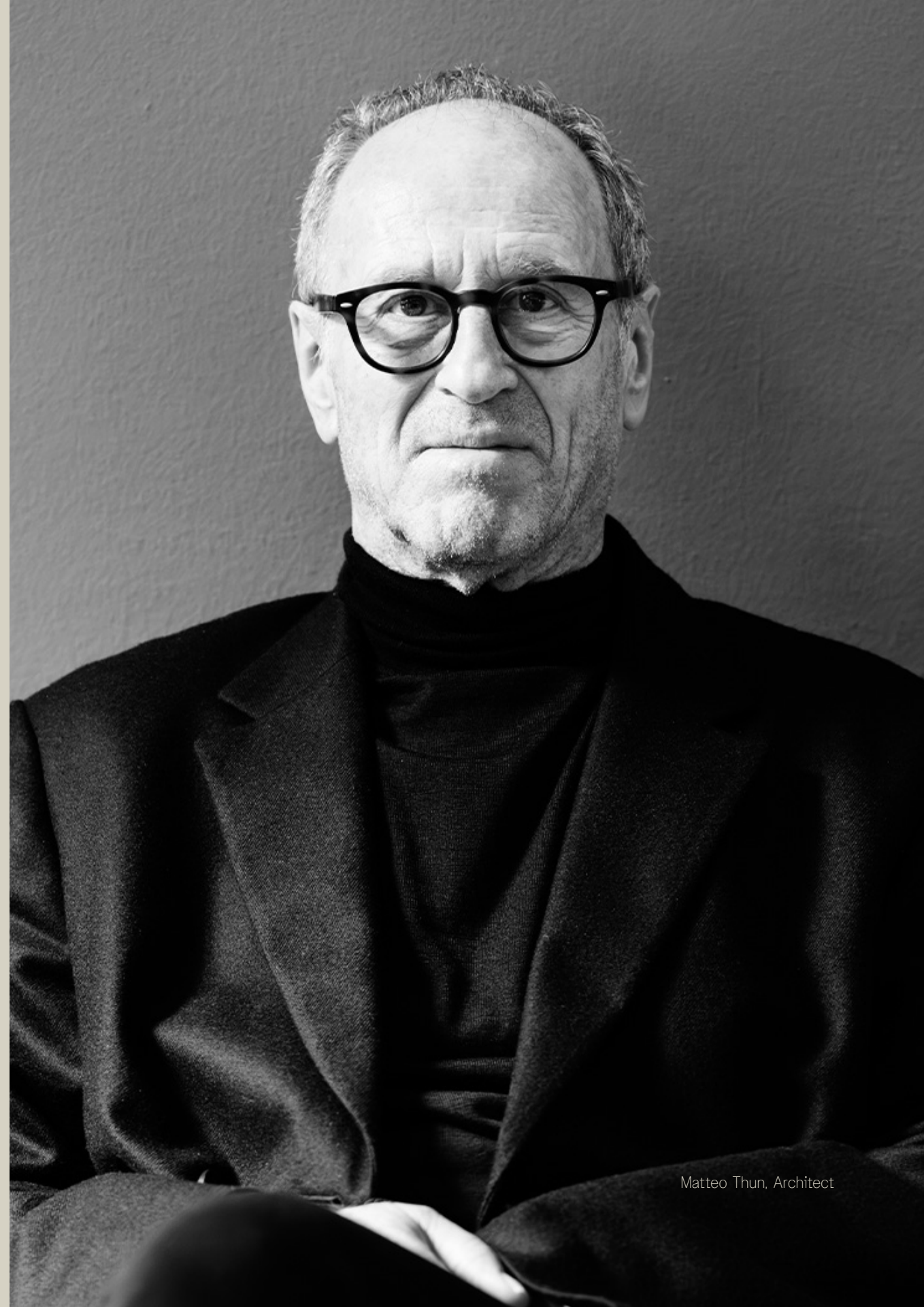
The big brush strokes of watercolor paintings, Matteo's personal interpretation of the mystifying turquoise waters of Canada's iconic lake, were part one of the creative process – one of which marking the human perspective from the future space, a female looking out onto the landscape with no obstruction.

His appreciation and respect for the alpine – having been raised in the Dolomites in Northern Italy, and completed numerous architectural projects across Europe's mountainous regions, including The Alps – came together with his natural affinity for designing harmoniously with high-elevation landscapes; he was the ideal partner for realizing the vision.

Together with his studio team – Matteo Thun & Partners, based out of Milan and Munich and known for its ecological sensitivity and greater consciousness in design – Matteo designed around the natural light that he welcomed into the space with high-intensity, creating dramatic shadows throughout as the sun shifts. He respectfully selected natural materials such as stone and sustainably-sourced Canadian wood, which forms impressive high-rise beams running along the entirety of the interior ceiling, and which will gently patina over time. The chosen palette is earth-toned and organic; wild native fauna will envelop the roof; the contemporary structure meticulously

designed to create a sanctuary cocooned into its natural environment. For Thun's first project in Canada, there was no finer place to create an intuitively ecological response, to an alpine experience embedded within the elements, than in Canada's first national park.

"Guests will feel the interplay between the architecture, the existing hotel, the outdoor terraces, and the lake. It's about thoughtfully integrating the heritage of the region, its purity and charm, with the refinements of modern hospitality. Nature should shape the architecture, not the other way around."



Matteo Thun, Architect





## AN EVOLUTION OF LAKESIDE BATHING

The glamour of bathing by the shores of Lake Louise was first embraced by the "Style Set" of the early 20th Century. The optimism, revelry and refined tastes of the Roaring Twenties splashed through Chateau Lake Louise when the iconic open-air pool came to life in 1926. Enclosed by a pillar structure with arched windows framing the onlooking glacier and soaring surrounding peaks, water from nearby Lake Agnes filled the 110-foot by 40-foot pool. At the time, it was the second-largest pool in Canada, heated to a balmy 25 degrees Celsius.

Guests flocked to the viewing platform, complete with loungers and butler service, to bathe in the basking sun and relax in the warm waters with an unforgettable view; was there ever a finer location to revel in the luxury?

This was the place to see and be seen on leisurely afternoons in the Canadian Rockies. Guests would gather to connect poolside; some competing for best dive off the high board. Bathing suit styles came and went over the decades, until the pool officially closed in 1980.

In 2025, the luxury of lakeside bathing returns to Chateau Lake Louise, with the introduction of BASIN Glacial Waters. Resting on the exact location of the original open-air pool, BASIN represents the contemporary redesign of the outdoor bath experience, imagined for the modern-day wellness seeker.



NA71-4910 Open-air swimming pool on the shores of Lake Louise

[THEBASIN.COM](http://THEBASIN.COM) | [@BASINGLACIALWATERS](https://www.instagram.com/basinglacialwaters) | [MEDIA GALLERY](#)

#### MEDIA CONTACT:

For further information, press images, or to request a media interview with a spokesperson for BASIN Glacial Waters, please contact:

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#### NOTES TO EDITOR:

During its opening phase, BASIN Glacial Waters will be an experience available exclusively to overnight hotel guests of Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise. Daily access passes – bookable on a pre-reserved basis while availability allows – opening to guests outside of the hotel at a later stage. To stay informed of the official date of opening, reservation details, and the latest news from BASIN Glacial Waters, subscribe to the newsletter and follow [@BasinGlacialWaters](https://www.instagram.com/BasinGlacialWaters) on Instagram.

#### ABOUT BASIN GLACIAL WATERS

BASIN Glacial Waters offers an all-sensory thermal bathing experience for wellness seekers desiring a world-class journey of reflection, restoration, and vitality. Set in the dramatic landscapes of Lake Louise, it connects guests to the raw elements and natural rhythm of its grand surroundings. Consciously designed and bathed in minimalistic luxury, it provides a deeply intentional and fully immersive wellness journey.

#### ABOUT FAIRMONT CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE

Surrounded by soaring mountain peaks, the majestic Victoria Glacier, and a glistening emerald lake, the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise hotel offers 5-star luxury amid unparalleled natural beauty. Originally built as a base for outdoor enthusiasts and alpinists over 100 years ago, Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise is a year-round resort offering an array of activities, from guided mountain tours, world-class skiing in the winter, to scenic hiking, canoeing and a variety of outdoor pursuits in the summer. Guests can unwind with an indulgent spa treatment or take part in thoughtfully designed wellness programming that nurtures both mind and body, before savoring seasonally inspired cuisine. Little ones are also taken care of with exclusive Kid's Adventure Camp activities. Each of the 539 rooms and suites are elegant and polished, yet understated and inviting. For an elevated stay, the exclusive Fairmont Gold floor provides lounge access, dedicated concierge service, private check-in, and more – delivering a personalized escape in one of the world's most breathtaking destinations.

#### ABOUT FAIRMONT

Fairmont Hotels & Resorts is where the intimate equally coexists with the infinite – an unrivaled portfolio of more than 90 extraordinary hotels where grand moments of life, heartfelt pleasures and personal milestones are celebrated and remembered long after any visit. Since 1907, Fairmont has created magnificent, meaningful and unforgettable hotels, rich with character and deeply connected to the history, culture and community of its destinations – places such as The Plaza in New York City, The Savoy in London, Fairmont San Francisco, Fairmont Banff Springs in Canada, Fairmont Peace Hotel in Shanghai, and Fairmont The Palm in Dubai. Famous for its engaging service, awe-inspiring public spaces, locally inspired cuisine, and iconic bars and lounges, Fairmont also takes great pride in its pioneering approach to hospitality and leadership in sustainability and responsible tourism practices. Fairmont is part of Accor, a world leading hospitality group counting over 5,400 properties throughout more than 110 countries, and a participating brand in ALL – Accor Live Limitless – a lifestyle loyalty program providing access to a wide variety of rewards, services and experiences.

[fairmont.com](http://fairmont.com)

#### ABOUT ACCOR

Accor is a world leading hospitality group offering experiences across more than 110 countries in 5 400 properties, 10 000 food & beverage venues, wellness facilities or flexible workspaces. The Group has one of the industry's most diverse hospitality ecosystems, encompassing more than 40 hotel brands from luxury to economy, as well as Lifestyle with Ennismore. Accor is committed to taking positive action in terms of business ethics & integrity, responsible tourism, sustainable development, community outreach, and diversity & inclusion. Founded in 1967, Accor SA is headquartered in France and publicly listed on Euronext Paris (ISIN code: FR0000120404) and on the OTC Market (Ticker: ACCYY) in the United States. For more information, please visit [www.group.accor.com](http://www.group.accor.com) or follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and TikTok.

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