



Stanglwirt



400 years at home...

*... at the Stanglwirt:
Where opposites attract*

by Martin Klingler



Tirol's most famous hotel has epitomised consistency and innovation for over 400 years. Here, the traditional and the modern are not contradictory, but complementary.

When a hotel is over 400 years old, has been family-owned for 300 years, has not been closed for a single day in 250 years, and has been successfully managed by the same host for 50 years – with the next generation also fully involved – then you can talk about sustainability.

The Stanglwirt is not only one of the oldest inns in Austria, but also one of the most well-known. Yet there is no easy answer to the question: "What exactly is the Stanglwirt?" A traditional village inn? A luxury wellness resort? A favourite haunt for celebrities? The Stanglwirt does not fit into any one category. You'll find so many apparent opposites under the same roof here: homeliness and luxury, tradition and

trendiness, organic methods and gourmet cuisine. The Stanglwirt brings together such contrasts as traditional singers' meetings and "Weißwurstparties", mountain huts and a golf academy, Hollywood and hay-making. And all with a calm matter-of-factness that makes it unlike anywhere else. You could describe the Stanglwirt as a big organic farm that happens to include a luxury hotel. "The Stanglwirt is a concept originally based on farming, which has had the opportunity to develop," believes Balthasar Hauser, who has been the seventeenth host of this traditional hotel since 1966.

"My credo is not "either – or" but "both – and," explains the fit 71-year-old. Combining quality and scale, taking the best from everywhere – these are the secrets of the Stanglwirt's success. That is why the motto by which everyone lives here is written above the front door, clearly visible for all to see: "Stay loyal to the best of the old, and take strength and pleasure from the best of the new." This bringing together of

contrasts was definitely one of the reasons why the Stanglwirt was included by the prestigious US travel magazine "Condé

Nast Traveller" in its exclusive Gold List of the 142 best and most beautiful hotels in the world – as the first and only Austrian hotel ever to be included.



Balthasar Hauser has been running the Stanglwirt prudently and inventively for more than 50 years.

Picture: Stanglwirt/Florian Bachmaier

History of the Stanglwirt

The roots of the Stanglwirt go back a long way. From about 1540, people started to mine silver and copper in the Rerobichl area, with up to 2000 miners settling around Prama. In 1564, when the plague that was raging through Europe reached Kitzbühel, one Wolfgang Wibmer set up a small tavern to supply the sick with food and wine. The wine was supposed to have a certain prophylactic effect against the plague. The fact that the inn had its own spring was also very important for supplying the miners with clean drinking water. In 1609, Wibmer's successor was granted a licence to become an innkeeper. In 1636 Hans Stangl – who was very popular not least for his good and reasonably priced

wine – took over the "Inn on the Prama", as the place was then still called. More and more carters were also stopping at Stangl's inn to feed and water the animals pulling their wagons. Thanks to its location between two uphill climbs, the Ellmau Saddle and the Rerobichl, the hostelry became an important coaching inn. For heavy carriages, the inclines proved to be almost insuperable obstacles, so teams of two or four of Stangl's horses would be harnessed in front. This was only possible because, even in those days, there was a farm that belonged to the hotel.

In 1714, the hotel came into the ownership of the Schlechter family, under whom a golden era began. As a result of the trade in salt, cheese, iron and wine, the Stanglwirt became no longer just an inn but the hub of a trading network that extended far into the neighbouring countries. In 1720 the new inn was built, which has been preserved to this day in its original form. The family bought numerous plots of land, mainly from miners who left the region as the



The new Stanglwirt was built in 1720 alongside the old "Inn on the Prama" (on the left). Picture: Stanglwirt

mining industry collapsed. The occupation of the country by Napoleon's troops and the Tyrolean freedom campaign brought these happy days to an end. With the building of the railway, the coaching business declined hugely. Many of the Stanglwirt's fields and one large alpine pasture had to be sold.

The story of the Schlechter host family ended in 1946 with Maria Schlechter, née Hauser. She was known all over the country for her efficiency and joie de vivre. In 1946, the childless widow handed over the Stanglwirt to her great-niece Anna Seibl, with the request that the name Hauser

should remain at the Stanglwirt. She wanted to avoid the name "Schlechter Stanglwirt", which would have meant "bad host".



In the 1950s, the old miners' tavern had to make way for the main road. With the old wood, a new dining room was built at the Stanglwirt.

Picture: Stanglwirt

Global stars at the Stanglwirt

Anna Hauser-Seibl was an impressive lady. With her cheerful manner and happy singing, the landlady who put her heart and soul into the business won the hearts

of her guests, who included world-famous stars such as Bing Crosby and Clark Gable. They came from the nearby Mittersill Castle beyond the Thurn Pass, where in the 1950s, the international jet set and members of the then most exclusive society club in the world, led by Baron Hubert von Pantz, arrived in a steady stream: the Shah of Iran, Aristotle Onassis, Henry Ford II, the Aga Khan, to name just a few. Word had spread among this illustrious circle that the Stanglwirt was a quaint old place and that it was worth making a diversion to



Anna Hauser-Seibl, US singing legend Bing Crosby, and Georg Wackerle.

Picture: Stanglwirt

the village of Going to visit this cosy inn, where people had been singing for generations.

Until 1950, the Stanglwirt had been a well-known wayside inn with not much more than a dining-room for guests and a side room with two tables. In 1950, its capacity was increased with the construction of a large new room. The boom time came with the building of the railways in St. Johann and Kitzbühel. The inn, located right on the main road, became a popular stopping place for skiers on their way home. The Stanglwirt was the first inn to serve hot food all day long.

The cowshed window

Suddenly the Stanglwirt became famous far and wide as the inn with the cowshed window in the dining room. Nowhere else could guests watch the cows during their meal - and vice versa. It came about completely by chance. When the dining room



Farming is part of the identity of the Stanglwirt and still plays an important role today.

Picture: Stanglwirt

was being extended, a derelict storage room had to be demolished, and suddenly, there behind a hole in the wall, were the cows. Alois Hofer, the father of the current host of the Stanglwirt, thought: "Let's make a window there, and if people don't like it, we'll block it off again." They did like it, and to this day, the cowshed window is the reason why many people choose to stop off at the Stanglwirt.

The cow Soraya

One day the former empress Soraya of Iran announced that she was coming to stay at the Stanglwirt. The landlady Anna Hauser told the cowman Sepp Unterrainer that he should clean the cowshed particularly thoroughly on that day. That made "Seiwald Sepp" hopping mad, because he always kept the cowshed spick and span in any case, and he wasn't going to go to any extra trouble because of this "silly cow". "In honour" of the former empress, who had been divorced by the Shah because she was unable to bear him an heir, he gave a cow which was proving reluctant to have a calf the name Soraya. The cow Soraya took the place of honour in the front row behind the window, making it famous throughout Austria.

A would-be farmer

Balthasar Hauser was born in 1946. He was intended to take over his parents' farm and

was brought up as a farmer's son, while the inn was going to be managed by his sister Maria, two years older than him. When in 1964 their mother Anna Hauser died far too early, at not yet 50, the opening of the



Even as a young man, Balthasar Hauser was happier working in the fields and cowshed than sitting on a hard bench in the schoolroom.

Picture: Stanglwirt



The young Balthasar learnt the farming trade from the bottom up.

Picture: Stanglwirt

will brought a big surprise and also a huge disappointment for her 17-year-old son. He was not to become a farmer alone, but was also to take over the inn. Balthasar had grown up as a farming boy. Until now, he had always looked through the legendary cowshed window from the cowshed into

the dining room, and not the other way round. Sometimes his sister would even throw him out of the inn if he stank too strongly of the cowshed. Now he stood there like a duck out of water and didn't really know what to do next. The Stanglwirt at that time was already a sizeable enter-

prise employing 24 people in the inn incl. a few bedrooms and on the farm. Whether he wanted to or not, Balthasar had to go to hospitality college in Salzburg to learn what it was all about, during which time his sister ran the business. In April 1966 Balthasar Hauser took over as sole manager, having been declared of legal age by special dispensation from the District Governor, to enable him to run a business at all. The economic situation was far from easy. His ambitions as a farmer prevented Balthasar Hauser from selling any land: if possible, he wanted to buy more. That proved difficult, because he could not get any credit. The entry in the property register was plastered with debts, and even the electricity supplier asked for collateral from the Land Registry, so little confidence was there in the Stanglwirt. Balthasar Hauser gradually fought his way back. Not with loans, but with good ideas. "Ideas are cheaper than loans," he smiles mischievously. With few resources, he made a virtue out of necessity. So he

employed some of his friends from the Going brass band as builders, built a few rooms for travelling salesmen and also built a rustic lounge. There he sang with his friends, played the accordion and the guitar and continued the old Stanglwirt tradition. Here it's especially worth mentioning



Balthasar and Magdalena Hauser respect the history of the Stanglwirt. The painted vine on the facade used to be the sign for a "Baumwirt" who, in contrast to a "Schildwirt", only served drink and did not offer accommodation.

Picture: Martin Klingler

the legendary "Stanglwirtsbuam" group. Fifty years ago, Balthasar Hauser, with Toni Pirchl from Going and Georg Anker from Ebbs, formed a trio which became famous throughout Austria and abroad for its extensive repertoire and unmistakable singing style.

When Anna Hauser was the landlady, the Stanglwirt had been a meeting place for



First Lady Hillary Clinton makes music with opera singer Thomas Hampson and Balthasar Hauser. Picture: Stanglwirt

many celebrities, including numerous politicians. For example, the important negotiations about the construction of the Felbertauern road took place at the Stanglwirt. After the landlady's death, the leading pol-

iticians stayed away. What did they have to do with these young singing lads? However, the music-making attracted more celebrities, including many skiers taking part in the Hahnenkamm race in Kitzbühel.

Milestones

There have been many milestones in the history of the Stanglwirt. For Balthasar Hauser, the first was the building of the inn nearly 300 years ago. He speaks with enthusiasm and respect about the character of the inn and the work of the carpenters of that time. He also believes that preserving the old farmers' lounge (Bauernstube) is of immeasurable importance. Around the turn of the last century, the landlady wanted to demolish the old room – against the wishes of her husband, Balthasar Schlechter. When he went off travelling, she took the opportunity to call in the craftsmen. Unfortunately for her, her husband had forgotten something and returned unexpectedly. He

immediately had the old panelling brought back inside and so saved the room for posterity.

The legendary singers' meetings

In 1949, Balthasar Hauser's parents, Anna Hauser and her partner Alois Hofer, an honorary citizen and long-standing brass band-leader in Going, established the legendary singers' meetings at the Stanglwirt. Of course, there were already singing competitions in those days, with the one at Kufstein Fortress being especially popular. At the Stanglwirt, though, the groups performed informally and there was no judging. Whereas in the beginning just four music groups who were friends of the family took part, now the gatherings of singers and musicians that take place in the autumn are real highlights of the authentic folk music scene and are part of the identity of the Stanglwirt. Now, as then, members of the host family play an active role.

Stanglwirt creates a furore

The most milestones, and the most spectacular ones, have been put in place by Balthasar Hauser. A true visionary, he has always known how to predict trends, overturn convention and appeal to people. He has attracted the interest of the media and is always making the headlines.

In 1976, the construction of Austria's first landscaped tennis hall attracted a lot of attention. While balls flew over the net down below in the air-conditioned hall, up on the roof there were sheep grazing. Today the Stanglwirt has six indoor courts and eight outdoor ones, and is home to the renowned Peter Burwash International Tennis School, one of the best in the world.

In 1980 Balthasar Hauser built Austria's first hotel to be based on the principles of building biology. It now has 171 suites and rooms made of Swiss pine. With over 117,000 overnight stays per year, the Stanglwirt exceeds more than two-thirds of all the municipal areas in the Tyrol. The



Today, the Stanglwirt is virtually a complete village, with an inn, restaurant, eco-hotel, wellness and sports facilities, riding arena, tennis hall, stables, barns and many other buildings and amenities.

Picture: Stanglwirt

same year saw the construction of the first bark heating system for a hotel in Europe, for which the Stanglwirt won the Innovation Prize of the Republic of Austria.

The million-schilling stallion

Also in 1980, the first private Lipizzaner stud in Austria opened at the Stanglwirt. The auctioning of the Lipizzaner stallion Pluto Verona by the Spanish Riding School in aid of the "Light into Darkness" charity TV campaign in 1986 was a big media event. The Stanglwirt bid a million schillings – about 70,000 euros. However, during the live bidding, someone from Lower Austria outbid all his rivals from Austria and elsewhere and bid 1.8 million schillings. As it soon turned out, this was an unemployed joker who had had the idea when intoxicated, appropriately enough at the Grasel Hotel in the Waldviertel, which is named after the legendary robber Grasel. It was a huge embarrassment for the



The auctioning of the Lipizzaner stallion Pluto Verona from the Spanish Riding School to support the ORF campaign "Light into Darkness" gave rise to an enormous amount of media hype.
Picture: Stanglwirt

ORF TV channel. Director Ernst Wolfram Marboe then called Balthasar Hauser and asked whether he still stood by his offer.



The Stanglwirt has the biggest private Lipizzaner breeding programme in Austria.

Picture: Slawik

"A Tyrolean always stands by his word," replied the host of the Stanglwirt and the Lipizzaner found a new home in Going. When the stallion died eighteen years later at the age of 36, he was the oldest Lipizzaner stallion in Austria. The stud currently has 22 horses and is run by the daughter of the Stanglwirt family, Elisabeth.

Sharks in the rock pool

Another spectacular event was the sharks at the Stanglwirt. Balthasar Hauser thinks a lot. Amongst other things, about how the Wilder Kaiser, his local mountain, came about. Where nowadays there are fields, forests and the Stanglwirt, 220 million

years ago there were the surging waves of a primeval sea. The Wilder Kaiser was a coral reef. Numerous fossils have been found in the scree on the mountain. That may also be one reason why, in the Tyrol, the collars for the cow bells are sometimes decorated with mussels. By building the shark aquarium, under the guidance of technical expert Professor Eberhard Stüber from the Salzburg House of Na-

ture museum, Balthasar Hauser was, as it were, bringing sharks back to their original home. The marine researcher Professor Hans Hass and the zoologist and behavioural physiologist Irenäus Eibl-Eibesfeldt became sponsors of the two black tip reef sharks. They are no longer at the Stanglwirt, but instead there are "walking sharks" and a colourful range of exotic saltwater fish in the beautiful coral reef.



The coral reef in the giant rock pool is home to numerous saltwater fish.

Picture: Stanglwirt

Setbacks

It is the fate of pioneers to learn the hard way. They cannot learn from the mistakes of their predecessors, because they are the first. And so from time to time, the host of the Stanglwirt has also paid the price. In 1970 he invested in some tennis courts in the shade of the woods beside the stream. Not only did the shade delay the melting of the snow, and the proximity of the water make the mosquitoes and horseflies a nuisance, but a few years later the investment proved to be literally a washout as a result of flooding.

The construction of the indoor tennis hall was also a strain on the nerves. It took several attempts to secure the soil on the roof so that it would not slide off. Then cracks in the waterproofing led to floods. Because the host of the Stanglwirt had no ski lift in the immediate vicinity, he built one himself. However, it was so steep that the ski school could not use it. Then there was the bowling alley that was built too short.

When it was made longer, there was no room for the run-up. Incidentally, according to Hauser, the bowling alley was the only project to be built by an architect.

And the tree bark heating system: at first it enveloped the whole of the village in a cloud of smoke, which caused uproar amongst the locals. The bark waste that was being burnt was far too wet and the system was not properly adjusted. It took three weeks for an engineer to come from the manufacturer in Sweden and solve the problem. So during Carnival, some of



For environmental reasons, all the roofs at the Stanglwirt are made of grass or shingles. *Picture: Stanglwirt*

the locals came to the hotel dressed up as tree bark and filled the dining room with a cloud of black smoke. Today, Balthasar Hauser can at least laugh about that miserable time.

The building of the eco-hotel was also a war of nerves, and the project almost failed. In the end, the expensive skeleton of the building had to be completely rebuilt.

Room compositions

But in general, he likes building, the host of the Stanglwirt. His builders are always getting called in. He does the planning himself. "Success depends on designing it yourself," believes Balthasar Hauser. "Every fox has his hole. A swallow wouldn't let a crow build her nest. The nest and the bird have to go together. Designing things yourself is incredibly hard work. But the hard work gives it soul," says Balthasar Hauser in one of his philosophical moments. Just like a composer writes songs, so this keen

musician "composes" the Stanglwirt. "The Stanglwirt is music and philosophy in bricks and mortar," he laughs.

Experts always tell Balthasar Hauser that his way of building does not make business sense. "My philosophy is: What does the guest want, not what does the host want," says Balthasar Hauser. That's why the rooms are made large. In the rock sauna, only half the area is usable, the other half is just for creative effect. "Big rooms may seem uneconomical. But I want my



In its original condition: the old cosy "Gaststube".

Picture: Stanglwirt



"At the Stanglwirt, guests should be sleeping in a living room, not living in a bedroom," believes Balthasar Hauser. That's why all the pine-clad rooms and suites are so very spacious.

Picture: Stanglwirt

guests to be sleeping in a living room, not living in a bedroom." What seems to make no business sense turns into good business if people feel comfortable and come back, believes the host. His occupancy figures prove him right.

A passionate farmer

At heart, Balthasar Hauser has always remained a farmer. His farmer's mind and his understanding of the place determine everything he does. He has long since

become an exemplary hotelier, but his unconditional love of farming, animals and nature defines his whole life. "The Stanglwirt without farming would be unthinkable," says Balthasar Hauser. Of this he has no doubt: "Farming belongs at the



On the Graspoint-Hochalm pasture.

Picture: Stanglwirt

Stanglwirt like the mountains belong in the Tyrol." Never, not even during periods of innovation and expansion, did he think of changing the agricultural infrastructure. "If I could tell my ancestors about the way we farm at the Stanglwirt, they would not notice many changes. Essentially, we still do it in the same way as 100 years ago," says the farmer, referring to his horned cattle, the way they go up to the alpine pasture in the summer and the fact that they are fed only on hay. What makes the Stanglwirt different from many other hotels which have farms is that here the cowshed and barn are not at a distance from the hotel.



As for all alpine farmers, bringing down the cows is a special event at the Stanglwirt, too.

Picture: Stanglwirt



The hotel's own Kaiserquelle spring gives Balthasar Hauser special pleasure. He is conscious of the fact that clean drinking water is the greatest gift from nature.

Picture: Stanglwirt

The business grew up around the farm. You can see from the dining room into the cowshed and from the hotel bar into the indoor riding arena. When the illustrious guests at the eco-hotel step out of their limousines, they find themselves next to tractors and hay bales. The family farms about

55 hectares of pasture land, including some steep slopes and different biotopes, and the Stanglwirt also owns 50 hectares of woodland. The Graspoint-Hochalm pasture, where the Stanglwirt cows spend the summer, is leased.

Twenty Simmental dairy cows, six heifers, eight bull calves, 15 young animals and some stock for fattening stand in the cowshed. The annual milk yield is 130,000 kg of milk. A good quarter of that is turned into organic cheese up in the mountains by cheesemaker Sepp Hechenberger and – something which makes Balthasar Hauser particularly proud – by junior manager Johannes Hauser. About a third of the milk



Ripening the organic mountain cheese. Picture: Stanglwirt



Junior manager Johannes Balthasar Hauser making cheese on the pasture. He organises the food chain at the Stanglwirt from field to plate.

Picture: Stanglwirt

is turned into Taleggio soft cheese, Tilsiter and semi-hard cheese in the hotel's own dairy. Seven and a half thousand litres of milk are made into yoghurt and 6000 litres into curd cheese. The rest of the milk is consumed by guests or fed to the calves. Over 80 tonnes of meat and meat products are produced in the hotel's own butchery.

Once, though, the butchery dealt the farm a terrible blow. The butcher was supposed to be slaughtering one of the fattening animals. Unfortunately, he made a mistake and instead took the valuable breeding bull to the slaughtering block. That made even the otherwise so good-tempered Balthasar Hauser see red.

Children's farm

At the Stanglwirt there is also a second farming enterprise in miniature: the children's farm. A small farmhouse just next door has been leased and set up for children. Guests' children can experience the exciting world of the children's farm free of charge and find out about farming with expert supervisors and instructors, and real sheep, ponies, rabbits, chickens and cats.



The children love meeting the animals. Picture: Stanglwirt



The children's farm at the Stanglwirt. Picture: Stanglwirt

"A real pleasure"

You can see that Balthasar Hauser has remained a very down-to-earth man when you ask him what he is most proud about. He says he is not proud but satisfied and grateful. "A business with healthy roots and a family that sticks together, that's a real pleasure." The family is his greatest support. Like him, his wife Magdalena comes from farming stock, namely the Benzmühlen farm in Reit im Winkl in Bavaria. "I wanted a farmer's daughter



Not proud but satisfied...

Picture: Stanglwirt

for a wife and not a hotelier's daughter, so that we speak the same language," says Balthasar Hauser. "Magdalena lives like a farmer's wife, not like a posh hotel landlady; she is modest and exudes calmness. She creates warmth and cosiness at the Stanglwirt." The pair met at a Stanglwirt's singers' meeting. Like her husband,

Magdalena has farming and folk culture in her blood. The landlady at the Stanglwirt is an excellent singer and plays the Raffele zither. With the Chiemgau Folklore Group, she played an active part in the Opening Ceremony of the 1972 Olympic Games and the opening of the 1974 Soccer World-championship in Munich.

Musical family

The children are not only fully involved in the business, they have also inherited musical genes from their parents.

The older daughter, Maria, followed a career at leading international hotels. After completing her studies in Australia and working for two years as an event manager in San Diego (USA), she is now responsible at her parents' hotel for marketing and PR, major events like the "Weisswurstparty", the hotel shops, and Wellness & Spa. She plays the hammered dulcimer and the guitar.

Daughter Elisabeth followed her studies by amassing professional experience as an assistant manager for a well-known hotel chain and at the headquarters of the Swiss

Hoteliers Association. She acts as right-hand woman to overall manager Balthasar Hauser and is in charge of administration and human resources. She also runs the



The Stanglwirt family, the Hausers (l. to r.): daughter Maria, father Balthasar, mother Magdalena, daughter Elisabeth and son Johannes – a harmonious team, and not just musically speaking.

Picture: Stanglwirt

hotel's riding stables and the Lipizzaner breeding programme. She plays guitar when the family make music together.

Youngest son Johannes trained with Austrian star chef Johanna Maier. After working at top hotels in Rome and Bavaria, he worked as a management trainee at the famous Hotel Halekulani in Hawaii, where he served, among others, the then US President Barack Obama. At the Stanglwirt he is responsible for food and beverage, the restaurants, the kitchen, service and the farm. He organises everything from field to plate. Johannes plays accordion, guitar, double bass and drums.

The older son, Richard, was a manager at the Stanglwirt for twenty years. Now he runs the exclusive Kitzbühel Country Club in Reith. He helps his family at the Stanglwirt whenever he can, and they in turn always support him with advice and assistance.

Father of the family, Balthasar Hauser, is also a multi-talented musician. He loves singing with various groups, and plays

guitar, accordion and Styrian harmonica. He played the tenor horn for a long time in the local brass band, and also plays the church organ and the Old Testament psaltery, a stringed instrument that is believed to be the origin of the zither and the dulcimer. "If anyone takes away my guitar or harmonica, they'll find out what I'm really made of," threatens the Stanglwirt host with a smile, "or my bike." For 47 years he has cycled up the Großglockner every year, and every second day – it used to be every day – he does the 400-metre climb up the Astberg to the Kathenhof in Reith bei Kitzbühel. In winter, the endurance athlete keeps himself fit by ski touring and cross-country skiing. He has completed the famous Koasa Trail ten times.

What really matters

In addition to perseverance and stamina, Balthasar Hauser believes that, above all, just being there is essential for a farmer and

hotel owner. "A landlord and a farmer have to like being at home," he says. "If the bird is never there, there's no warmth in the nest." Because the hotel is open all year round, the host family try always to be there as much as they can. Guests can tell that the Hauser family believe it is very important to meet them. That's why the slogan "At home at the Stanglwirt" was coined by guests. The Stanglwirt host is particularly pleased about how many local people come to the hotel. The Stanglwirt is at a little distance from the centre of the village, but it has never been cut off from village life. On the contrary. Balthasar Hauser's father Alois Hofer was the brass band-leader in Going for 25 years, and Balthasar has been a member of the brass band, the voluntary fire brigade, the church choir and the male voice choir. Large parts of the Stanglwirt's facilities, such as the riding arena, tennis hall, golf course and bowling alley, are open to the public. Balthasar Hauser was also the driving force and initiator behind the construction of the bathing lake in Going.

Global celebrities and farmhands

Balthasar Hauser is on first name terms with many important people in the world. He has dined and made music with Hillary Clinton. He has given speeches at the same conferences as German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Hollywood actor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the President of the EU Commission Jean-Claude Juncker are personal friends. He is close to boxing champions Vitali and Vladimir Klitschko. But the Stanglwirt host does not get above himself. When he talks with shining eyes about the farmers and boys that he grew up with, then you know with absolute certainty that this man respects and admires honest, hardworking people: "Brot Hansjörg and Notenberg Mascht (the Stanglwirt farmhands Hansjörg Hormeier and Martin Perauer) were my teachers, they trained me. And "Mühei Thresl" (Harrasmühle), who was chef here for 25 years and also worked in the stables. She taught

me to milk, on a cow called Kersch." There is nothing insincere or superior about him when he speaks about them with reverence and admiration. Or about his father, who was a role model to him as a farmer, and his uncle Andreas, with whom he went up

to the Bürglalm pasture in Fieberbrunn every year. They all helped shape him as a farmer. And he has retained it all, the philosopher, visionary, inn-keeper, hotelier, farmer and folk musician: the Stanglwirt host, Balthasar Hauser.



Klitschko-Wall at the Stanglwirt: The multiple box world champions from Ukraine trained many years for their fights at the hotel before ending their active career.

Picture: Martin Klingler



Nature and luxury, health and enjoyment, tradition and innovation, homely yet cosmopolitan: at the Stanglwirt, there are no contrasts, just harmonious interaction – the secret of its success.

Picture: Stanglwirt

Stanglwirt in figures

400 years of history | Never closed for a single day in 250 years | 120,000 overnight stays per year – 80% regular guests | 280 employees | 171 spacious pine-clad rooms and suites | 12-hectare hotel site | Huge rock pool – wellness facilities with panoramic views and new pool and sauna complex (12,000 m² indoors and outdoors) | Separate children's water world with 120-m water slide (1000 m²) | 500 m² of modern fitness garden | Tennis, riding, skiing and golf school with driving range | Hotel farm with over 100 hectares, 22 dairy cows, 30 calves | Lipizzaner stud farm with 22 horses | 25 km of private fishing | Hüttlingmoos luxury mountain chalet