

CHRONICLE

The Adler tells

You can't overlook it. Above the entrance of the Schwarzer Adler, there is the historic host sign whose double eagle reminds you of the former Austrian Hungarian monarchy.

At the beginning of the 16th century there were the stables belonging to emperor Maximilian in our cellar. In the neighbourhood, people carried out different trades, such as the silver blacksmiths, who forged small pieces of art made of silver. The nearby "mother of all mines" in Schwaz provided all the copper and silver. Later on, the medieval "industrial zone" changed into a rather noble quarter with palais, which still exist in their original form. The Schwarzer Adler was originally a patrician house.

At the beginning a hostelry and from the 17th century on it was led as an inn. It concealed its major recognition under the modern and reforming Joseph II. A part of the adjoining capuchin monastery was rented by the host who also changed the dining hall into a licensed premise. It has been said that occasionally friars lost their way and ended up in the Adler... – although no one knows for sure.

There was great excitement in 1719, as part of Europe's history was written here: The conflict between the catholic and the protestant Irish, resulted in the princess Clementina Sobieski coming to Innsbruck. She was captured near the Schwarzer Adler and impeded from travelling to Rome, where she was to marry the Irish king James III.

Her liberator Sir Charles Wogan passed the night at the Schwarzer Adler and from there they started their reckless escape. The crown jewellery was forgotten, but one of Wogan's loyalists turned around at the Brenner to collect it.

Even in the history books you can read now and then about the Schwarzer Adler in Innsbruck. Karl Rahner for example, Jesuit padre and famous theologian, loved to sit in the chamber on the ground floor and enjoy the view to University Street. From there, he could spot his lover coming down the street to meet him.

The book "Master of the 7 signets" tells that Alexander Colin, a famous artist, who was working on the tomb of emperor Maximilian I, consoled himself with vast amounts of wine in the Schwarzer Adler. He regretted that he could not take part in building Europe's biggest tomb, as planned, and would therefore not be honoured with his peers such as Donatello, Bramante or Michelangelo.

At the beginning of the 20th century the Schwarzer Adler was brought into the family by Franz Ultsch. He leased out the bourgeois hotel until in 1950, then Helmut Ultsch took it over. Helmut Ultsch was a learned gastronome and he adapted and extended the hotel together with his wife Margarethe. The cuisine's fame was

established at that time. From 1978 on, his son Werner Ultsch directed the kitchen for approximately 10 years. After having collected vast of experience in Austria and Germany, he developed the "New Tyrolean Cuisine" and the "Austrian Natural Cuisine". Although often greeted with smile because of his natural and health conscious cuisine, he managed to hold a high gourmet level that contributed to what is now regarded as modern cuisine.

Acknowledging the high quality, the hotel was then incorporated into the exclusive community of the "Romantikhoteles und Restaurants International".

At the end of the Eighties Harald Ultsch succeeded, one of four children, in the 4th generation. He is a graduated economist with extensive experience abroad, above all in the United States. Harald is without question the driving force behind the company. And together with his wife, Sonja, he manages the development and expansion of the Hotel.

Within several sections of construction between 1985 and 2003, the former inn was changed into one of the leading hotels of the whole region.

Sonja, formerly a professional interior designer, expressed her flair and fantasy well and truly in the renovation of the rooms.

Working with the world famous Swarovski Crystal company, new dimensions of Hotel excellence have been achieved.

The future of the hotel in the hands of the family Ultsch is also secure. One of the three children is definitely interested in taking over the successful way of managing the company.

At the end of the 20th century, also the environment of the Schwarzer Adler changed. Where the former army base was, the new university, a flagship of modern architecture, was built, which results in a vibrant atmosphere around the Hotel district.

Nowadays, a few years before the 500th anniversary, the former inn represents itself as a hotel and restaurant for highest demands and looking through its guest book, it is noted that many famous celebrities have already enjoyed the ambience and hospitality of the Schwarzer Adler.