

# SLEEPER

GLOBAL HOTEL DESIGN

MAY | JUNE 2019



## Shinola Hotel

Luxury goods brand ventures into hospitality  
handcrafted hotel in its home town of Detroit

## Jean-Philippe Nuel

The French designer brings his own style of  
classic elegance to Europe's heritage buildings

## Belmond Cadogan

Charm, character and craftsmanship  
come together at Belmond's London

## Guest Book

077

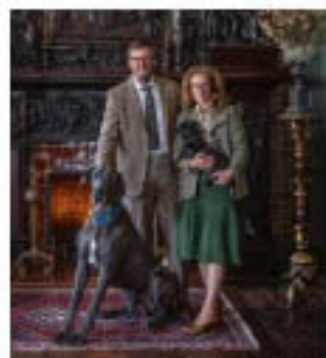
084

106

149

**SYBILLE DE MARGERIE**

"I like the balance between tradition and modernity," says Sybille de Margerie, whose studio recently completed the interior scheme for Cœur de Megève in the Alps, taking inspiration from nature to create a welcoming décor with curved furniture, organic materials and pure bright colours. The opening is the first venture from Steller Hotels, an owner-operator with plans to expand to Paris and Rome.



© Sam Cornelly-Clarke

**HAUSER & WIRTH**

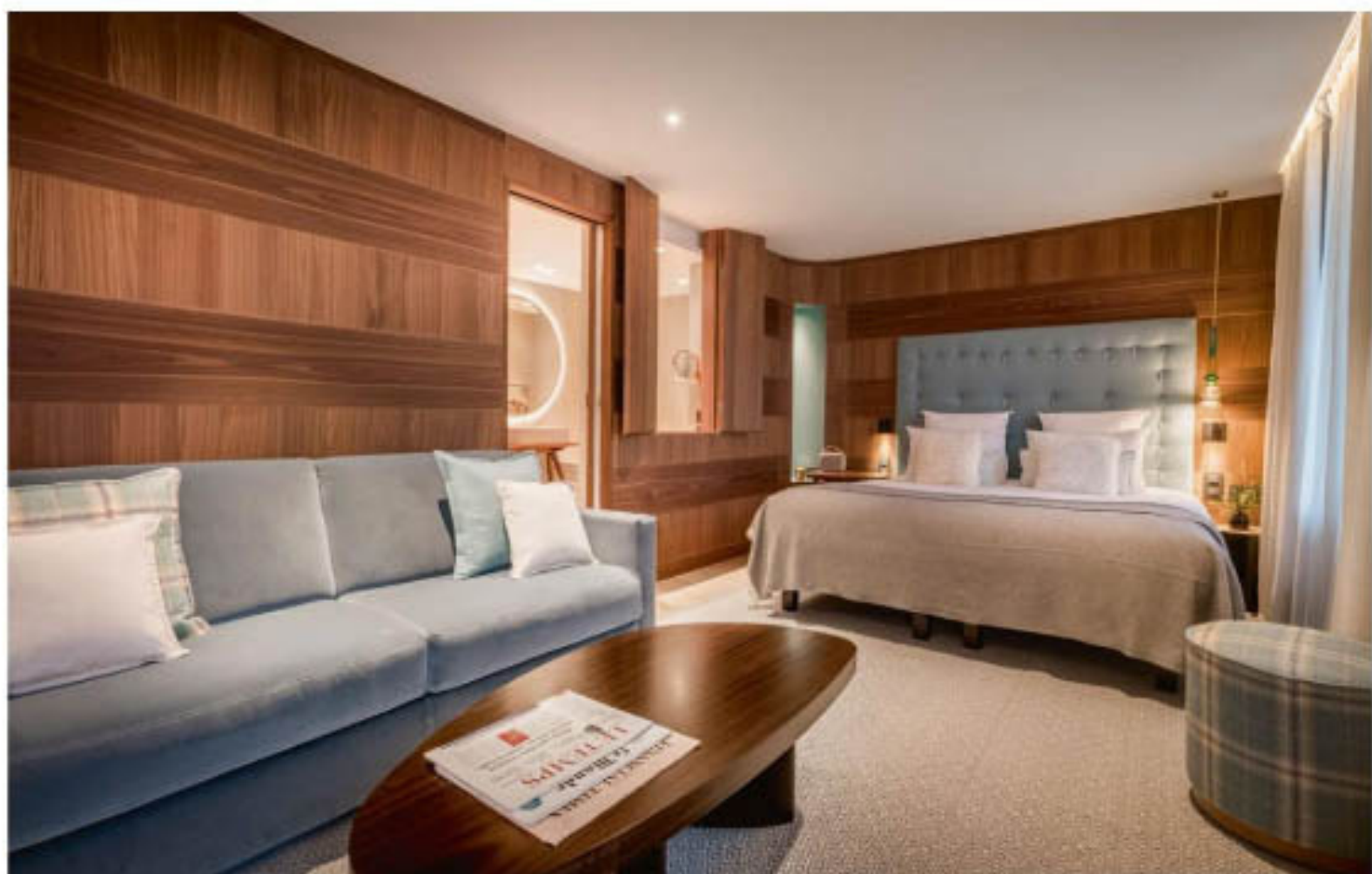
Iwan and Manuela Wirth – the Swiss entrepreneurs behind contemporary and modern art gallery Hauser & Wirth – have made their first foray in the hotel sector with the transformation a former Victorian coaching house in the Scottish Highlands. The duo joined forces with Russell Sage Studio and Moxon Architects to capture the dramatic landscapes and rich cultural connections of the locale.

**HENRY REEVE**

As Director of Interior Design for IHG, Henry Reeve oversees the aesthetic of the neighbourhood-conscious Hotel Indigo brand, drawing from the locale to inform the detailed schemes within each property. Following the launch of Hotel Indigo Manchester Victoria Station earlier this year, the label reached a milestone 100 hotels worldwide, and now has its sights set on Bath and Stratford-upon-Avon.

**SOL KERZNER**

Recognised at this year's International Hotel Investment Forum with the Lifetime Achievement award, South African hotelier Sol Kerzner appeared via video link to discuss his glittering 50-year career, putting the country's hospitality offer on the map with ambitious projects like the expansive Sun City, and the joys of founding and running South Africa's most successful hotel company in Sun International.



## Cœur de Megève

MEGÈVE

Sybille de Margerie balances tradition and modernity to create a contemporary mountain lodge for new owner-operator Steller Hotels.

Words: Catherine Martin | Photography: © Sebastien Tavares Gomes (unless otherwise stated)

Nestled in the Haute-Savoie region of the French Alps, in the shadow of Mont Blanc, the quaint village of Megève has been attracting the skiing elite for almost a century. Conceived by the Rothschild dynasty in the 1920s, it was the first purpose-built resort in the region, making its name as a playground for French aristocracy. Over the years, the resort has preserved its upmarket feel, with art galleries, boutiques and fondue houses lining the cobbled streets, providing refined après-ski following a day on the slopes.

Though it's not just the skiing that's a draw for visitors; Megève has been savvy in becoming a year-round destination, with golfing,

hiking, mountain biking and climbing amongst the most popular pursuits in summer months. It's also a foodie's paradise, with a handful of Michelin stars to its name.

Yet despite its high-living appeal, Megève has clung on to the ways of a fading era, its traditional chalets and horse-drawn carriages bringing a charm unseen in most European destinations. Or perhaps it's that the hospitality offer remains pleasingly independent, with very few, if any, of the major fast food giants or coffee shop chains, and just one internationally branded hotel. Dominating the market are small B&Bs and family-owned guesthouses, many of which have



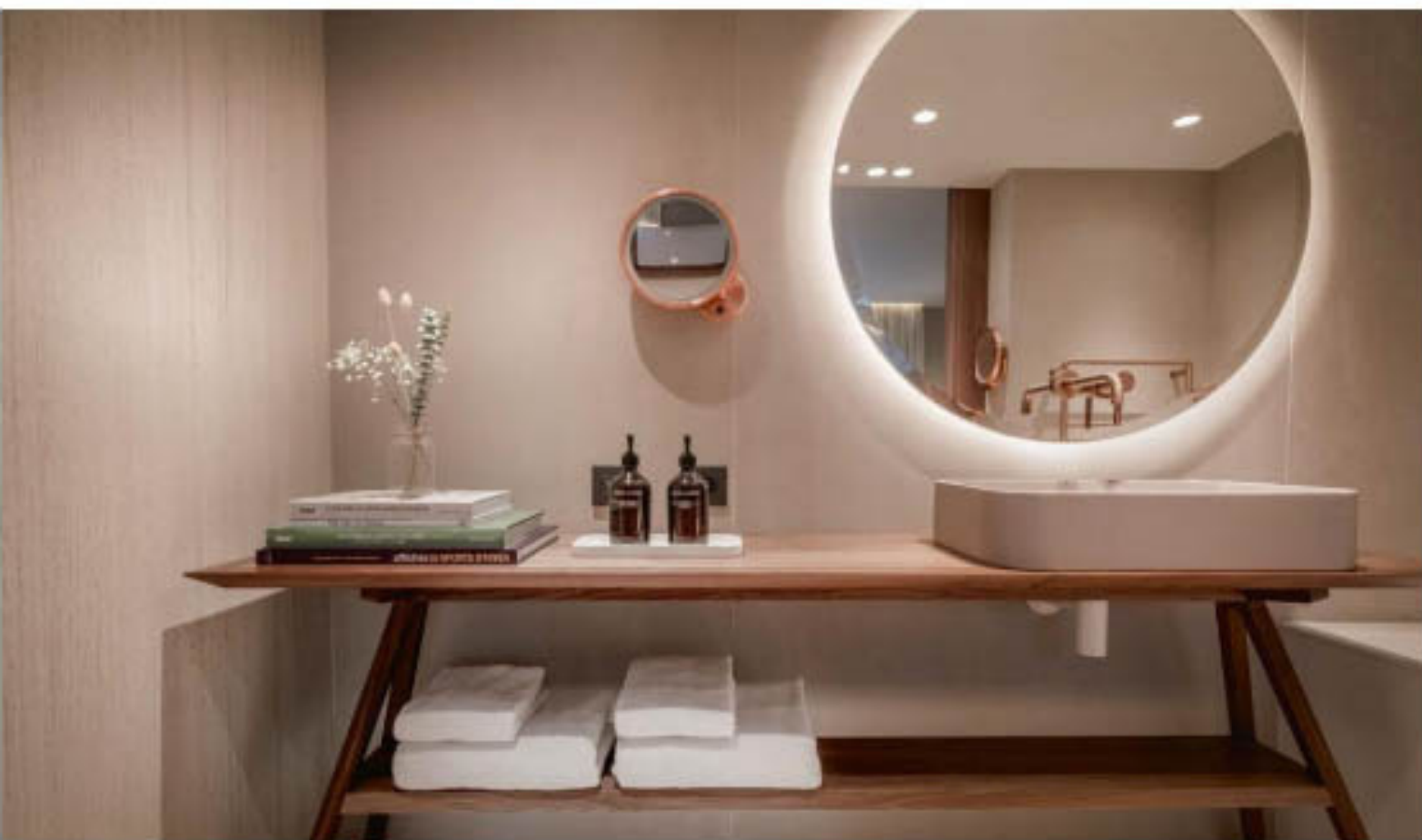


Left: The colour scheme takes its cues from nature, with an extra injection of vibrancy in the soft furnishings and bespoke headboards

more intimate gatherings. Overhead heaters and seats lined with sheepskin mean that, even in the depths of winter, it's the perfect spot for a warming glass of red. The bar also serves up a variety of snacks and small plates – the DIY fondue, in which diners can melt Alpine raclette cheese over an open flame, comes highly recommended.

For those wanting more substantial fare, the hotel's restaurant offers home-cooking favourites, making use of local, seasonal produce and quality ingredients. Ferme de Renard in nearby Demi-Quartier supplies vegetables from the garden, fruits and jams, and milk-fed veal, while Eric and Martine Bouchex deliver fresh cheese daily from their mountain pasture at Col des Aravis.

The interior design scheme also looks to the Alpine surroundings for inspiration, with Sybille de Margerie taking the lead on the guestrooms, spa and public spaces to meet the brief of a contemporary mountain lodge. "I like the balance between tradition and

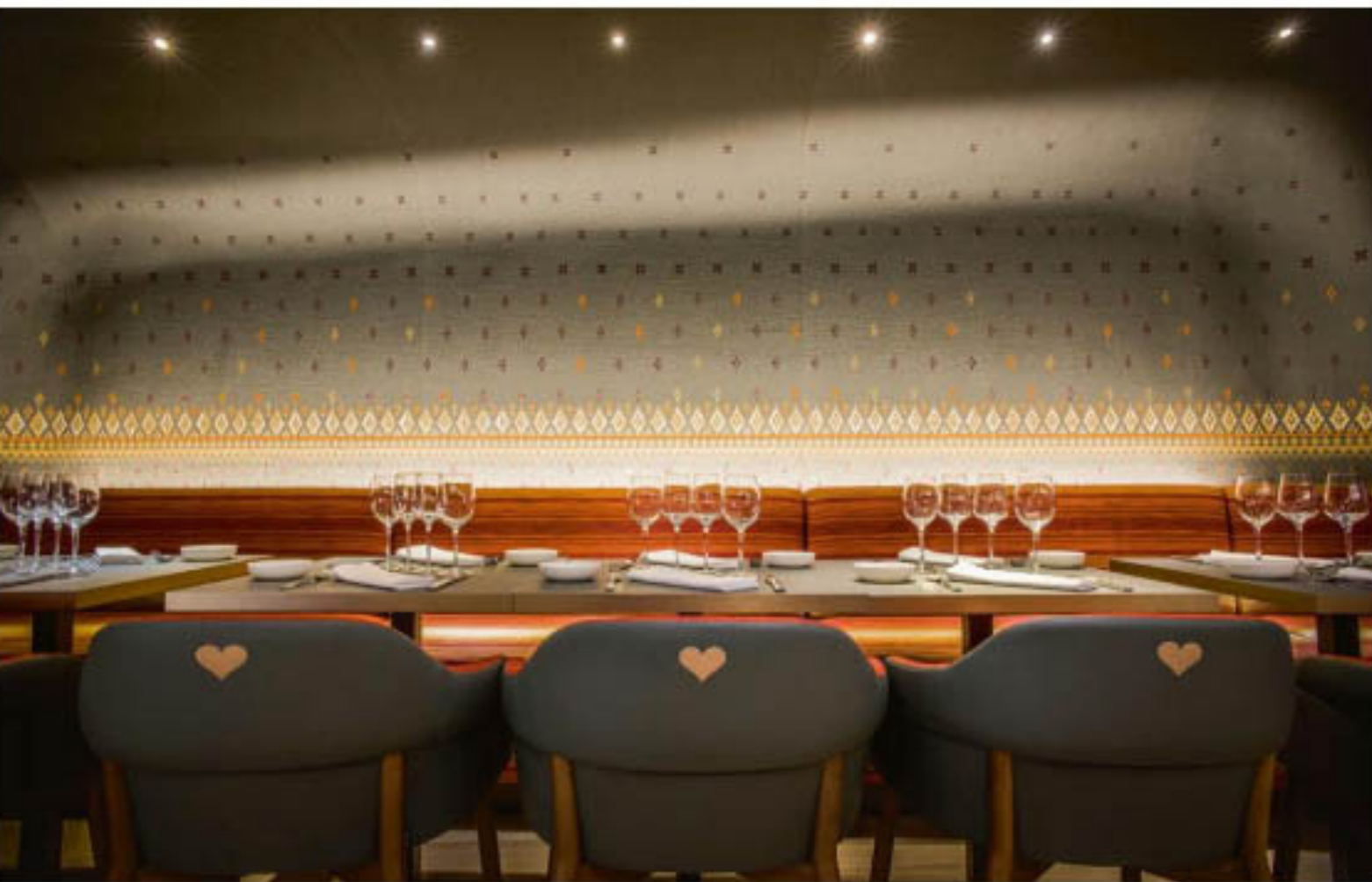


This Page: Guestrooms and public spaces are furnished with quality pieces from European manufacturers, such as the solid walnut coffee tables by Hamilton Conte and cosy sofas from Fredericia

been passed down through generations. Cœur de Megève sits somewhere in-between; family owned yet with aspirations to expand, and marks the launch of Steller Hotels.

The group was founded by the Kampf family, who had been holidaying in Megève for decades before snapping up two adjacent chalets from which to build the business. With the first task being to bring the buildings together, local agency Chatron-Michaud Architecte, a specialist in mountain architecture and the construction of chalets, was drafted in to design a contemporary yet sensitive newbuild portion, housing an additional three guestrooms on the upper floors, and the lobby at ground level. The hotel's location – a prime spot on the main street – was an important consideration for the ground floor, with the key aim being to open up the façade and create a connection with village life. As a result, the bar spills out onto the street, with communal tables catering to the après-ski crowd and cosy corners for





Above: The restaurant features cocooning booths decorated with a handpainted Fair Isle pattern

modernity,” de Margerie says of her work, which here translates to a reimagining of the original ski chalet. The sloping roof, deep eaves and shuttered windows are still present, but the interiors have an altogether fresher, lighter quality. “I attach a great importance to the fluidity of spaces, light and comfort,” she explains. “My work is equally highlighted by the attention to detail, the choice of materials and the harmony of colours.”

Guestrooms come in various shapes and sizes owing to differences between the two buildings; some have open-plan bathrooms, others come with a terrace overlooking the village, while family rooms sit up in the attic beneath the sloping ceiling. In true chalet style, there’s plenty of wood, from the solid oak ornamental birds that perch on the desk, to the brushed walnut panelling lining the walls; sandblasted rather than *au naturel*, so as to appear more refined than in traditional establishments, the overall ambiance being one of warmth and comfort.

The colour scheme also takes its cues from nature – the brilliance of the sun on the snowy slopes, for example – with an extra injection

of vibrancy in the soft furnishings and bespoke headboards. Standard and superior rooms feature bright shades of ochre or crimson, while suites are more subdued with a glacier blue palette.

The natural world makes appearances in the lobby too, where a lighting installation produced by Bocci is inspired by the lichen that grows at Alpine elevations. Other references to the locale are more playful, such as the Fair Isle pattern that decorates the cocooning booths in the restaurant, handpainted by artist Cécile Gauneau, or the mountaineers climbing the steep slopes printed on the curtains. Even the hairdryer is on-theme, coming from Aliseo’s Polar Fox range.

To the rear of the property, a cosy lounge with a central fireplace continues the contemporary lodge feel, while a spa with sauna, sensory shower and two treatment cabins completes the offer.

Now that its first property is up-and-running, Steller Hotels has turned its attention to expansion. The group already has sites secured in Rome and Paris, and with different design teams lined up for each, are clear in their intentions to create truly boutique hotels in the heart of lively neighbourhoods.

EXPRESS CHECK-OUT: 39 guestrooms | 1 restaurant | 1 bar | Spa | [www.coeurdemageva.com](http://www.coeurdemageva.com)

Owner / Operator: Steller Hotels | Architecture: Chatrion Michaud Architects | Interior Design: Sybille de Margerie | Lighting Design: ACI

Landscaping: Karoqui | F&B Consultant: FD Consulting | Project Manager: ACPH