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PRICE: €10

OBERHOLZ MOUNTAIN HUT

Obereggen, Südtirol, Italy

At nearly 3,400 metres in elevation, Italy's Dolomites mountain range offers visitors some of the most jaw-dropping views in all of Italy. To help capture this astounding natural beauty, and to complement it with architectural and culinary pleasures, Milan-based Peter Pichler Architecture collaborated with local architect Pavol Mikolajcak to design Oberholz Mountain Hut.

Boasting an irresistible setting in the absolute dreamlike alpine scenery, Oberholz is a quality restaurant as well as an iconic piece of architecture in the mountains.

Breathtakingly beautiful and unusual, it was designed with a discerning appreciation for nature, artistry, authenticity and craftsmanship. Making a bold, sculptural statement, the finished product is stunning. The restaurant's striking design pays homage to the classic mountain hut by combining contemporary principles with local materials and traditional references. The design brings together timeless influences with sleek modernity and spatial beauty, balancing quiet sophistication and stylish elegance with flawless ease.

The hut consists of the stylish main restaurant, a bar and a lounge area with a cool vibe, whilst the outdoor space is defined by a spectacular terrace that affords 360-degree views.



Photo: Oskar Dariz

Standing out with its elegant aesthetics and everlasting beauty, Oberholz demonstrates a sophisticated blend of contemporary vernacular forms created from timeless materials. The beautiful hut is mainly constructed with typical woods from the area – structural elements and interior in spruce, the facade in larch and furniture in oak – that is perfectly juxtaposed with concrete and glass. The effect is a wonderful, harmonious balance of warmth and contemporary styling.

Looking to create a symbiosis with the landscape and to capture the raw splendour of the setting, the architects designed a building that is inspired by the shape of a fallen tree, with three gabled spaces referencing branches that cantilever from the mountainside.

The grey larch wood structure, floating above the legendary Oberholz Slope, is just a prelude to gorgeous features to come. Inside, the three “branches” are the three main sections of the restaurant, each featuring a giant floor-to-ceiling picture window that grants diners a front row seat to the Dolomites’ majestic surrounding mountain landscape.

The sloping roofs of each of these “branches” bring to mind the gabled roofs of typical mountain huts in the area, and in fact the entire complex construction expresses a contemporary interpretation of that archetypical shape.

With plenty of wow factor, the interior is defined by a highly stylised wood structure underpinned by flowing, curvaceous forms. The voluminous space, accentuated by the immense panoramic windows, is lined with spruce wood floors and wall panels. The trice-vaulted ceiling with exposed trusses gradually dissolves into the walls, creating a dynamic visual expression.

The decor is minimal yet comfortable, with seating arrangements ranging from public banquettes and armchairs to private tables and chairs seemingly nestled into the pockets or alcoves, along the curvilinear cement structural walls.

The bar beside the restaurant space also maintains that natural, sculptural theme, with oak wood high tables and



Photo: Mads Mogensen



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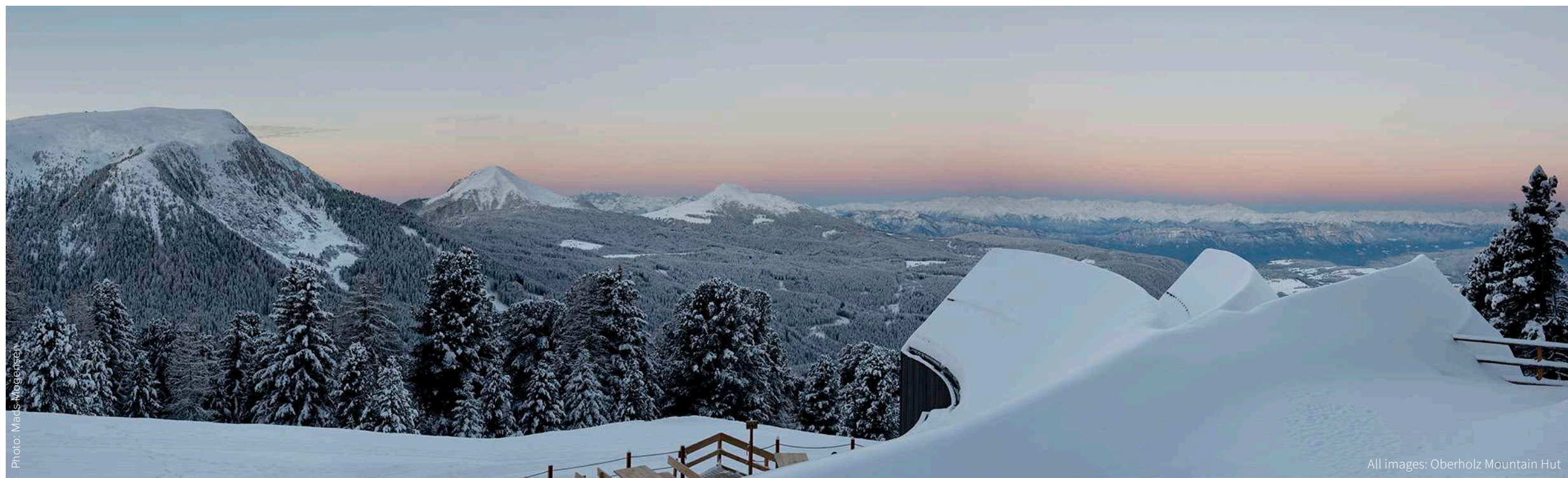


Photo: Mads Mogensen



chairs, a sprucewood vaulted ceiling and a cement bar opposite a wall of sliding glass doors that lead out to the southwest-facing panoramic terrace.

The furniture is also made from local oak, whilst the light grey upholstery is in keeping with the pale colour theme.

Chef Franz and his team craft cuisine that can only be described as innovative authenticity. He uses fresh, seasonal ingredients to create deceptively simple dishes with deep layers of flavour.

Dishes could include Smoked salmon on winter salad greens with dill-brioche and horseradish; Risotto with Obereggen Mountain pine aroma, buffalo mozzarella and smoked beef; Homemade potato dough ravioli filled with South Tyrolean mushrooms, plus Alpine cheese and brown butter; Local steer filet with poivrade sauce, potatoes and vegetables; and Caramelised Kaiserschmarrn (sliced fried pancake) with South Tyrolean applesauce and homemade cranberry jam.

Do not miss the weekly cheese tasting. An alpine cheese-maker will present and serve Eggen Valley cheeses from the Becherhof dairy farm, which of course will be accompanied by suitable South Tyrolean wines. In the warm glow of the sun's the last rays, visitors will experience the fabulous alpenglow, in hues of red, pink, orange and purple, along the descent of the Oberholz piste.

For al fresco enjoyment, the Hut's symbiosis with its natural and dramatic surroundings reaches its climax as the sprawling outdoor terrace is orientated so as to fully embrace the spectacular views of the surrounding peaks and the breathtaking natural landscape.

An architectural jewel at an altitude of 2,096 metres at the foot of the Latemar, which belongs to the UNESCO World Nature Heritage Site of the Dolomites, Oberholz is truly unique with its fabulous food, high-style aesthetics, almost endless views of the alpine peaks and direct access to the ski slopes.

www.oberholz.com

