

Marc Almert of Baur au Lac, Zurich awarded Best Sommelier in the World 2019



On Friday evening Marc Almert, Head Sommelier at [Baur au Lac](#), Zurich, was awarded Best Sommelier in the World at a ceremony in Antwerp held by the Association de la Sommellerie Internationale (ASI).

The 27-year-old originally hails from Cologne and presides over Baur au Lac's rare and extensive wine cellar. Baur au Lac is renowned for attracting the best emerging talent in hospitality, with former chefs going on to preside over some of the best restaurants in the world, including Daniel Humm of Eleven Madison Park, New York and Philippe Rochat, owner of the Restaurant de L'Hotel de Ville in Crissier, Switzerland. Its fine dining restaurant Pavillon was awarded its second Michelin star in February 2019.

Marc commented, *"Winning the title of Best Sommelier in the World has been a lifelong dream and I am grateful to Baur au Lac and its deep connection to the world of wine, built by six generations of the same family over the course of its 175-year history, for the unrivalled training and opportunities that they have been able to offer. I look forward to bringing my new accolade and expertise back to Zurich, to continue to be a part of the hotel's exceptional gastronomic offering that I firmly believe is among the best in Switzerland."*

During the competition, 66 sommeliers from 63 countries were tasked with a range of tests including written exams and tastings, as well as taking part in more than 10 masterclasses with topics ranging from viticulture to winemaking, and ancient grape varieties to vintage-focused tastings. The two runners-up were Nina Højgaard Jensen from Denmark (Best Sommelier of Denmark 2017 and Best Young Sommelier of Europe 2016) and Raimonds Tomsons from Latvia (Best Sommelier of the Europe and Africa 2017). Master Sommelier Eric Zwiebel, 45, was the only representative from the UK; Zwiebel is currently in charge of the wine department at the Summer Lodge Country House Hotel, Restaurant and Spa in Dorset.

More about Baur au Lac

The pristine white villa of Baur au Lac, perched on the edge of Lake Zurich, has a legendary status as one of the oldest 5-star hotels in the world. It has been owned by the same family for six generations and over its illustrious 174-year history has hosted iconic artists, writers, royalty and actors including Sophia Loren and Audrey Hepburn. A stone's throw from the Paradeplatz, Zurich's bustling financial district, the hotel is located within its own landscaped park and offers 119 rooms and suites individually decorated in styles such as Art Deco, French Louis XVI and English Regency, as well as excellent dining at the cosmopolitan Rive Gauche and two Michelin-starred Pavillon restaurants.

Baur au Lac has rooms available from CHF 870 (approx. £672) per night, based on two adults sharing a Deluxe Double room on a room-only basis.