## Hotel Graçanica \*\*\*\*\*

Dear friends of Hotel Gracanica,

Ten years ago, on 13 April 2013, we celebrated the soft opening of the hotel together with friends and partners. We have come a long way since then! If it weren't for the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, the hotel would probably even be profitable... Later in 2013, on 28 September, we had our grand opening. And that ten year anniversary, we are planning to celebrate it, hopefully together with you! Mark the date!



The guy in black is our architect, Bujar Nrecaj. Unfortunately, he returned to Switzerland soon after. The little girl on the bench is Emanuela Gashnjani who today works as a receptionist at the hotel - and besides that just opened her first business (s. below)!

Our wonderful cook Samira is the first staff member to have completed ten full years at the hotel! She started in March 2013, shortly before the soft opening. Congratulations!



Samira together with Lidija on the left and Aziza on the right

On 18 April, our receptionist Emanuela officially opened her first own business, a nail and makeup salon, at the age of just twenty! We are very proud of her! She will run the salon together with her sister Marisol, who is also working at the hotel in season, and two friends. Her project was made possible by a grant of the NGO Help Kosovo.

The salon is at just 200 meters distance from the hotel. You can make an appointment by phone, 043 593 840, or through instagram.com/enem\_nails. To have your nails made, you pay just 12 €.



Very soon, we will start with our Sunday brunch again - we are just waiting for stable sunny weather! Follow us on <u>Facebook</u> or call us to find out when exactly!

Brunch will start at 11 a.m. and continue until 2 p.m. Price is 15 € for adults and 1 € per year of age for children up to 14. Included in the price are local cheeses and cold cuts, homemade bread and croissants, homemade jams, muesli, soup or salad, a choice of main dishes and desserts, fresh juices, mineral water, coffee and tea.



Unfortunately, the solar heating of our pool still doesn't work, and the water temperature is only 14°. As in previous years when we had similar problems, our efforts to have a company replace the broken part have been unsuccessful until now. Usually, the repair team comes when the water temperature reaches 27° on its own. But in spite of that, we already had our first swimmers!



German speakers: Die von der Journalistin und Buchautorin Tanja Polli organisierte Kosovo-Reise "Musik, Kultur und Mezze" vom 23. bis 27. August bietet einen spannenden Einblick in unterschiedliche Facetten des Kosovo - natürlich mit Unterbringung bei uns! Anmeldefrist läuft!

## **MUSIK, KULTUR UND MEZZE**



Der Kosovo vom klassischen Tourismus noch weitgehend unberührt. Die Gastfreundschaft ist gross und die neuere Geschichte des kleinen Balkanlandes eng verwoben mit jener der Schweiz. Wir lernen die lebendige Kulturszene der Hauptstadt Prishtina kennen, aber auch die schwierige Situation der ethnischen Minderheiten im Land. Wir erhalten Einblick in spannende Projekte, geniessen eine Weindegustation und fahren gemeinsam nach Prizren. Die Stadt, in die man der Legende nach immer wieder zurückkehrt – oder nach deren Besuch man heiratet...

23. August bis 27. August 2023

Auch empfehlenswert: die <u>Kosovo-Wanderreise</u> von Imbach vom 9. bis 16. September, mit zwei Übernachtungen bei uns. Imbach hat die Kosovo-Wanderreise seit 2021 zweimal jährlich im Programm, doch bisher gab es noch nie genügend Anmeldungen, was angesichts der wunderbaren Wandermöglichkeiten im Kosovo nicht wirklich verständlich ist.





Earlier this month, our night receptionist Nikola Gačić has left us after being accepted into the Kosovo Police Service. He has been with us since December 2020. We will miss him and wish him all the best in his difficult new job!



Nikola (far right) certainly made the most elegant jump on this staff photo from 2021

A personal note: This will be the last newsletter you receive written by me. At the end of 2024, after spending twenty years of my life in Kosovo, it will be time to leave and hand over the hotel to my managers, Lidija Tokić and Aziza Ramić. They have already been in charge of most things first as my deputies since 2019 and then as my managers since 2020, and did a great job. From now on, they will take over the few remaining jobs - like writing newsletters. I will stay around and accompany them in this process.



Lidija and Aziza on a photo from Aleksandra Hiltmann's article in the Swiss "Tagesanzeiger" from 3 October 2020

If you would like to get more often updates on what is going on at the hotel, follow us on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram!</u>

## **Andreas Wormser**

## Hotel**Graçanica\*\*\***

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