



### Escape to Wonderland: Hotel Giardino Mountain Resort

by Olivia Balsinger

St. Moritz has always been a scene of winter wonderlands, and Hotel Giardino Mountain is no exception. A train journey on the Swiss Rail, reminiscent of the Polar Express, takes guests to the five-star property from the country's capital of Zurich. The ride itself is out of a Christmas card - hills and mountains juxtapose quaint villages as the train meanders through rural Switzerland's valleys.

Once pulling into the charming St. Moritz train station, you'll be greeted by one of the hotel's drivers who whisks you to Hotel Giardino Mountain - aptly named for fitting snug in slopes of the Albula Alps. The property is comprised of seven Engadine houses which were extensively restored in 2011 and reopened as a five-star design hotel.

Mother Nature is undoubtedly showing off in this environment, the hotel is perched at almost 2,000 meters above sea level, snugly caressed between the Alpine peaks of Corvatesh and Corviglia. For those who enjoy adventurous activities or simply rejuvenation in nature, there is a pristine lake just 300 meters from the hotel that sits adjacent to a spectacular pine forest.

In the wintertime, by far the busiest time of year for tourism in St. Moritz, locals and foreigners alike enjoy skating and cross-country skiing by the lake. Though the area is known for these months of bundling warm, of course, though locals say they prefer summer in St. Moritz. As the air warms, they can go swimming and boating on the lake, or explore the maze of trees while sporting hiking boots instead of skis.



For those who prefer to relax and enjoy the amenities of the resort instead of heart-palpitating adventures, Hotel Giardino Mountain

has got you covered. The Dipiù Spa at Hotel Giardino Mountain is a relaxing and immersive experience, with pools, saunas, gyms, massages, and cosmetic options.

The Hotel Giardino Mountain is a blissful escape where guests can enjoy as much or as little of surrounding nature as they'd like. The possibilities here are as boundless as the Alps themselves. ■

[WWW.GIARDINOHOTELS.CH](http://WWW.GIARDINOHOTELS.CH)



### The Algonquin Hotel Times Square New York

by Mike Cohen

The Algonquin Hotel Times Square first opened its doors in 1902. Today, it is part of the Marriott chain's Autograph Collection, an evolving ensemble of strikingly independent hotels. Each of the 181 rooms and 25 suites features a comfortable well-lit work desk, as well as complimentary Wi-Fi.

This is our family's home away from home whenever we travel to the Big Apple. We stayed in a very comfortable one bedroom Playbill Suite. The layout was ideally suited for us. There is a nice sized entrance, with the master bedroom to the left featuring a nice-sized bathroom. The spacious living room has a pullout couch, a large desk which was perfect for me to write my stories and good drawer and cupboard space. You can get a fridge and a microwave, depending upon availability and on request. ■

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