

POST

RELAIS &
CHATEAUX.

A CHANGING OF THE GUARD

by Geoff Booth

After 30 glorious years as General Manager of the Post Hotel & Spa, I will be retiring in October of this year. My career at the Post has been the best - an absolute pleasure to work with owners André and George Schwarz and an honour to have been part of the Post Hotel family and history.

I arrived in Lake Louise in 1974: a teenager eager to work at the Lake Louise Ski School with André Schwarz. The ski school was renowned and I learned the trade by chasing my mentor all over the mountain. Soon skiing and the mountains were in my blood. In 1978, when George and André purchased the Post Hotel from Sir Norman Watson, André left the ski school. By then I was well enough equipped to run the school; a position I enjoyed for a few years before law school at the University of Saskatchewan intervened. Following graduation in 1986, I heard the mountains calling again. Returning this time with our newborn son Dan, Tracy and I made a life changing decision to move back to Lake Louise, Banff and the world of hospitality. It's where we belonged. The timing was perfect as George and André had just embarked on a major expansion and

redevelopment plan that would pave the way for the Post to become one of Canada's most renowned resort operations. A few examples: Relais & Chateaux member, one of only three Canadian properties to hold the coveted Wine Spectator Grand Award and – over the years - Travel + Leisure's Number 1 Resort in Canada, Conde Nast Traveler – Number 1 Ski Hotel in North America, CNN Travel News' One of the World's 10 Most Beautiful Ski Lodges. If hospitality is your career, and you are fortunate enough to be a part of something like this, it's like a dream come true.

What's next? Well, our family grew. After Dan (now 32), came our daughters Angela (30) and Shannon (26); both born in Banff. Our children's lives are inextricably linked to Banff, Lake Louise and the mountains they grew up in. Most fortunately, they still love to spend time with their parents! Other than a little beach time in Pacific Beach, California, expect to find me, my lovely wife Tracy, our children and their partners enjoying these mountains - skiing, hiking, running, golfing and strumming away on our guitars and ukuleles.

I will dearly miss the Post, the Schwarz family and all the wonderful guests that I have had the pleasure of knowing. Last, but not least, I express my heartfelt gratitude to the incredible team of Post Hotel staff that have brought me happiness every day for 30 years. *continued...*



Michael & Carol Schwarz and Geoff Booth by the front desk.

Going forward, to help guide the Post Hotel & Spa through the next era, we are thrilled to announce that George's son Michael Schwarz and his wife Carol have 'come home' to Lake Louise. Alongside father George and their uncle Andre, Michael and Carol will take an active role in the management of the Post and will offer their expertise on all upcoming plans. The next generation has arrived! Both Michael and Carol are eminently qualified in the service business. Their resumes read like veritable superstars and together this formidable pair might best be described as the 'dynamic duo'.

Carol is a southern Californian; born and raised. She attended the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) and completed that schools highly-praised Bachelor of Arts in Hotel Management. After graduating, Carol 'honed her skills' with Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts spending 9 years with the company in Las Vegas and Newport Beach. Subsequently, her posts included: Hotel Manager of the Luxury Tower at the Palms Hotel in Las Vegas. Here, Carol was recruited by her Four Seasons hotel manager. He wanted her to help elevate the hotel to the coveted 5 Diamond designation. From there, a brief stint in the Las Vegas real estate scene before her mentor convinced Carol to assist in opening Las Vegas' Downtown Grand Hotel. Carol remained there until she and Michael were lured to Maui and the Hawaiian Islands. In Maui, Carol spend two years as the Director of Front Office Operations at the Starwood Sheraton Maui Resort.

Michael spent his youth in Switzerland and his summers in and around the Post Hotel with his father George and his uncle André. For primary and secondary schooling, Michael attended Lyecum Alpinum in Zuoz, Switzerland (near St. Moritz). With youthful exuberance, Michael wanted to try out the hospitality business and this brought him back to Canada. Completing 'tours of duty' at the Post Hotel, Le Beaujolais Restaurant in Banff and the Fairmont Chateau Whistler, Michael was convinced – the hospitality business was the place for him. In 1998 he enrolled in Hotel Management at the prestigious Ecole Hotelier de Lausanne in Switzerland. His school internships included the Relais & Chateaux Moulin de L'Abbaye in France's Perigord region and the Four Seasons Hotel in Singapore.

Upon graduation, Michael took on the challenge of restaurant manager at the Four Seasons Hotel in Newport Beach, CA. It was there he met Carol. With the end of a work visa, Michael was off to the Four Seasons Sydney (Australia) - a long way from Carol! A year later the two were back together in Las Vegas. Michael had accepted a role with the management team of Wolfgang Puck and shortly thereafter was appointed General Manager of Spago – Wolfgang Puck's renowned flagship restaurant in Caesar's Palace. After five years there, Wolfgang offered Michael the GM position at his famous Spago Maui Restaurant located in the Four Seasons Resort and Hotel. Two years in Hawaii and thoughts turned back to where it all began – family, Banff/Lake Louise and the Post Hotel & Spa. It was time to come home.

WINE MAKER'S DINNER SERIES

The Post Hotel & Spa's Wine Maker Dinner Series continues to be one of the Hotel's most popular special events. Once again this past winter, all six dinners were sold out! High praise was extended to our guest wine makers and to Chef Hans and his team for the 'oh so special' menus they created.

Dates for the five 2018 dinners have already been set; all Friday nights – February 9th and 23rd, March 9th and 23rd and April 6th. Stay tuned to www.posthotel.com for the list of participating wineries. Typically the announcement of wineries comes out in the late fall. Keep in mind that each dinner is limited to twenty eight people (everyone around one table) so they fill up very quickly. Some are sold out within days of the announcement!

A sampling of some of the greats from over the years includes: Gaja, Caymus Vineyards, Tenuta dell'Ornellaia, Joseph Phelps Vineyards, Masseto, Shafer Vineyards, Patz and Hall ... just to name few. We're looking forward to another great line-up of wineries for 2018!

KIDS CANCER CARE AND WINE SUMMIT LAKE LOUISE

\$942,000 Raised for Kids Cancer Care Foundation of Alberta

Post Hotel & Spa owners André and George Schwarz are delighted to announce that \$122,360 was raised at Wine Summit Lake Louise 2017 for the Kids Cancer Care Foundation of Alberta (KCCFA). This year marked the 13th Anniversary of the renowned wine event and the cumulative total that has been raised is now more than \$942,000. A heartfelt thanks goes out to the most generous donors, our Wine Summit guests and all the participating wineries. Founder and CEO of Kids Cancer Care, Christine McIver, had this message for George and André, "With your help we are able to rekindle the minds, bodies and spirits of these children and their families; bringing laughter and joy back into their lives". Thank you Wine Summit Lake Louise.



TRAVEL + LEISURE WORLD'S BEST AWARDS – NAMES POST HOTEL & SPA 3RD BEST RESORT IN CANADA

Travel + Leisure Magazine recently announced their 2017 World's Best Awards and named the Post Hotel & Spa as the 3rd Best Resort Hotel in Canada! In addition to this recognition the Post was also included in the Magazine's renowned Top 100 Hotels in the World – one of only three Canadian properties to do so. The other Relais & Châteaux to make the list is Manoir Hovey from North Hatley, Québec and rounding out the Canadian contingent is Fogo Island from Newfoundland.

"It's an honour to appear on this list of extraordinary properties; something that we gratefully share with our dedicated team of Post Hotel staff. We would also like to thank all of our loyal Post Hotel guests who took the time to vote for us. We appreciate your continued support", said owners George and André Schwarz.

HOUSEKEEPING AWARD FOR POST HOTEL

Led by Executive Housekeeper Lisa Gessner, the Post Hotel & Spa has earned the Alberta Hotel and Lodging Association's esteemed Housekeeping Award for the eleventh consecutive year! What an accomplishment.

"It's an honour indeed and something we are very proud of. We have a great team - 30 of us in total - and are always there to help one another out. The days can be long and the work is physical, but we keep a positive attitude and do our part to provide every Post Hotel guest with a relaxed, comfortable and memorable stay", says Lisa.

Congratulations to Lisa and her housekeeping team.

WINE SPECTATOR GRAND AWARD 2017 – 16 YEARS IN A ROW



Post Hotel Sommelière Janine Loetscher and Owner George Schwarz with the 2017 Grand Award – one of only 3 in Canada and 89 worldwide from 3600 entries.



Left to right, Lisa Gessner, Eleanor Orteza, Imelda Alegado, Rebecca Reomales.

SPA MANAGER TIEN A FAMILIAR FACE IN A NEW POSITION

We are thrilled to announce that Tien T. Hou (Tien) has been named our new Temple Mountain Spa Manager. Tien has been at the Post for almost ten years and during this time has established a wonderful rapport with our spa guests. She is continually applauded for her exceptional service – few receive as much praise! As for her other qualifications, Tien holds a PH.D. in Physiology from The Ohio State University. Pretty impressive.

Congratulations to Tien on her exciting new appointment!



DISCOVER VALMONT AT THE TEMPLE MOUNTAIN SPA



VALMONT

For over 30 years, Valmont has been an internationally acclaimed luxury skin care brand delivering immediate and visible anti-aging results. With their continued pursuit of excellence, Valmont's products incorporate cutting-edge Swiss technology, exclusive DNA molecules and Glacial Spring Water for an extraordinary skincare experience.

Nicknamed 'the Magician of Time', Valmont's skin care products are 'born' in the pure natural environment of Switzerland. There, in the heart of the Swiss Alps, the Valmont Alpine Garden specializes in eight different plants – Rosehip, Yellow Dye, Echinacea, Mallow, Marigold, Nettle, White Lupine and Dill – all chosen for their exceptional properties for skincare. These subtle alpine ingredients combined with innovative scientific expertise produce the optimum quality results.

The Post Hotel's Temple Mountain Spa offers a broad range of Valmont skin care products and also incorporates this extraordinary product in a number of specialty treatments: the Temple Mountain Indulgence – a customized Valmont facial combined with a relaxation massage, the Valmont Hibiscus Flower Body Treatment – an anti-aging body wrap that incorporates a hibiscus flower masque and the Women's Valmont Facials renowned for producing amazing results.

Visit the Temple Mountain Spa at the Post Hotel and discover Valmont.

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As we embrace our online community, we look forward to connecting with you through Instagram or Facebook. We have enjoyed and look forward to seeing more of your photos and reading your posts on social media. Thanks for all your tags, likes and shares!



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