

# the westin grand berlin

## Press release

### WESTIN GRAND BERLIN GENERAL MANAGER BECOMES A CITY BEEKEEPER – BEES RESIDE ON THE HOTEL ROOF WITH A VIEW OF THE REICHSTAG

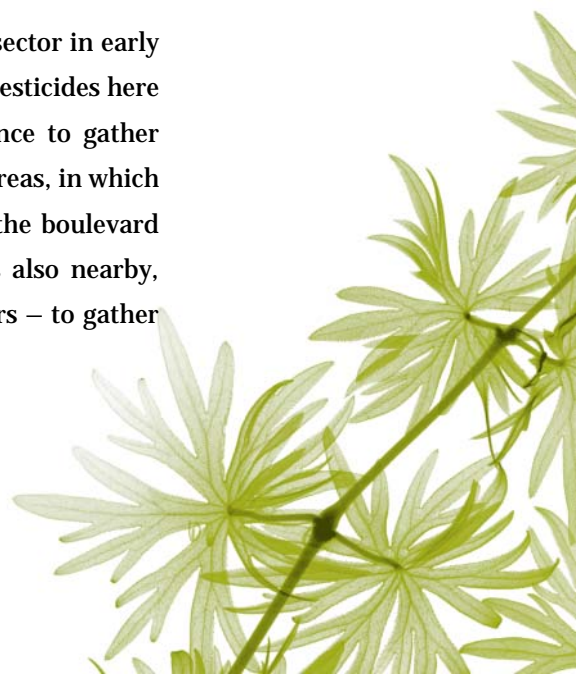
*The Westin Grand Berlin makes its own honey; from now on, the breakfast buffet will include "Berlin lime-tree blossom honey by The Westin Grand Berlin". Hotel director Rainer Bangert is consciously supporting the settlement of bees in the city.*

**Berlin, in June 2011 - In May, some new and unusual summer guests took up residence in the Westin Grand Berlin. Hotel director Rainer Bangert is now a city beekeeper and the proud owner of four bee hives which are currently lodged on the roof of the hotel. Berlin beekeeper Marc-Wilhelm Kohfink is instructing Rainer Bangert in his new duties, providing specialist support and advice. The most striking aspect is the outlook the little insects can enjoy. The bees have the best view of the Reichstag and their new terrain is laid out right before them: the eponymous *Linden* (lime trees) of Berlin's celebrated "Unter den Linden" boulevard and the flora of the adjacent Tiergarten.**

Rainer Bangert is looking forward to the harvest. The first honey is already finished: some 120 kilograms are expected in all: "Our very own organic-quality gourmet lime-tree blossom honey is now available at our breakfast buffet. And that's a rather exceptional treat for our hotel guests!" "Berlin lime-tree blossom honey by The Westin Grand Berlin" will also be available for sale at reception in 100 g jars. Available for 5 euros a jar, the honey is quality-approved by the German organic farmers' association *Bioland*.

"When I first heard about the problem of bee deaths in the agricultural sector in early 2010, the idea of supporting city beekeeping was born. For there are no pesticides here and the biodiversity offers these hardworking little creatures the chance to gather nectar from a wide variety of different plant species, unlike agricultural areas, in which monocultures abound. The Westin Grand Berlin is located directly on the boulevard Unter den Linden, with its leafy trees, and the Tiergarten city park is also nearby, creating ideal conditions for our new guests – or rather, our new workers – to gather nectar.

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The first harvest is already being put to a range of different uses: at breakfast, in the restaurant, at events. The biggest hit is our home-made honey ice-cream, followed by fruity vinaigrettes and simple honey loaves.

## **The Westin Grand, Berlin**

At the heart of it all. The Westin Grand is situated in historical downtown Berlin: on the corner of Unter den Linden and Friedrichstrasse, a stone's throw from tourist attractions, company headquarters and the government district. Some rooms command a view of the magnificent historical boulevard, others look out onto Friedrichstrasse or the 3000-m<sup>2</sup> garden in the inner courtyard. Escape the bustle of everyday life and dive into a world of pure wellbeing. Extensively renovated in 2008, the 400 rooms are a perfect enticement to relax, enveloping guests in a soothing ambience of warm, subtle shades and timelessly elegant design. And after refreshing slumbers in a Westin Heavenly Bed and the balanced SuperfoodsRX breakfast buffet, guests are sure to make a bright and cheerful start to the day. Alongside the spa with its modern gym and pool, the capacious, light-flooded lobby, with its large staircase, is another energizing spot. A place to see and be seen, to relax and recharge.

A codex-compliant and certified business hotel, the Westin Grand Berlin truly stands out, offering eleven very different banqueting rooms for conferences with up to 220 participants or functions with up to 400 guests. Winner of the World Travel Award in 2010 as Germany's Leading Business Hotel.

[www.westingrandberlin.com](http://www.westingrandberlin.com)

## **About Westin Hotels & Resorts**

Westin Hotels & Resorts makes the healthiest choices irresistibly appealing, so guests leave feeling better than when they arrived. With over 170 hotels and resorts in over 36 countries and territories, Westin is owned by Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. Starwood Hotels is one of the leading hotel and leisure companies in the world with 1025 properties in nearly 100 countries and territories with 145,000 employees at its owned and managed properties. Starwood Hotels is a fully integrated owner, operator and franchisor of hotels, resorts and residences with the following internationally renowned brands: St. Regis®, The Luxury Collection®, W®, Westin®, Le Méridien®, Sheraton®, Four Points® by Sheraton, and the recently launched Aloft®, and Element<sup>SM</sup>. Starwood Hotels also owns Starwood Vacation Ownership, Inc., one of the premier developers and operators of high quality vacation interval ownership resorts. For more information, please visit [www.starwoodhotels.com](http://www.starwoodhotels.com).

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