

SONNE

Küsnacht — Zürich

Küsnacht, 04.02.2026

History and Architecture

The history of Sonne Küsnacht near Zurich dates back to 1641, when the property was first documented. Under the leadership of Hans Ulrich Alder and Anna Barbara Schädler, the former “Wirtschaft zur Sonne” quickly developed into an important meeting place on Lake Zurich. From 1711 onwards, the estate remained in the ownership of the Guggenbühl family for eight generations. Particularly in the 18th and 19th centuries, the house enjoyed great popularity among day trippers from Zurich, thanks to its own boat landing stage and a rich programme of music and dance events. The ballroom opened in 1839, built shortly after the completion of the lakeside road, soon became the social centre of the region.

The house also proved to be forward looking in technological terms. As early as the beginning of the 20th century, Sonne actively participated in the development of the region, including involvement in the construction of the Lake Zurich railway and the early introduction of electricity. The historic walls hold numerous stories, including those of the German writers Thomas Mann and Franz Kafka, who appreciated the house, and the world renowned psychoanalyst C. G. Jung, who was a regular guest. In 1960, he celebrated his 85th birthday here, an occasion on which the municipality awarded him honorary citizenship of Küsnacht in the tower room.

After eventful decades, the property was comprehensively restored from 1991 onwards by a family from Küsnacht. With great respect for the past, the historic ballroom, the tower room and the art historically significant panelled rooms were carefully renovated. Since 2007, the house has been a member of Swiss Historic Hotels

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and is considered one of the most important historic hotels in Switzerland. Today, Sonne Küsnacht presents itself as a contemporary 4 star superior hotel with around 40 individually designed rooms and junior suites, three restaurants, a bar, a fitness and wellness area and various event spaces for corporate and private occasions. In addition, the boutique hotel houses an art collection featuring works by Andy Warhol, Augusto Giacometti and Meret Oppenheim. Since July 2023, Sonne has been managed by Hotel Director Harald Raab, who leads the house with a sure sense for the balance between lived tradition and contemporary comfort. As part of a strategic repositioning, the hotel will undergo a comprehensive rebranding from August 2025. This will include a modernisation of the logo, visual identity and overall brand presence, while always preserving the historic character of the house. As part of the rebranding, a further structural change is planned. From October 2025 to June 2026, the Sonnengalerie will be redesigned by the renowned Zurich based firm Küchel Architects. The aim is a contemporary reinterpretation of the relationship between cuisine, architecture and nature, with high quality materials, clear spatial flow and a design that strikingly frames views of Lake Zurich. In this way, Sonne Küsnacht will continue to be a place where history, hospitality and innovation meet in natural harmony.

About Sonne Küsnacht - Zürich

Sonne Küsnacht Zurich is a boutique hotel with over 380 years of history, first mentioned as an inn in a Zurich document in 1641. Located directly on the shores of Lake Zurich, the 4 star superior hotel offers 40 individually designed rooms and junior suites. With three restaurants and a bar, the historic property invites guests to enjoy traditional Swiss cuisine, including the Sonnengalerie, the Gaststube, the Seegarten and the Turmbar. Five event rooms and halls, as well as an outdoor location, provide the ideal setting for seminars, meetings or private events. A fitness and wellness area with a lawn and direct lake access, along with leisure activities such as stand up paddles and e bikes, complete the offering. The proximity to the city of Zurich and excellent public transport connections, including boat and train services, offer a wide range of leisure opportunities both in the surrounding area and throughout Switzerland.

Further information, fact sheets and high resolution images can be found on our media page at sonne.ch.