

EXPLORE

Eriro, Austria

A new nine-suite escape nestled in the far-flung Tyrolean Alps in the Austrian town of Ehrwald, Eriro is an off-grid hideout that certainly warrants an out-of-your-way trip, offering head-spinning vistas *Page 162*

Page 154 Destination guide Emma Al-Mousawi skis the glamorous slopes of St Moritz and recounts the places to see and be seen. **Page 158 The journey** Becca Hensley goes on a bespoke tour of Egypt and uncovers all its magic. **Page 166 The Hot List** This issue's Hot List is a tale of two ships — set sail on a lavish new launch or head on a profound journey. **Page 172 Property** Look around a penthouse that transcends one of the world's most famous skylines and the former home of a legendary author. **Page 176 Flight of fancy** If you're a frequent visitor to the City of Love, you've no doubt seen the Eiffel Tower — but take it in from a whole new perspective.

EXPLORE
NEW HOTELS



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New HOTELS

Above
Eriro is a new nine-suite escape
in the far-flung Tyrolean Alps

Eriro

EHRWALD, AUSTRIA

According to the Michelin Guide's judging criteria, a three-star restaurant is so exceptional that it's "worth a special journey." The same could be said about the new Eriro, a nine-suite escape nestled in the far-flung Tyrolean Alps in the Austrian town of Ehrwald. Just over an hour from Innsbruck, or around two hours from Munich (plus a quick gondola ride, climbing to an elevation of nearly 5,000 ft), this off-grid hideout certainly warrants an out-of-your-way trip, offering head-spinning vistas of Germany's highest mountain, the Zugspitze, and an endless supply of indie Alpine charm with a firm focus on regionality.

This page, from top
One of the wooden balconies;
inside Eriro; one of the suites

At the heart of the hotel are a team of locals: Amelie and Dominik Posch alongside Christina and Martin Spielmann (both couples are family hoteliers), plus timber construction expert Andreas Mader. It's clear that this is an independent passion project for them. "We wanted to do something different [as we] have classical, traditionally designed hotels at home," says Amelie. "The main keywords have always been: rooted in origin, archaic, close to nature, natural materials and lots of contrasts."

STAY

Wood, stone and wool are the main materials in this four-story, modern-chalet-style build, and all feature prominently throughout the communal spaces (spa, restaurant, yoga studio and gym-cum-workshop) and the nine suites. While undeniably cozy and low-tech, suites are super-sized (the smallest starts at 688 sq ft) and kitted out with record players, pour-over glass coffee makers and Aesop toiletries (one of only two products on offer that aren't from the region — the other being Coca-Cola). Take the top-floor and top-notch Himil suite, tucked under the gabled roof with two wooden balconies, a private sauna, log-burning fireplace and soaking tub carved into the trunk of a spruce tree.

DINE

Eriro has 'all-in service,' an elegant euphemism for all-inclusive. Along with most activities, meals and drinks (made up of about 50 fantastic regional and natural wines and a whole bar cart of locally made schnapps) are included, save for a small selection of premium tipples like 2013 Dom Pérignon.

The hotel currently has one menu-less indoor/outdoor restaurant, where every bite is hyper-local, undeniably seasonal and ultra-creative. It's more than just marketing speak: There's no freshly squeezed orange juice for breakfast (no citrus trees in these parts) or avocado toast at 3am; it's not that kind of place. Instead, expect multicourse Michelin-bait dinners of meat and vegetables roasted over live fires, breakfast feasts of pressed apple juice and fresh cow cheese, and plate after plate of foraged forest fare like tender chanterelles drizzled in fir pine oil and ancient grains like rye magicked into silky risotto. It's all zero waste, with cool young head chef David Franken at the helm, using the whole of the animal (butchered in-house) and making everything from scratch — including grinding flour on site and home-churned butter. An à la carte restaurant, which will be open to non-guests too, is in the works.

RELAX

Minimally dressed with dried wildflowers from Amelie's garden, thick daybeds and woolen hammocks, Eriro has a rustic-chic spa made up of several soaking pools, including an outdoor plunge pond lined with loungers; two indoor heated tubs with meadow and mountain views; and a darkened, cave-like meditation pool with a singing bowl on the ceiling, which can be rung by rope. Then, there are

two saunas (spruce and Finnish), plus a sound room — lined with hay and outfitted with deer-skin loungers — for soaking in sound waves set to 7.83 hertz, the same as the 'heartbeat' of the Earth. Treatments using oils infused with medicinal botanicals like mountain arnica and buckthorn are carried out by Eriro's wellness guru Andrea in the upstairs treatment room. Andrea also hosts evening stretching and yoga sessions in the yoga room, as well as early morning meditation walks.

EXPLORE

Eriro means 'the entrance of the forest' in Old High German; and here, the great outdoors are especially great. During warmer months, hike or bike to the

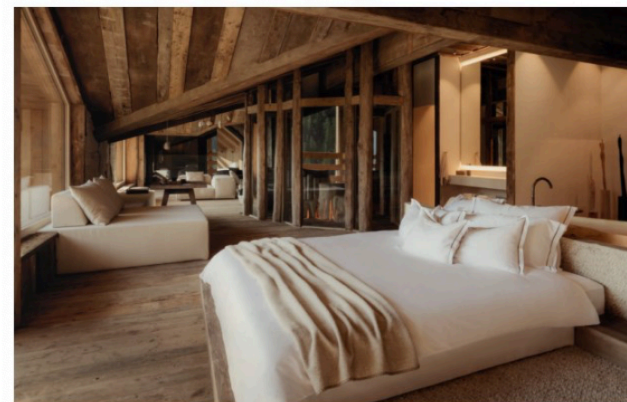
high-altitude lake of Seebensee with its Caribbean-blue waters. In the winter, it's all about the snow. Set between two ski lifts and well-positioned for ski-in/ski-out access within the Ehrwalder Alm ski resort, the area is perfect for beginners and more relaxed sportsmen, though it's also connected to more challenging pistes in both Austrian and German territory. For those craving culture, the storybook-pretty Neuschwanstein Castle (said to be the inspiration behind Disneyland's castle) is about an hour away just over the German border.

By Nicole Trilivas

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WINTER 2024/25



Photos: Alex Moling