

**For immediate release**

**Roberto E. Wirth receives the “Leading Legend Award”  
from the Leading Hotels of the World**

Rome, November 26, 2014 – **Roberto E. Wirth**, the **owner and Managing Director of the Hotel Hassler Roma** and President of Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi - Assistance Center for Children who are Deaf and Deafblind, received the prestigious **“Leading Legend Award”** for *exemplary leadership, contributions and commitment to the art of independent hospitality* on Saturday Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> during Leading Hotels of the World’s 2014 Annual Convention, in Vienna, Austria. Mr. Wirth was selected based on nominations that were submitted by members of **The Leading Hotels of the World**, the world’s largest luxury hotel organization, with over 430 properties in more than 80 countries, and recognized for his exemplary contributions to, and leadership in, the art of independent hospitality. He was presented with a crystal trophy from Tiffany and watch from Blancpain.

“I am extremely proud”, stated Roberto Wirth during the award ceremony, “to receive this recognition, especially since I have had to overcome many obstacles in order to achieve what I have today. I knew I wanted to be a hotelier since I was five years old, but having been born profoundly deaf I was told to give up on this dream. But being born in a hotel, it was all I had breathed and lived from my earliest memories. Although disappointed, I was never discouraged to give up on what I felt was my purpose in life. I went to hotel management school at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, and then to Boston, San Francisco and Honolulu, Hawaii, to gain first-hand hotel experience. I then returned to Rome, to the Hotel Hassler, where I have now been for over 36 years.”

Roberto E. Wirth, born in Rome, is the fifth generation of a prestigious Swiss hotelier dynasty, and his passion as well as his life-long work in carrying on his family’s rich traditions are the drive behind the continuing success one of Europe’s most important and well-loved luxury hotels.

**About Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi - Assistance Center for Children who are Deaf and Deafblind ([eng.cabss.it](http://eng.cabss.it))**

Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi - Assistance Center for Children who are Deaf and Deafblind (CABSS) is founded and presided by Roberto. E. Wirth. CABSS is a non-profit organization that offers early intervention programs to deaf and deafblind children between the ages of 0 to 6. All activities are carried out in a multisensory laboratory, an environment that is responsive to the needs of deaf and deafblind children. The laboratory is equipped with multisensory materials and communication tools. CABSS also provides specialized support to parents in raising their children and addressing issues specific to their child's deafness or deafblindness.

**About The Hotel Hassler Rome ([www.hotelhasslerroma.com](http://www.hotelhasslerroma.com))**

Set atop the Spanish Steps and featuring a panoramic view of the entire city, the Hotel Hassler Roma is owned by President and Managing Director Roberto E. Wirth, fifth generation of a famous Swiss hotelier dynasty. For more than a century, Hotel Hassler Roma continues its legacy as Rome's five-star lodging of choice for the world's elite and discerning travelers. Each of the 96 rooms, 14 of which are suites, are individually designed with an elegant combination of classic and contemporary touches. Highlights include the Michelin-starred panoramic restaurant, Imàgo ([www.imagorestaurant.com](http://www.imagorestaurant.com)), the Salone Eva and Palm Court restaurant and the Hassler Bar, as well as the neighbouring, Hassler-owned Il Palazzetto: a hotel, wine bar and special event space. ([www.ilpalazzettoroma.com](http://www.ilpalazzettoroma.com)).

**About The Leading Hotels of the World, Ltd. (LHW)**

When extraordinary and one-of-a-kind intersect, you have likely found a Leading Hotel. As the largest luxury hotel collection, with more than 430 of the world's greatest properties in over 80 countries, we seek out the exceptional. From grand palaces to intimate city hideaways, from ancient castles to sumptuous safari tent villages, from tropical aeries to mystical paradises, all are utterly unique and boldly independent. Each celebrates the culture of its destination, rather than trying to mask it with corporate-mandated sameness. Established in 1928 by several influential and forward-thinking European hoteliers, it started with 38 initial members. With our eight-decade-long commitment to providing unforgettable, authentic travel experiences, LHW selects only hotels that meet our high standards for quality and distinctiveness. To us, hospitality is not an industry; it's an art...and our passion.

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