

Not Vital acquires Tarasp Castle

Swiss artist Not Vital is the new owner of Tarasp Castle, following the signing of the purchase agreements on March 30th, 2016 in Scuol, Engadine. Vital's generous commitment will start a new chapter in the colourful 1000 year history of this Swiss landmark. The artists vision of transforming the castle into a public cultural attraction of national and international importance, integrating contemporary art and a sculpture park into the building's historic substance, is met with enthusiasm throughout the Engadine region. For a price of CHF 7.9 million, Not Vital is acquiring the castle from the von Hessens, a princely German family. Vital plans to donate the castle to a foundation at a later stage.

Following almost two years of negotiations with the von Hessen family, Not Vital has successfully acquired the castle of Tarasp. The foundation Fundaziun Chastè da Tarasp greatly contributed to the successful conclusion of this deal. Founded in 2010, with the support of Andrea Fanzun and the Tarasp commune, its mission was to secure the castle's future as a public monument. The flexible attitude of the von Hessen family and above all the support of the Scuol commune and its voters were essential help to the acquisition. In a public referendum, the commune unilaterally agreed to annual contributions of CHF 200,000.

"This is an important day for me" says Not Vital, "I have many people to thank, who made the acquisition possible. I am especially grateful to the young people in the valley, who supported me with great enthusiasm from the first day. I will do everything to turn Tarasp into a place of cultural importance and human interaction and thereby make a contribution to the cultural life and the economy of the commune and the entire region."

Prince Philipp von Hessen, representing the vendor family, handed a symbolic key to Not Vital. "Our family and our ancestors took good care of the castle. Now it is back in Swiss hands, and will hopefully stay in these for the next centuries – history has provided for enough variety in the past." He said in reference to the capricious history of the castle. "We have decided for Not Vital as the new owner and adjusted our price expectations downwards. We are convinced that he will lead the castle to new heights with his unique artistic and personal talents. We are especially happy that he will continue our tradition of keeping the castle open to the public, a mission we have always been committed to."

For Andrea Fanzun, until recently president of the foundation Fundaziun Chastè da Tarasp, the acquisition by Not Vital is a great joy: "For years we have sought a

solution in which the castle can be preserved as a public good for the commune and the region. Now we have succeeded and the solution exceeds all our expectations. With Not Vital and his creative talent and determination, something truly unique will be created here.”

Not Vital is funding the purchase price of CHF 7.9 million through personal means and a bank loan from French bank CIC. The loan was successfully secured by Jon Peer, a local businessman and chairman of the Hochalpinen Institut Ftan. In addition, the Ernst-Göhner foundation is supporting further measures regarding the project. Not Vital aims to donate the castle to a foundation after the loans have been repaid.

The already existing foundation Fundaziun Chastè da Tarasp, will operate the castle as a cultural attraction. It will now be presided over by Not Vital, who will be supported by foundation board members Andrea Fanzun (former president, now vice-president) and David Hrankovic.

The Scuol commune will support Not Vital’s cultural project with annual contributions of CHF 200,000, which will go towards covering a part of the large operating costs. “For us, this represents a substantial financial commitment” stated Christian Fanzun, president of the Scuol commune, “but the creation of a first-class cultural attraction is an important factor for tourism. This artistic project has the full support of the commune and the region. All parties concerned are extremely happy and excited that Not Vital is the new owner of Tarasp”.

Respecting history, preserving the present and shaping the future – all this becomes a reality for the castle of Tarasp with its new owner, Not Vital.

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