

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Schloss Fall named Historic Castle of the Year 2026

Bordighera, Italy - 28 September 2026

Schloss Fall in Keila-Joa, Estonia, has been named Historic Castle of the Year 2026 at the European Hotel Awards, recognising the successful revival of a nineteenth-century neo-Gothic estate as a living place of hospitality, culture and heritage.

The property is represented by Andrei Dvorjaninov and Margus Kuklane, who are closely associated with the National Heritage Foundation behind the restoration and development of Keila-Joa Castle. Their work has helped return the estate to active use while preserving the historic character that makes Schloss Fall one of Estonia's most distinctive heritage destinations.

A neo-Gothic landmark restored to active life

Keila-Joa Manor was built in 1833 in the neo-Gothic style to designs by Hans von Stackenschneider, who later became one of the important figures of nineteenth-century historicist architecture in the Russian Empire. The estate occupies an exceptional natural setting beside the Keila River, with rapids, parkland and the six-metre Keila Waterfall forming part of the historic landscape.

Today, Schloss Fall combines heritage conservation with contemporary hospitality. The estate includes accommodation in the main castle and Manor House, a restaurant, museum and exhibition spaces, as well as facilities for private and professional events. This combination allows the property to function not simply as a monument, but as an inhabited and evolving historic place.

Heritage, hospitality and continuity

The significance of Schloss Fall lies in the way restoration has been connected to use. The castle's historic identity remains central, but the project also gives the site a contemporary role through accommodation, gastronomy, cultural programming and events.

This balance is particularly relevant within European hospitality, where historic properties face the challenge of remaining economically and socially alive without losing the architectural and cultural qualities that define them. Schloss Fall illustrates how a restored estate can become a destination in its own right while preserving the atmosphere and memory of the original place.

The logic behind Historic Castle of the Year 2026

The European Hotel Awards are not based on public voting, popularity rankings or automated scoring. Their approach is qualitative, holistic and editorial, considering identity, heritage, coherence, hospitality culture, guest experience and the way a property contributes to the wider European hospitality landscape.

For Schloss Fall, Historic Castle of the Year 2026 recognises the coherence of a restoration that has returned an important Estonian heritage property to active life. It reflects the value of preserving architecture and history while creating a contemporary hospitality experience that remains deeply connected to its setting, its story and its cultural significance.

SCHLOSS FALL - KEILA-JOA CASTLE Historic Castle of the Year 2026 Represented by Andrei Dvorjaninov and Margus Kuklane Keila-Joa, Estonia

EUROPEAN HOTEL AWARDS 2026

28 September 2026

Grand Hotel del Mare Resort & Spa - Bordighera, Italian Riviera, Italy

Private international event - by invitation

PRESS & MEDIA CONTACT

European Hotel Awards • europeanhotelawards@gmail.com • www.european-hotel-awards.com