

# LORD OF THE CASTLES

*In the last 25 years the castle ensemble Ehrenberg has been kissed awake. Armin Walch was and is the eternal hero of this amazing Sleeping Beauty story.*



**A**nd suddenly they are all there. Powerful, magnificent and stately. Bows thrusting, saber-rattling and cannons firing. Meinhard II, for example - this prince who shaped the land of Tyrol in its early days, with his flowing beard and large sword. Or Emperor Maximilian I, whose name alone is enough to play a sequence of images in the mind's eye - with the Golden Roof, glittering silver, knightly games, magnificent festivities and gigantic mountains of debt.

**THE MOSAIC OF EMPERORS**, kings, lords and warriors mingling between Ehrenberg Castle, the Klause, the fortress Schlosskopf and Fort Claudia is almost impossible to grasp. Every stone remnant of the Ehrenberg castle ensemble, which cleverly knows how to use its natural stage on the prominent southern edge of Reutte, represents the powerful historical dynamics of this place. The journey through time inevitably makes your head spin. As if that were not enough, a walk in the air - on the suspension bridge - makes the rush perfect. Viewed from above, the strategic charm is

revealed in an instant. All those who wanted to invade Tyrol from the north had to pass through this hollow alley. Quite a few have tried it. Sometimes successfully, sometimes not.

**MORE THAN 700 YEARS** of history are concentrated here, and despite their historical weight, the years can be experienced as light as a feather. And in the middle of it all stands the conductor of this great historical symphony: Armin Walch, managing director of the Ehrenberg Castle World, who can confidently be called the lord of Ehrenberg Castle. Together with a few equally persistent visionary comrades-in-arms, Walch has gradually awakened Ehrenberg from its slumber over the past 25 years. Where once a handful of people roamed the woods knowing about the great historical heritage, today some 350,000 visitors a year are welcomed with all the trimmings. Where once used to be in the middle of nowhere, today there are celebrations, dances and marvels. The Ehrenberg Castle World is one of the most visited cultural facilities in Tyrol. And quite rightly so!