

Press release  
Frankenberg, November 2020

## **Modern minimalism and traditional innkeeping meet in delicious style Thonet furniture in Wirtshaus Mättle in Lörrach, Germany**

**In the far southwest corner of Baden-Württemberg, in the city of Lörrach, Michelin-starred chef Nicolai Wiedmer and his family run a traditional inn that dates back to the 19th century. Here the family serve up authentic cuisine fused with international influences in an atmosphere that is both down to earth and refreshing. The internationally renowned designer Sebastian Herkner was brought in to update the interior design of the venue. The Thonet 118 chair, designed by Herkner himself, was the clear choice of seating for “the Mättle” offering a comfortable blend of purist lines, modern form and subtle homage to more traditional elements of wooden chair design.**



The interior of Wirtshaus Mättle now consists of a bright, open dining area, a cellar space called the THEODOR and an inviting beer garden. The Wiedmer family are passionate about looking after their guests. The restaurant serves family dinners, extensive breakfast buffets and home baking from Grandma Heidi. The inn can also cater for private functions. Renowned chef Nicolas Marceau serves up traditional dishes with his own special twist, which pay tribute to their roots and showcase local ingredients. This combination of old and new is perfectly complemented by the interior design choices, and in particular the Thonet chairs.

Just as Marceau’s cuisine creates a bridge to the past, the Thonet 118 chair also intentionally channels tradition. The chair, which was created by Sebastian Herkner in 2018, has a seat frame bent from a single piece of wood. The number of individual parts has thus been reduced to an absolute minimum. This minimalism makes a direct reference to the 214, the archetype of the Thonet chair, as well as to the principle developed in the middle of the 19th century in Germany by Michael Thonet, who reduced a chair to the fewest elements possible. The 118 is a classic wooden chair that affords a subtle elegance to any dining room setting, whether at home or in a restaurant. “It never looks out of place but blends organically into the overall look and feel of a room. The chair is characterised by its clean lines, but looks equally good in a traditional dining room or coffee house: it combines traditional and modern in one piece of furniture”, enthuses Norbert Ruf, Creative Director and Managing Director at Thonet.

In this scheme, black versions of the chair with canework seats create visual accents, while a version stained in an elegant (customised) shade of taupe fits perfectly into Herkner’s colour scheme of organic tones. In each aspect of the project there has been a meticulous attention to detail, creating

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a coherent overall vision. "Using authentic colours, shapes and materials, but also by ensuring a very high-quality finish, attention to detail and a strong connection to the region, we have created an innovative 'inn 2.0'", explains Sebastian Herkner, who is as delighted and satisfied with the harmonious interior design, including the major part played by the 118 chair from Thonet, as with the Wiedmer family's wonderful gastronomy.

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## **Thonet – future-oriented furniture design with a long tradition**

*The unique success story of Thonet began with the work of master carpenter Michael Thonet. Ever since he established his first workshop in Boppard on the River Rhine in 1819, the name Thonet has stood for high-quality, innovative and elegant furniture. The breakthrough came with the iconic chair No. 14, today known the world over as the Vienna Coffee House Chair: the pioneering technique of bending solid beechwood enabled the mass production of chairs for the first time. The second milestone in design history was the tubular steel furniture by the famous Bauhaus architects Mart Stam, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Marcel Breuer in the 1930s. During those pioneering years, Thonet was the world's largest producer of these tubular steel furniture designs, which are today considered timeless.*

*For the company today, the continuous process of innovation is the top priority, together with a focus on tradition and fine craftsmanship. Thonet's furniture designs originate both from its collaborations with renowned national and international creatives and from the in-house Thonet Design Team. Chief Executive Officer Brian Boyd and Creative Director Norbert Ruf manage the company from the corporate head office and production site in Frankenberg/Eder (Germany). Michael Thonet's fifth- and sixth-generation descendants are actively involved with the company's business as partners and sales representatives.*