

## PRESS RELEASE

### Hotel Schani is the first hotel in the German-speaking region to accept bitcoins

**10th May 2016 | Hotel Schani Wien is expanding its role as a pioneering hotel of the future and the first hotel in the German-speaking region to accept bitcoins as a payment method. Bitcoins have a number of advantages as an alternative to conventional cash and are being used increasingly by private individuals and companies as a result. The bitcoin information event at Hotel Schani in February this year shed some light on tax-related aspects of this payment option, among other facts.**



Hotel Schani Wien has been accepting bitcoin payments for food and drinks at its bar and for shopping at its "Greissler" hotel shop, since April 2016. Guests will be able to make payments for our rooms using bitcoins via the website starting in the upcoming weeks. The introduction of bitcoins is another step towards the future, as bitcoins are the "cash of the internet" with the "potential to become an independent world currency", as Max Tertinegg of Confinity has pointed out.

Accepting Bitcoins @ Hotel Schani Wien  
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Bitcoins provide an alternative to traditional money and facilitate direct payments made by the sender to the recipient, using the Bitcoin App or appropriate equipment. This way, users can cut out the middleman -- in this case the bank -- when making transactions, simply transferring money across borders without paying additional fees. The only requirement is a bitcoin account, a so-called wallet, on a smartphone and an internet connection -- and, voila, money can be transferred safely from one person to another around the globe within seconds!

The bitcoin information event held at Hotel Schani provided information on the theory, practical use and tax benefits of this cash-free currency. Max Tertinegg and his team at Confinity consider bitcoins and blockchain technologies as key factors in economic and societal change in the years ahead. Alexander Komarek, partner at LBG Vienna, talked about a recent, precedent-setting verdict by the European Court of Justice exempting bitcoin payments (and the exchange of bitcoins into euros) from VAT. This issue had been very controversial in several EU Member States up to that point and represented a great obstacle for potential bitcoin users. The main advantages of bitcoins are their global availability; independence from bank insolvency; current, stable appreciation in value and their safe and secure transfer directly to the end-user, according to Christian Halper, co-founder of Superfund and owner of Tian Restaurants.

People looking to acquire bitcoins can do this from various companies or private individuals, stated Max Tertinegg. In addition, they can be acquired from bitcoin ATMs or online at [coinfinity.co](http://coinfinity.co), for instance.

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## **Hotel Schani Wien**

Hotel Schani Wien is the second hotel run by the Komarek family from Ottakring -- Vienna's 16th District -- after their eco-friendly Hotel Gallitzinberg. This modern hotel with its Viennese charm will open its doors on the site of Vienna's new Central Station at Quartier Belvedere in Spring 2015. A total of 135 rooms, including 10 studios, a multi-functional lobby and a courtyard garden with a "green oasis" right in the city will await the guests. Managing Director Mag. Bendikt Komarek is continuing his family's successful hotel tradition with his own trendsetting project and innovative ideas in cooperation with Archisphere architects. You will find regular updates on building progress and the project at [www.schanihotels.com](http://www.schanihotels.com).