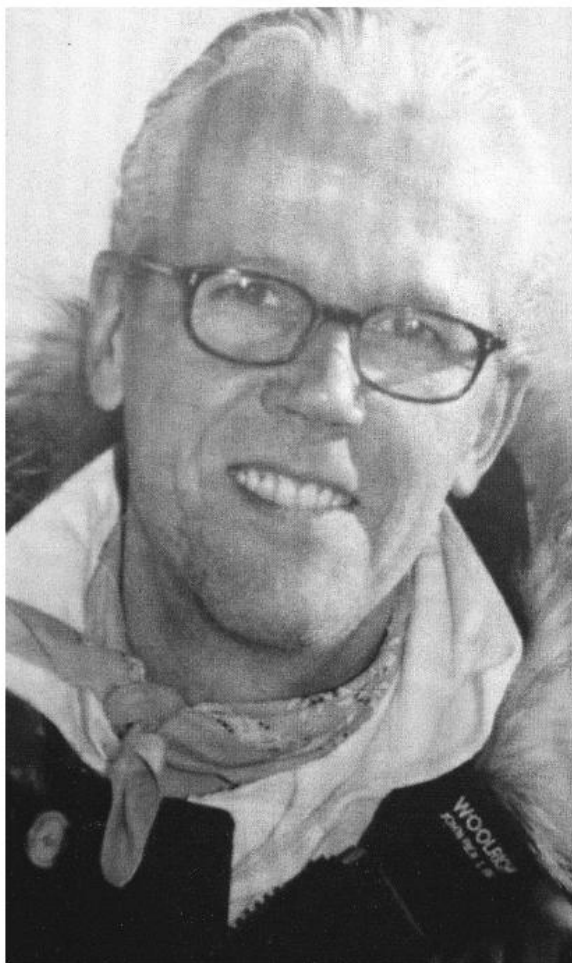


**CHRISTIAN JOHANN STRAESSLE (STRUSO)**  
**1964-2012**

On 25th November 2012 the Cresta lost one of its gentle giants, a great and generous friend and colourful character. Although not a St Moritz native, Christian Straessle, 'Struso', regarded it as his home, as it had been since the age of six, when his father, Hans, moved the family from Solothurn. Struso fell in love with the Cresta and hoodwinked Tower to take his first ride at the age of 14 by using his father's equipment and helmet. He became a Member in 1982, by which time he had already made his mark with some very graceful riding (even falling with style and grace), and won the Baron Oertzen in 1983. In the 1986 Morgan, after 3 best times in the previous day's Bott Cup, he came seventh deservedly to win his Colours with yet another personal best; this he later improved in 1987 to 52.59, a fine achievement when the Top Record stood at 51.03.

Being an hotelier took Struso away from St Moritz for many years but he returned in 2006 to work in the jewellery and watch business, so he was able to renew his friendships. Although he rode the Cresta too infrequently in his later years, he took great delight in going to the Clubhouse to enjoy the camaraderie of his many Cresta friends, old and new. At 6 ft 8 in (2.03 m) tall, Struso stood out in any crowd, especially when coupled with his extremely colourful dress style, which extended to his pink riding suit, hence the sobriquet of the Pink Panther.

An immensely colourful and genial character his motto was: 'my office is in Mario's Bar in the Palace and my living room is the Zoo Bar in the Soldanella'. He could be found frequently in both locations holding court and reminiscing about the 'old times'. When not working he could be found enjoying horseriding and golf; he was accomplished at both. With his death St Moritz lost a great amount of colour in every sense, and the attendance of so many family and friends at his farewell was an indication of how much he was loved. His many Cresta friends ensured that he had a great send-off with one of the loudest possible Fireworks in the Suvretta cemetery. He will be sorely missed by all those fortunate enough to know a character so much larger than, and with so much zest for, life.



*Christian Straessle*