

## tba network meets Loacker Wine Estates

13 June 2019

Excited about the prospect of visiting **Hannes Loacker's** vineyard high above the roofs of Bozen, the members of tba network gathered for an exciting evening of pitching, learning, discussing, and – of course – wine tasting.



It was 40 years ago, when Rainer Loacker (Hannes' father) started to realize his vision of creating an organic and biodynamic viticulture. As a true start-upper, he faced the resistances of the time, when ideas of "sustainability" were not very common. Today, Loacker Wine Estates can truly be considered a pioneer (or as they say: BIONeer) in its field.



To start off the evening, we were excited to announce the commitment of our new Content Partner Tiroler Versicherung. The three-year sponsoring contract was solemnly signed by the Managing Director of Tiroler Versicherung in South Tyrol **Pierluigi Siri** (middle), tba network's President **Harald Oberrauch** (right) and Vice President **Alex Pichler** (left).

We are thrilled about this new partnership and are looking forward to working together on supporting the startup ecosystem in the Alpine Region.

Speaking of startups: of course we had again invited a young entrepreneur, who presented her business idea to the tba network. This time, **Jasmin Castagnaro**, a designer from Brixen, displayed her creations: lamps that are made out of foliage (or LAAB).

Having bonded with the audience over her story, Jasmin eventually explained her request: she is looking for an industrial partner who can help take her creations to the next level. In fact, to comply with her customers' wishes, she is now looking to manufacture panels of bigger sizes, but from the same material.

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With the industry know how of the members of tba network, Jasmin was able to gather important feedback and make some helpful connections throughout the evening. We will be excited to follow this ambitious entrepreneur on her journey.



The evening continued with a lecture by **Prof. Dr. Johann Füller**, professor for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Department of Strategic Management, Marketing, and Tourism at Innsbruck University and CEO & Co-founder of HYVE AG, a consulting company focusing on innovation and corporate venturing. He explained why many established companies fail to re-invent themselves and what they can (or should) learn from startups.

Our last speaker of the evening was Martin Spitznagel, a serial entrepreneur, CEO and Co-Founder of Dust BioSolutions, and experienced Business Angel. He explained the major risks faced by startups at the early stage of their entrepreneurial journey and how investors can analyze them.



By the way: Martin also said that he has never presented against a more impressive backdrop... Who would disagree with him?

Of course, we could not depart without tasting some more of Locker's delicious wine creations. After all, a meeting of tba network should never be "only" about investing.