

Media release

Basel, 26 November 2009

Bank Sarasin awarded top marks again in the Elite Report, with a “summa cum laude”

The Elite Report 2010, which was published yesterday and identifies the top wealth managers in German-speaking countries, once again gave Bank Sarasin the highest grade possible – “summa cum laude”. Every year the Elite Report, published by the German business newspaper *Handelsblatt*, singles out the best wealth managers. It has established itself as one of the leading independent surveys of the banking industry in German-speaking regions. Once again Bank Sarasin received top marks in recognition of its exceptional performance in the areas of client focus, advisory quality and systematic approach, as well as the level of service and convenience. According to the Elite Report 2010, Bank Sarasin therefore ranks as one of the top providers both in Switzerland and, through its subsidiary, in Germany as well. In a questionnaire sent by the Elite Report to over 100 executives in the financial services industry, Eric G. Sarasin, member of the Executive Committee and Head of the Private Banking Division at Bank Sarasin & Co. Ltd was chosen as the “most credible Swiss banker”.

Extract from the Elite Report 2010 on Bank Sarasin

“The success story continues. [...]. Discretion, expertise, quality awareness and long-term thinking – this is where the responsible, personalised service comes into its own, extending as far as investment recommendations screened against sustainable criteria. [...] Sarasin is a flagship model for Swiss-style wealth management successfully applied to Germany. [...] Sarasin is an ideal and highly competent partner for all wealth-related matters and tasks.”

Bank Sarasin has consistently maintained its top place in the wealth manager elite, and its distinction of “summa cum laude” confirms the high quality of its advisory services and products, which are focused exclusively on the needs of its clients. At the same time the award recognises Sarasin’s success and market leadership in the field of sustainable Private Banking.

Bank Sarasin beat stiff competition from a strong field: for this year’s report, the newspaper scrutinised and assessed 147 financial institutions (from a total of around 400) based in Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Liechtenstein. Of these, only 49 were deemed to be of a high enough standard to qualify as “Elite wealth managers in German-speaking countries 2010”.

Consistently high level of service provision pays dividends

“Our emphasis is on a consistently high level of service provision and the continuous optimisation of our quality standards. The fact that we once again scored the highest possible grade in the Elite Report is a fair reward for our tireless efforts to only offer the very best to our clients,” comments Eric G. Sarasin, member of the Executive Committee and Head of the Private Banking Division at Bank Sarasin & Co. Ltd, Basel.

“Finishing in the category “Top 20 in Germany” is the culmination of our success in building up the business over the past 16 months. We are honoured and extremely pleased that our efforts have

been recognised. But it also reminds us of the need to keep on the ball: we hope to be able to repeat this success next year as well,” says Frank Niehage, CEO of Bank Sarasin AG, Frankfurt.

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Sarasin – Sustainable Swiss Private Banking since 1841 – www.sarasin.com

The Sarasin Group has its roots as a leading Swiss private bank. As an international financial service provider committed to sustainability, the Group is now represented in more than 20 locations in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. By end of June 2009 it managed total client assets of CHF 79.9 billion and employed around 1,500 staff. Its majority shareholder is the AAA-rated Dutch Rabobank.

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Bank Sarasin is a leading Swiss private bank whose many years of banking experience has made it consciously opt for sustainability as a key component of its corporate philosophy. It provides a high level of service and expertise when acting as investment advisor and asset manager for private and institutional clients. Within Switzerland, Sarasin has offices in Basel (head office), Berne, Geneva, Lugano, and Zurich. Bank Sarasin & Co. Ltd is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange.