

For Six Month Period Ending SEP 27 2004
(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant (b) Registration No. 2052
Alpine Tourist Commission

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant
**c/o Switzerland Tourism
608 Fifth Avenue
New York NY 10020**

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

- (a) If an individual:
- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) Residence address | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Citizenship | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Occupation | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
- (b) If an organization:
- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Name | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Ownership or control | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Branch offices | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- (c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in items (a) and (b) above.

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.
Yes No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (a waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Internal Security Section, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date Connection Ended
Urs Eberhard	Chairman	06/30/2004

(b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
Raphael Enzler	10 Bradford Ave Rye NY 10580	Swiss	Chairman	07/01/2004

5. (a) Has any person named in item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal? Yes No

If yes, identify each such person and describe his service.

(b) Have any employee or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or connection	Date terminated
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(c) During this six month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(c) of the supplemental statement? Yes No

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal

Date of termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal² during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes No

If yes, furnish following information:

Name and address of foreign principal

Date acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principals² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Alpine Tourist Commission (Touristische Gemeinschaft der Alpenlaender)
Zurich/Switzerland

10. **EXHIBITS A AND B**

(a) Have you filed for each of the newly acquired foreign principals in Item 8 the following:

Exhibit A ³	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Exhibit B ⁴	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

(b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during this six month period? Yes No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

2 The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a)(9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

3 The Exhibit A, which is filed on form CRM-157 (Formerly OBD-67) sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

4 The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form CRM-155 (Formerly OBD-65) sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

Dissemination of brochures "Summer in the Alps". Insert placement of advertising in Ski Newsletter for consumers. Advertising in Travel + Leisure Magazine May Issue. 50th Anniversary Reception on July 15, 2004 for Journalists at the Rainbow Room, New York in cooperation with the tourist offices of Germany, Austria and Italy.

12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places, of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits any or all of your foreign principals? Yes No

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activities" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes No

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies⁶

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
04/13/04	American Express	joint promotion USTOA	5'000
05/04/04	BOTA, Swiss Partners	joint ATC-promotion	3B'365.90
05/05/04	American Airlines	joint adver. Alps	10'000
05/20/04	Swiss Int'l Air Lines	joint promotion	37'500
06/24/04	Globus & Cosmos	joint Alps promotion	50'000
06/29/04	Headoffice Zurich	current expenses	100'000
09/08/04	Headoffice Zurich	current expenses	60'000
09/27/04	Adventure on Skis	Winter promotion	4'000
09/27/04	Interhome Inc.	Winter promotion	3'500

Total 301'365.90

(b) RECEIPTS - FUND RASING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fund raising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes No

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D to your registration? Yes No

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____.

(c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁸ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal	Date received	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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^{6, 7} A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fund raising campaign. (See Rule 201(e).)

⁸ An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fund raising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

⁹ Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) **DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes No

(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes No

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
04/14/04	FARA Reg. Unit	Registration fee	305
04/14/04	USTOA	Alpine Reception	876.36
04/28/04	IgoUgo	Tvl journal Website	15'000
April 04	National Ski Club	Adv. in Newsletter	15'366.66
April-June 04	Travel + Leisure	Advertising	190'000
April-Aug. 04	Int'l Tvl Communications	Marketing Program	193'274
April-Sept. 04		postage/bank fees/ small exp. for meeting	670.24
April-Sept. 04	H. Brenner-Kahn	Newsletters, translations and fees	6'800
June-Aug. 04		Var. expenses for 50th Anniversary Reception	20'696.19
07/16/04	Chameleon Productions	Performance at 50th Anniversary Reception	17'500
Sept. 04		Var. expenses and deposits for Medialuncheons with Swiss Partners in Oct. 04	2'385.93

Total 462'874.38

(b) DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date disposed	Name of person to whom given	On behalf of what foreign principal	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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(c) DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or thing of value	Name of political organization	Name of candidate
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10, 11 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials¹²?
 Yes No

IF YES, RESPOND TO THE REMAINING ITEMS IN SECTION V.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

Alpine Tourist Commission

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

Alpine Tourist Commission (Touristische Gemeinschaft der Alpenlaender)
 Zurich/Switzerland

Budget for 2004: US\$ 500'000

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio or TV broadcasts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Magazine or newspaper articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Motion picture films | <input type="checkbox"/> Letters or telegrams |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advertising campaigns | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Press releases | <input type="checkbox"/> Pamphlets or other publications | <input type="checkbox"/> Lectures or speeches |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) <u>general public who ask for it</u> | | |

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Officials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislators | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Editors | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational institutions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government agencies | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic groups or associations | <input type="checkbox"/> Nationality groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ | | |

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- English Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act? Yes No

12 The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

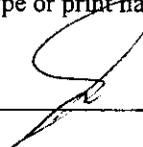
VI--EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Type or print name under each signature¹³)

October 18, 2004



Raphael Enzler
Chairman ATC

¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FARA REGISTRATION UNIT
CRIMINAL DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

NOTICE

Please answer the following questions and return this sheet in triplicate with your Supplemental Statement:

1. Is your answer to Item 16 of Section V (Informational Materials - page 8 of Form CRM-154, formerly Form OBD-64-Supplemental Statement):

YES _____ yes _____ or NO _____

(If your answer to question 1 is "yes" do not answer question 2 of this form.)

2. Do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration:

YES _____ or NO _____

(If your answer to question 2 is "yes" please forward for our review copies of all material including: films, film catalogs, posters, brochures, press releases, etc. which you have disseminated during the past six months.)



Signature

October 18, 2004

Date

Raphael Enzler

Please type or print name of
signatory on the line above

Chairman ATC

Title

THIS FORM IS TO BE AN OFFICIAL ATTACHMENT TO YOUR CURRENT
SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT - PLEASE EXECUTE IN TRIPLICATE

SHORT-FORM REGISTRATION INFORMATION SHEET

SECTION A

The Department records list active short-form registration statements for the following persons of your organization filed on the date indicated by each name. If a person is not still functioning in the same capacity directly on behalf of the foreign principal, please show the date of termination.

Short Form List For Registrant: Alpine Tourist Commission

Last Name	First Name and Other Names	Registration Date	Termination Date	Role
Eberhard	Urs	4/9/01	06/30/04	
Enzler	Raphael	7/27/04	07/01/04	acting Chairman for ATC

SECTION B

In addition to those persons listed in Section A, list below all current employees rendering services directly on behalf of the foreign principal(s) who have not as yet filed short-form registration statements. (Do not list clerks, secretaries, typists or employees in a similar or related capacity. If there is some question as to whether an employee has an obligation to file a short-form, please address a letter to us describing the activities and connection with the foreign principal.)

Name	Function	Date Hired
none		

Signature: *[Handwritten Signature]*

Date: October 18, 2004

Title: Manager Administration North America
Switzerland Tourism

THIS FORM IS TO BE AN OFFICIAL ATTACHMENT TO YOUR CURRENT
SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT - PLEASE EXECUTE IN TRIPLICATE

SHORT-FORM REGISTRATION INFORMATION SHEET

SECTION A

The Department records list active short-form registration statements for the following persons of your organization filed on the date indicated by each name. If a person is not still functioning in the same capacity directly on behalf of the foreign principal, please show the date of termination.

Short Form List For Registrant: Alpine Tourist Commission

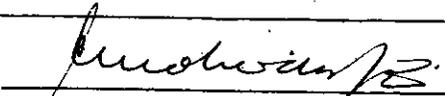
Last Name	First Name and Other Names	Registration Date	Termination Date	Role
Eberhard	Urs	4/9/01	06/30/04	
Enzler	Raphael	7/27/04	07/01/04	acting Chairman for ATC

SECTION B

In addition to those persons listed in Section A, list below all current employees rendering services directly on behalf of the foreign principal(s) who have not as yet filed short-form registration statements. (Do not list clerks, secretaries, typists or employees in a similar or related capacity. If there is some question as to whether an employee has an obligation to file a short-form, please address a letter to us describing the activities and connection with the foreign principal.)

Name	Function	Date Hired
none		

Signature: _____



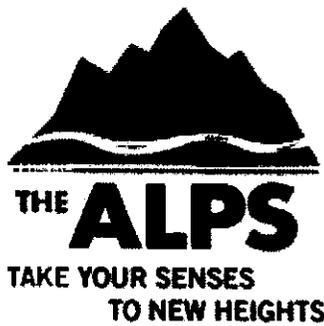
Date: _____

October 18, 2004

Title: _____

Manager Administration North America

Switzerland Tourism



Germany 

Austria 

Italy 

Switzerland 

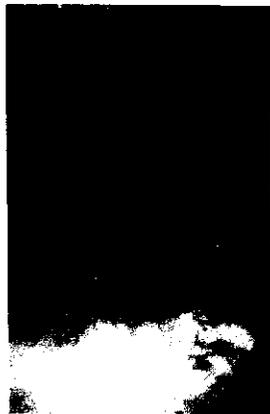
Dear Victor,
This month we have put together a fantastic group of vacation options, available in the Alps Region this summer. From the Matterhorn to Mozart, you can find it in the Alps this summer!

Active

An infinite variety of activities beckon visitors to Austria's magnificent outdoors.

Why is Austria such a popular destination in summer? It offers active, sports-minded visitors everything they could wish for:

Hiking, trekking, climbing, bicycling, mountain biking, river rafting and paragliding. All of this is amazingly affordable.



Whether it's hiking the hills in Salzburger Land, the Devil's Herb Garden in the Kaisergebirge, climbing the Tirolean Karwendel range, the rocky Karawanken, or cycling around crystal clear Alpine lakes, your summer vacation in Austria will be an unforgettable experience.

Food & Wine

Culinary Delights in Germany

German cuisine has undergone a veritable revolution. Although known the world over for their fondness

of savory sausages and sauerbraten, most Germans have bowed to the dictates of nutritionists. In modern households and in the country's fine restaurants, high fat content is a thing of the past.



Today's restaurateur - and every Hausfrau - demands the freshest of ingredients. Farmers continue to sell their products at weekly markets and organically grown produce is ubiquitous. [Find out more](#) or visit alpseurope.com for more on food and wine in the Alps.

Find out more or visit alpeurope.com for more great outdoor possibilities.

Lifestyle

The lifestyle of the Italian Alps



from the Aosta Valley to the dramatic spires of the Dolomites reflects a long and varied history. Ladin, one of the vernaculars in the Northeast, is based on Latin spoken by the Romans who pushed northward some 2000 years ago. In Alto Adige/Südtirol, German is used and Austrian traditions are preserved. But Italian is spoken everywhere and Italian specialties are ubiquitous - in hotels, chalets and rifugi.

Visitors enjoy the dramatic scenery, outdoor sports and traditional festivals. They look over the shoulder of villagers practicing ancient crafts. Summer festivals such as Musicastello, or "Weinritt" and the Dolomite Marathon beckon. [Find out more](#) or visit alpeurope.com for more on the cultures of the Alps region.

Picasso Travel

Your tour starts in Central Switzerland on board the William Tell Express, taking you to Ticino. Further on to St. Moritz you will travel on board the Palm Express. Continue with the Julier Route Express to Chur and then by train to Zurich. [find out more](#).

Picasso Travel

Music

Music in Switzerland

Known the world over for stunning mountains, crystal clear glacier lakes, picturesque villages and sophisticated modern cities, Switzerland is also renowned for art and design, myriad cultural offerings and musical events. St. Moritz, a world famous Best of the Alps resort, presents its 5th Opera Festival ENGADIN / St. Moritz in June/July. The two-week event is dedicated to Rossini.

During the Montreux Jazz Festival international jazz, blues, rock and soul luminaries draw their fans to Lake Geneva in July. Lucerne's Summer Festival features the world's best orchestras in August and September. [Find out more](#) or visit alpeurope.com for more on music in the Alps region.



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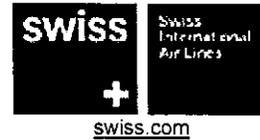
Partner Offers

Alps travel providers

GLOBUS.
Opening the door to the world.™
globusjourneys.com

Airlines servicing the Alps

AmericanAirlines™
AAVacations.com



Contact Information

For additional information on the member countries of the Alpine Tourist Commission (ATC), please contact the individual tourist offices:

Austrian Tourist Office, Inc., Tel. (212) 944-6880, Fax (212) 730-4568, P.O. Box 1142, New York, NY 10108-1142; info@austria.info; www.austria.info/us. **New address:** AUSTRIAN TOURIST OFFICE; 120 West 45th Street, 9th floor; New York, NY 10036

German National Tourist Office, Tel. (212) 661-7200, Fax (212) 661-7174; 122 East 42nd Street, Chanin Bldg., 20th Floor, New York, NY 10168-0072; qnto@aol.com; www.cometogermany.com

Italian Government Tourist Board, Tel (212) 245-5618, Fax (212) 586-9249, 630 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1565, New York, NY 10111; ENITNY@italiantourism.com; www.italiantourism.com

Switzerland Tourism, Tel. (212) 757-5944, Fax (212) 262-6116; 608 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10020; info.usa@switzerland.com; usa.myswitzerland.com

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ATCNL July 1, 2004

Active
GERMANY
(TEASER)

The Bavarian Alps beckon!

Myriad summer offerings by such resorts as Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Bad Tölz, Tegernsee, or Berchtesgaden. Join the special Transalp Bike Tour at Oberstdorf and conquer mountains in four Alpine countries, www.oase-alpin.de. Discover Germany's South on activity-filled tours, www.cometogermany.com

See excellent packages to Germany at www.globusjourneys.com and www.picassotours.com

(Picture: <http://dzt.picworld-touristic.de>, Bavaria, Lake Tegernsee, pic. #557)

(BODY)

Dream vacations in the Bavarian Alps!

Excellent airfares and packages make your trip to the Alps surprisingly affordable - even for the budget conscious traveler. You will return refreshed and relaxed after an activity-filled tour of Germany's south, one of the favorite regions for American travelers to Germany.

Garmisch-Partenkirchen, a BEST OF THE ALPS resort.

Nestled at the foot of Germany's tallest mountain, the 10,000-ft Zugspitze, Garmisch-Partenkirchen is a resort for all seasons. The mountains are dipped in sunshine but a refreshing breeze is always blowing in this 1200-year-old twin-town.

Hiking and climbing the Wetterstein Massif

This mountain range is home to the Zugspitze and Alpspitze, and hiking on well-marked trails is the sport of choice for countless summer visitors to Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Mountain climbers will discover scenic routes right around the Alpspitze, a perfect terrain for just about any type of mountain climbing. They will be rewarded with a magnificent view of the Loisach valley. There are steep climbing tracks as well as tours suitable for families with children - after all, Bavaria is also known as "Kinderland".

Cycling and mountain biking in the mountains?

If you are looking for a physical challenge, you will find excellent cardiac workouts right here in Bavaria. But not all of it is pedaling uphill! You will also cycle past Alpine meadows and along rivers. And if you want a complete change of pace, you may want to indulge in the contemplative sport of fly-fishing in such rivers and brooks as the Partnach, Loisach and Hammersbach. www.garmisch-partenkirchen.de

Lake Constance, a three-country lake.

Germany's largest lake offers fine hiking and biking trails, leading from town to town in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Take a cruise to Mainau, the Flower Isle, or to the monastic island of Reichenau, which is on the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites. Admire the honey-licking cherub at the lovely Baroque church of Birnau, visit the Zeppelin Museum in Friedrichshafen, or marvel at the replicas of pile dwellings, which prehistoric people built right into the lake. See it all at the museum in Unteruhldingen.

Golfing or Horseback riding - the choice is yours

There are two 18-hole golf courses near Lindau - the south-facing golf course at Schloss Schönbühl in Bad Schachen, and the golf course in Weissensberg near Lindau.

The countryside along Lake Constance is beautiful. Discover more of it in the saddle of a horse. Riding lessons, open-air riding area, indoor riding arena, cross-country riding tours are all offered at the riding stables of Baron Ungern-Sternberg. www.lindau-tourismus.de/en

The German Alpine Road.

This 75-year old "Deutsche Alpenstrasse" alternates between the foothills and mountains of the Alps between Lindau on Lake Constance and Berchtesgaden near Lake Königssee. Along the 277-mile route, dotted with charming villages and farmsteads, visitors will find 21 picturesque lakes, 64 spa resorts, and 25 castles. www.german-alpine-road.com

(Picture: images-dzt.de Lindau, Picture No.1403)

The Lake Constance - Königssee Cycle Route

This cycle route starts at Lindau as well. It leads to such Bavarian highlights as Garmisch-Partenkirchen, King Ludwig's Linderhof Palace and Neuschwanstein Castle, and ultimately to the magical and emerald green Lake Königssee.

Whether you cycle the entire route, taking about two weeks, or hop from town to town by car, train or bus, you will discover Alpine hospitality and ambience in picturesque villages. On your journey through Germany's southernmost state, you can enjoy windsurfing on Lake Chiemsee and cruising to King Ludwig's Herrenchiemsee Palace on Herreninsel, a small island. www.chiemsee.de

Sailing, rafting, waterskiing and swimming

Whitewater rafting in the Allgäu region of Bavaria? Absolutely! Rivers like the Breitach, Iller and Lech beckon with cool adventures. www.cometogermany.com

Lake Tegernsee, a lovely Bavarian lake, offers myriad sports activities. In the evening visitors enjoy the hospitality of Bad Tölz, a sought-after spa resort. View the images at www.tegernsee.de

Hang gliding attracts the adventurous to Mt. Tegelberg

Mt. Tegelberg is near King Ludwig's Neuschwanstein Castle. The king hiked this mountain but you can also take off on a hang glider and see the whole area from the bird's eye perspective. When visiting the region, don't miss a performance of the King Ludwig Musical, "Ludwig II - Longing for Paradise". It's performed year-round in a festival theater near Fuessen, in full view of the Bavarian king's castles. Lovely chalet hotels in Fuessen and nearby Schwangau will make you feel at home. There is accommodation for every budget.

Oberstdorf, starting point of the Transalp Tour

This well-known ski resort has much to offer in the summer as well. Its Fellhorn and Nebelhorn mountains and the adjacent Austrian Kleinwalsertal Valley, best accessed from Germany, are waiting to be discovered by visitors from the United States. Don't miss a walk through Oberstdorf's eery Breitach Gorge. www.oberstdorf.de

On July 17 and August 18, 2004, mountain bikers from near and far set out in Oberstdorf on the Mountain Bike Transalp Tour, across German, Austrian and Swiss mountains to Lake Garda in Italy. Among the legendary mountains en route are the Lech Valley Alps, the Silvretta, Albula and Ortler Adamella mountains. If you join them, you will experience ten Alpine passes and adventurous old mule tracks. The team of young but experienced mountaineers in Oberstdorf also offers trekking and climbing tours. Their website contains many fascinating sports tours www.oase-alpin.de

The possibilities to enjoy active vacations in Germany are endless, and besides sports activities visitors enjoy a plethora of cultural events, local festivals and outdoor markets in the German Alps. For more information, please visit www.cometogermany.com

Food & Wine

ITALY

(Teaser)

The Italian Alps - an experience for all the senses.

Indulge your passion for Italian cuisine and legendary local wine on a visit to the Italian Alps. Mouthwatering recipes are prepared to perfection at mountain lodges in the shadow of Monte Cervino, Monte Rosa and Grand Paradiso in the Northwest, and in the Northeast where the Dolomites tower above such resorts as Alta Badia, Val Gardena and Cortina d'Ampezzo. www.italiantourism.com

For excellent tour packages to Italy and the Italian Alps click www.globusjourneys.com and www.globusjourneys.com

(Picture 23.jpg, supplied by Antonia Imperoli, ENITNY, is attached separately to this e-mail. Her recipe, which follows at the end of the Italy portion)

(Find a recipe and see more...)

(Body)

The Aosta Valley and its Glacier Wine

If you start your culinary journey through the Italian Alps in the **Aosta Valley** in the Northwest, you will encounter a cultural history that goes back two millennia. Roman architecture in Aosta bears witness to a rich cultural past. The Romans introduced viticulture as they pushed northward. En route from Aosta towards the Little St. Bernard Pass you will find such tourism centers as Morgex and La Salle. They have lent their names to the **Glacier Wine** called "**Blanc de Morgex et de La Salle**". This wine has a full-bodied taste, with a bouquet of Alpine herbs. Going further up towards the pass, you will come across **La Thuile**, presided over by the Rutor Glacier (3,486 m/11,434 ft).

Alpine Garden "Saussure"

Courmayeur is the starting point for hikes and climbs in the summer and skiing in winter. From here a pleasant walk leads to the **Saussure**, an Alpine Botanical Garden, where over 800 high-altitude vegetable species are grown.

Fonduta and Fontina

The Aosta valley has been famous for its cheeses since the Middle Ages. The most famous cheese of the region is certainly the **Fontina**, first mentioned in 1717. It is an ingredient for the delicious **Fonduta**, a first-course dish prepared by melting Fontina and adding egg-yolk, flour and milk. Buon appetito!

Specialties of Piedmont

The **Piedmont Alps** will be the site of the **2005 Winter Olympics**, but you don't have to wait that long to taste the local specialties. Summer and fall is the time to enjoy some of the 226 traditional food products in Piedmont in the great outdoors. The sweet peppers of Carmagnola and the chestnuts of Cuneo are among the 42 vegetables and fruits cultivated here. Piedmont's **Rabiola** cheese is known beyond Italy's borders. Your sweet tooth will yearn for more **Gianduiotti** chocolates and **Canestrelli** cookies once you have returned to the United States.

Pizzoccheri and Bitto cheese

The Valtellina region of Lombardy is famous for its hospitality. Mountain wine is served with the wholesome Pizzoccheri, a buckwheat pasta, which is served with a sauce prepared with vegetables and tasty Bitto cheese from the valley of **Gerola**. Visit the wonderful spa resort of **Bormio**, where the Romans bathed 2000 years ago. In the stretch of land between the Spluga Pass and the Stelvio Pass you will want to taste the famous **Bresaola**, made with dried, salted beef. **Taleggio** is a cheese made from the milk brought by the herdsmen of Taleggio valley to the dairies of Valsassina, a centuries-old tradition. This cheese is matured in caves, which allows them to acquire a special flavor.

The Wine Route of Südtirol

In the vineyards of **Trentino-Alto Adige** wine has been cultivated for thousands of years. The "**Strada del Vino**" is a wine route which winds for over 36 km / 22 miles in the Adige valley. Südtirol's native grape varieties include Vernatsch (Schiava), Lagrein and Gewürztraminer, the world's favorite aromatic white grape named after the village of **Tramin** in the South of Südtirol. Near **Bolzano**, the **capital of Alto Adige, or Südtirol**, you will find the wine-growing slopes of the Mendola. It is famous for Rosso di Caldaro, made from Schiava grapes and for Pino Nero and Lagrein. It's no secret - Südtirol's wines are among Italy's finest wines.

(Picture Wine Road, Bolzano, from Italian website www.italiantourism.com, to be supplied by Antonia Imperoli)

Alta Badia

In contrast to Cortina d'Ampezzo, a world-famous vacation destination and "Best of the Alps" resort in the province of Belluno, Alta Badia's climbs, well-marked trails and hiking paths are still an insider tip. This resort in Alto Adige/Südtirol is waiting to be discovered by visitors from the United States. In the summer, about half of the visitors are Italians who come up here to enjoy the fresh air and the Ladin population's way of life, which has been influenced by the neighbors beyond the Italian-Austrian border. Many of the summer visitors are Germans, who admire the local people's Latin warmth and affability. Seven of Alta Badia's restaurants are mentioned in international gourmet guides. This lovely resort valley has no less than three restaurants with the Michelin star: La Siriola in S. Cassiano, St. Hubertus in S. Cassiano and Stüa de Michil in Corvara - two villages with 1,200 inhabitants. www.suedtiroel.info

Join a cooking class

Many favorite local entrees feature the fresh local vegetables with chicken or pork. The region's famous "Speck" is pork smoked to perfection. Why not join a course in Ladin cookery, offered once a week on a typical Ladin farm at S. Leonardo/Sotciastel. www.altabadia.info

Recipe from Alta Adige/Südtirol: **Canederli with Speck**

This recipe is drawn from Anneliese Kompatscher's La Cucina nelle Dolomiti and will serve 4:

3/4 pound (300 g) day-old white bread, finely diced
1/4 pound (100 g) "speck", finely diced
1/2 a medium onion, minced
2 glasses milk (about 1 1/2 cups, 375 ml)
2 tablespoons flour
2 tablespoons parsley, minced
Onion grass, chopped
Salt
2 eggs
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
5 cups broth

Combine the diced bread and speck in a bowl. Sauté the onion in the butter until it is translucent. Whisk the eggs with some of the milk, stir in the parsley, and combine the mixture with the bread. Let rest a half hour. Set a pot of lightly salted water to boil. In the meantime, mix the flour, onion and salt to taste, and -- if need be -- add a little more milk to the bread mixture. Wet your hands and shape the mixture into 8 balls roughly the size of golf balls. Simmer the canederli in the water for about 15 minutes, and in the meantime heat your broth. Transfer the cooked canederli to the broth with a slotted spoon, garnish with onion grass, and serve. The wine? I'd go with a white here, perhaps Lageder's Sauvignon Blanc.

Wine village St. Pauls - Eppan, Südtirol/Italy. Wine Weeks from July 29 to August 6, 2004
info@eppan.net; www.suedtiroel.info

Meran International Wine festival. November 6 - 8, 2004; www.gourmetsi.com; www.suedtiroel.info
For more information on Italy and the Italian Alps, please visit www.italiantourism.com

Lifestyle
SWITZERLAND
(TEASER)

"Get Natural"

Switzerland. The very name lets one's heart beat faster. Is it the Swiss people's active lifestyle and their love of the outdoors that attracts visitors again and again? Or the pristine Swiss mountain world? Or the legendary Swiss quality? Or world-class cities - traditional, but at the same time cool and trendy? www.MySwitzerland.com

"Get Natural", join the Swiss on the Matterhorn, the Aletsch Glacier, Pilatus, Rigi and Säntis. Enjoy world-class events in Swiss cities. Click www.picassotours.com and www.globusjourneys.com for amazing tours.

(Picture Swiss-image.ch, STS 7268 "Get Natural" Biking Silvaplana Lake)

(BODY)

Legendary Swiss hospitality

Switzerland has many loyal repeat visitors. And for good reasons! Guests are treated like royalty in Swiss hotels. Thus it's not surprising there are so many loyal repeat visitors. The Swiss have a long history of making visitors feel welcome, of helping the person next door as well as guests from beyond the country's borders in a practical, hands-on way. Accommodation for every budget - ranging from the smallest hotel garni or Bed & Breakfast to such luxurious hotels as Badrutt's Palace and the Kempinski Hotel des Bains in St. Moritz, the Quellenhof in Bad Ragaz, and Zum Storchen in Zurich - to name but a few. www.MySwitzerland.com

Swiss Lifestyle

Today the Swiss lifestyle is a wonderful mix of simple traditions and an exciting cultural scene in modern cities. Join the Swiss on an enjoyable hike in pure mountain air. Find superlatives at every step of the way, such as some of the world's highest and oldest cogwheel trains.

Food and Wine

Sample the gifts of the fields and pastures that have sustained the Swiss for thousands of years. Cheese from dairy farms dotting the pastures. Fruit and fresh produce from the **Appenzeller Region** to the **Ticino** and from the **Engadine** to the **Jurassic mountains**. Enjoy the Swiss wine festivals in the **Valais**, the cheese festivals in **Gruyere** and Chestnut Weeks in the **Ticino**.

Stroll the country fairs and weekly markets that reflect some of the aspects of traditional Swiss life and offer bargain upon bargain. From Geneva, Lausanne, Locarno, to St. Moritz, Zurich and Basel - you will delight in the pleasures of the palate, sitting side by side with the local inhabitants in gourmet temples on Lake Geneva and in the "Bündner Herrschaft", a stretch of land in Graubünden dotted with castles and fine restaurants.

Scenic trains

Switzerland's motto, "Get natural", reflects Swiss values and qualities. The Swiss want to preserve their natural, pristine environment and clean air. Although excellent highways traverse Switzerland, their favorite mode of land transportation is trains.

Legendary trains take visitors in armchair comfort all over the country. The **Glacier Express**, a ride past ravines and viaducts, takes you from St. Moritz to Zermatt in eight hours. Other trains run across passes like the Grand Bernard where in the old days mule traders transported their wares on the backs of these beasts of burden. The **Chocolate Train** runs from Montreux to Gruyères and Broc Factory. www.rail.ch; www.MySwitzerland.com

Mountains and Lakes - the Great Outdoors

An active lifestyle is a reflection of the Swiss people's love for the pristine Alpine world, the country's heritage and the outdoors. Come and hike fabled mountains like **Pilatus** and **Rigi**, sail on glittering lakes like **Lake Lucerne**. Ascend the **Matterhorn** by cableway or on a challenging hike. Climb the rocks of **Glacier 3000**. The possibilities to pursue an active lifestyle side by side with the native Swiss are endless.

(Swiss-image #STS 0141 or STS 7398 "Get Natural" - Lake Lucerne/Pilatus/Rigi)

Zurich and Geneva - offer the world's highest quality of life

Switzerland is much more than bucolic scenery, clean air, mountains and crystal-clear lakes. Modern cities, with designer hotels, world-class museums, cultural events, exemplary neatness and clean streets, and the proverbial Swiss punctuality are all woven into the fabric of life.

Zurich and **Geneva** have the highest quality of life worldwide, according to the Mercer Study. Zurich, a gateway to the Alps in the center of Switzerland, is one of the coolest cities in Europe. The world's hip, young and not so young will meet here on **August 7, 2004** for the **Street Parade**. The city has much to offer with respect to gastronomy, fashion, architecture and design. One of Zurich's most popular addresses is the "Kaufleuten", the "in" club, definitely the most beautiful scene-club, also as far as the guests are concerned. The **Toni Molkerei**, housed in what was once a yoghurt factory in the trendy Zurich West quarter is an innovative club and lounge, where the locals as well as international celebrities meet. Zurich's opera house and the **Kunsthalle** draw culture-minded visitors from near and far.

Hiking and Biking

Join the sport-loving Swiss on their trails and their lakes. Within a few hours journey by train from Zurich you can gaze upon the pristine natural world of the Graubünden countryside. "Heidiland" beckons with walks on rolling green hills and through fragrant meadows. Swim in the thermal waters of the Tamina Gorge, which flow into the spa pools of **Bad Ragaz**.

Further to the south, in the breathtaking beauty of **Engadine**, you can sail the waters of the lake of St. Moritz, a Best of the Alps resort that is justly called the Top of the World. Hiking is enjoyed here on trails where skiers glide in winter.

Mountain bikers have myriad tours at their disposal, most of them demanding excellent physical fitness. If you choose a tour in the **Lake Geneva Region**, you may want to start in Leysin and cycle through vineyards down to Aigle. Deep gorges on the way offer exciting vistas. Like on most tours in Switzerland, you can return comfortably by train to your resort base. Extraordinary tours are to be found at MySwitzerland.com

In Eastern Switzerland, bikers will find fine trails in the gentle hills of the **Appenzeller Region**. Like a giant statue **Mt. Säntis** seems to be watching over the region. At its feet stretches a wide hilly countryside. Uphill trails alternate with refreshing "downhills" on this one-hour tour. Marvelous panoramic views draw the eye all the way to Lake Constance.

A visit to Switzerland is a rewarding, unforgettable experience. Please access www.MySwitzerland.com

Music

AUSTRIA

(Teaser)

Summer Music Festivals

Austria is often called "A festival of Festivals". Music is in the air from Bregenz (home of the Bregenz Summer Festival, July 21 to August 22, 2004), to Vienna, the fascinating capital.

Salzburg, the Mozart City, is getting ready for the Salzburg Festival (July 24 to August 31, 2004).

The surrounding countryside, Salzburger Land, is filled with "The Sound of Music". Travel in the footsteps of the von Trapp family, whose life story was filmed here. www.austria.info/us. For tours to Austria access www.globusjourneys.com; www.picassotours.com and

(www.austrianviews.at, Vienna, Concert (Strauss), picture # 23727)

(Body)

The Land of Music in the Summer

A visit to the homeland of such famous composers as Johannes Brahms, Franz Joseph Haydn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Franz Schubert and Johann Strauss is every music lover's dream. Fortunately,

this dream can easily come true, since Austria is eager to share its splendid offerings with visitors from the United States and beyond. The Austrian Web site, www.austria.info/us contains excellent tips for visitors who want to partake of the rich musical heritage of Austria.

World-class music festivals will raise their curtains in Bregenz and Salzburg in July. The new season of Vienna's magnificent State Opera's will begin with Verdi's Falstaff under the baton of Fabio Luisi on September 2, 2004.

Bregenz Festival 2004 - July 21 to August 22, 2004

Since last December, the Bregenz Festival has been under new management. But not to worry: the famous operatic director David Pountney plans to continue the great success story of the festival – and add new impulses to it. Pountney has decided to repeat last season's grand success of Leonard Bernstein's "The West Side Story" this year again. The musical story of Tony and Maria, a modern-day "Romeo and Juliet" with lilting music, performed on the vast lake stage overlooking Lake Constance, is certain to once again be a fantastic crowd pleaser. Songs like "Tonight," "Maria" or "I want to be in America" have become classics since they were first performed to great acclaim in 1957. Famed operatic director Francesca Zambello has been in charge of the production.

(www.austrianviews.at, Bregenz, Lake Stage, Picture #11109)

This summer's festival will also be devoted to a number of works by the composer Kurt Weill: two one-act operas, "The Protagonist" and "Royal Palace," will be performed at the Festival Opera House in Bregenz; the Theater am Kornmarkt presents Weill's rarely performed operetta "Der Kuhhandel" ("Cow Trading," the German expression for horse trading); and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Yakov Kreizberg, plans on presenting Weill's oratorio "The Seven Deadly Sins." The orchestra also devotes an evening to Leonard Bernstein's symphonic music and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra under Mariss Jansons will perform works by Richard Strauss and Antonin Dvorak.

"Kunst aus der Zeit" (Art in its Time) will stage "The Story of Io," the Austrian premiere of an opera by Sir Harrison Birtwhistle.

Information & tickets: info@bregenzerfestspiele.com; www.bregenzerfestspiele.com

Salzburg Festival - July 24 to August 31, 2004

Beautiful baroque architecture is a fitting backdrop for unforgettable musical experiences.

Opera lovers will be richly rewarded during the 2004 Salzburg Festival. Last year, the festival already started with an eyebrow-raising and much-discussed new production of Mozart's "Die Entführung aus dem Serail"; in 2004, it will be revived, but in a revised form. Also this year, Mozart-lovers eagerly await a new production of "Così fan Tutte," with major operatic stars in the leading role. Richard Strauss's "Der Rosenkavalier," also in a new production by Robert Carsen, with Adrienne Pieczonka, Franz Hawlata and Angelika Kirchschrager, promises sell-out performances. Salzburg will also present an opera by Erich Wolfgang Korngold, "Die tote Stadt," with Angela Denoke and Bo Skovhus in the leading roles; at the Felsenreitschule, Nikolaus Harnoncourt will conduct the Concentus Musicus in Henry Purcell's "King Arthur," featuring Barbara Bonney and Michael Schade. All of this is complemented by fabulous concert performances, such as Vincenzo Bellini's "I Capuleti e I Montecchi", and Sergei Prokofiev's monumental "War and Peace" with Valery Gergiev conducting the Orchestra of the Mariinsky Kirov Theater and baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky and soprano Anna Netrebko as soloists.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's birthplace Salzburg is already busy preparing for 2006, the 250th anniversary of the composer's birth. The Salzburg Festival plans to perform the bulk of Mozart's most famous operas during the jubilee year.

(www.austrianviews.at, Salzburg Picture # 16554)

The center of the altogether 73 concerts will once again be the Vienna Philharmonic, complemented by their colleagues from Berlin and other visiting orchestras. The conductors include world-renowned stars such as Sir Simon Rattle, Seiji Ozawa, Riccardo Muti, Georges Pretre, Nikolaus Harnoncourt and Christoph Eschenbach. The roster of soloists of *lieder* recitals reads like a Who's Who in classical

music: from soprano Soile Isokoski to baritone Thomas Quasthoff, from Cecilia Bartoli to Dmitri Horostovsky, and from Waltraud Meier to Thomas Hampson. Among the pianists performing in Salzburg, one finds such great artists as Alfred Brendel, Maurizio Pollini and Rudolf Buchbinder.

Among the chamber music concerts, "Benjamin Schmid & Friends" (with works by Mahler, Korngold and Schönberg) and two concerts by the Kremerata Baltica under the baton of violinist Gidon Kremer promise to be exciting.

Information and tickets: info@salzburgfestival.at; www.salzburgfestival.com

Ambras Palace Concerts, Innsbruck, July 13 to August 10, 2004

In Tirol's capital, masterworks of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries adorn the Renaissance Spanish Hall of the Habsburg dynasty's palace. You can take the place of royalty at this favorite venue of the Innsbruck Festival Weeks. www.innsbruck.at

Bruckner Festival and Ars Electronica Festival, Linz, Sept. 6 to 14, 2004

The opening event of the Ars Electronica Festival will be the visualized "Cloud of Sound" on September 6 in Danube Park. The "Classical Cloud of Sound" will resound in the Brucknerhaus and outdoors in the Danube Park on September 14. This event is the beginning of a three-week festival, which brings famous conductors, orchestras and soloists together in the City on the Danube River. For more information on Austria please visit www.austria.info/us

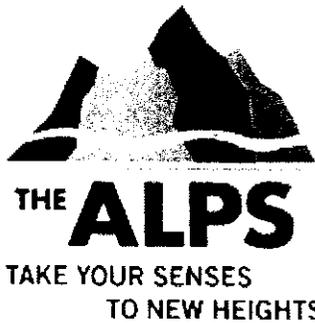
For information on the Alps, please visit www.alpseurope.com
For additional information on the member countries of the Alpine Tourist Commission (ATC), please contact the individual tourist offices:

Austrian Tourist Office, Inc., Tel. (212) 944-6880, Fax (212) 730-4568, P.O. Box 1142, New York, NY 10108-1142;
info@austria.info; www.austria.info/us
New address: AUSTRIAN TOURIST OFFICE; 120 West 45th Street, 9th floor; New York, NY 10036

German National Tourist Office, Tel. (212) 661-7200, Fax (212) 661-7174; 122 East 42nd Street, Chanin Bldg., 20th Floor, New York, NY 10168-0072; gnto@aol.com; www.cometogermany.com

Italian Government Tourist Board, Tel (212) 245-5618, Fax (212) 586-9249, 630 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1565, New York, NY 10111;
ENITNY@italiantourism.com; www.italiantourism.com

Switzerland Tourism, Tel. (212) 757-5944, Fax (212) 262-6116;
608 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10020; info.usa@switzerland.com;
www.usa.mySwitzerland.com



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1. Where does the pro go?

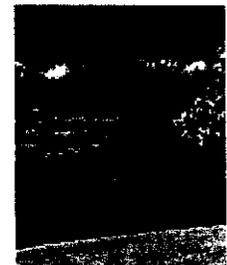
Rafael Enzler, the new chairman of the Alpine Tourist Commission (ATC) shared some interesting personal preferences during an interview on the occasion of the ATC's 50th jubilee celebration in July. During the summer or fall vacations, he, his wife Manuela and his children Romea, 8, Aron, 6 and Jael, 2 love to travel to Scuol, a charming village in the Lower Engadine, near the Swiss National Park.

continue...



2. Oberstdorf, starting point of the Transalp Tour
Mountain bikers set out in Oberstdorf on August 18, 2004, on the Mountain Bike Transalp Tour. This exciting border crossing tour takes them across German, Austrian and Swiss mountains to Lake Garda in Italy. Oberstdorf is a popular German resort presided over by Mt. Fellhorn and Mt. Nebelhorn, with easy access to the Austrian Kleinwalsertal valley.

continue...



All marathons cover 26.2 miles, but how many cover three countries? Only one! The Three Countries Marathon - starts in Germany and travels through Austria and Switzerland before returning to Austria - and the finish line. We have developed a tour to make it easier for you to register and participate in



this unique marathon.

4. **Festivals and Fests**: September 18 -
October 1, 2011

The Munich Oktoberfest - known to the locals as the "Wiesn" - is the biggest folk festival in the world. Each year, around six million visitors from all over the world visit the Oktoberfest, making it one of Germany's best-known festivals.

continue...



5. Recipe of the month - tasty treat from the Italian Alps

Canederli with Speck

This recipe from Alto Adige/Südtirol is drawn from Anneliese Kompatscher's La Cucina nelle Dolomiti and will serve four.

continue...



6. Join a cooking class in the Dolomites!

In Alto Adige/Suedtiro, the charming valley of Alta Badia has been in the news as a gourmet heaven. Seven of the valley's restaurants are mentioned in international gourmet guides, three of them have been awarded the Michelin star. Visitors to Alta Badia can attend a course in Ladin cooking on a typical Ladin farm at S. Leonardo/Sotciastel.

continue...



The Aosta Valley in the northwestern Italian Alps is a region with a cultural history going back more than two millennia. The glacier wine - Vin Blanc de Morgex et de La Salle - grows in the highest vineyards in the Alps, 4,264 ft above sea level.



8. Pedal to the metal—exciting bike tours in Switzerland

The Swiss pursue a wholesome, natural lifestyle. Join them this fall on the well-maintained trails around Lake Geneva, Lake Silvaplana, in Appenzell or in other scenic regions throughout Switzerland.

continue...



9. Musical experiences not to be missed in Austria

From Mozart to the Sound of Music, from Jazz to Hip Hop, worldfamous opera houses to open air stages on lakes ... the variety of Austria's musical heritage and events is nearly unmatched. Upcoming season's highlights are Verdi's Falstaff at the Vienna



State Opera and many of our celebrations of Mozart's 250th birthday, coming up in 2006!
continue...



10. Skiing during the dog days of summer
Glacier-skiing gives skiers who don't want to do without their favorite sport even in summer and fall a great opportunity to enjoy their favorite past-time. You will find pistes all year round on Alpine glaciers. Here are some examples:
continue...



Enter the AlpsEurope Summer 2004 sweepstakes and win a vacation for two in the Alps. Enjoy hiking, shopping and long summer days in the Alps, if you win roundtrip coach air transportation for two on American Airlines to Zurich, Switzerland. Stay 6 nights in Grindelwald!



12. Exclusively to Switzerland!
Please call **1-800-995-7997** for your free brochures.

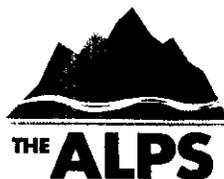
Create your own Switzerland experience by combining two or more Swiss city-packages and purchase a Swiss Pass. Each city package includes: two consecutive nights hotel stay with breakfast daily.
[click here for more details](#)



13. See the Alpine Region with an Expert!
For over 75 years Globus has guided travelers all over the world. No one will introduce you to the history, scenery and culture of the Alpine countries like Globus. We offer vacations to Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Italy including our new River Cruises. Plus, AARP members save \$50/pp on any vacation.
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AUSTRIA - GERMANY - ITALY - SWITZERLAND

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www.alpseurope.com

ALPINE TOURIST COMMISSION MARKS ITS 50th ANNIVERSARY

New York, July 15, 2004 - The Alpine Tourist Commission (ATC) - a marketing alliance comprised of the tourist boards of Austria, Germany, Italy and Switzerland - commemorated today 50 years of close cooperation with the American travel media, travel industry partners and the American public.

50th anniversary celebrations

Juerg Schmid, ATC President and President/CEO Switzerland Tourism, Zurich, as well as his colleagues from Austria, Germany and Italy came to New York this year to mark this special milestone. Juerg Schmid as well as Petra Hedorfer, Chairman German National Tourist Board, Frankfurt, Dr. Arthur Oberascher, CEO Austrian Tourist Office, Vienna, and Pierangelo Togni, CEO Italian Government Tourist Board, Rome, held meetings and met with important representatives of the press as well as industry partners. They highlighted the European Alps as one of the world's most desirable year-round travel destinations and outlined plans for the future of tourism to the Alps.

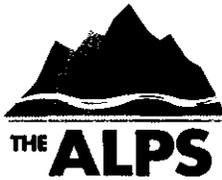
Juerg Schmid introduced today Rafael Enzler, ATC Chairman and Director for Switzerland Tourism N.A. and thanked Urs Eberhard, former New York based ATC Chairman, who has been transferred to Europe. The representatives of two important Alpine regions participated in today's events: Dr. Christoph Engel, Marketing Director of Südtirol, had arrived from Bolzano, and Richard Adam, Director Bavarian Tourism Marketing, had flown in from Munich to participate in the ATC jubilee in New York. Ms. Margrit Brawand, Secretary General, *Best of the Alps* resorts, had come from the Swiss resort of Grindelwald to join in the celebrations.

Theme-based marketing

Since the ATC's inception, the Alpine countries have been vying in friendly competition. Austria, Germany, Italy and Switzerland are eager to share the breathtaking beauty of their mountains and lakes, the traditional hospitality and ambience of their villages with visitors from the United States. Their co-opetition benefits consumers and travel industry alike. Themes such as sports activities, food and wine, lifestyle, and music are highlighted in this year's marketing plans. These themes make it easier for visitors to pursue their specific interests on tailor-made tours.

Activities and festivals for the world

In 2004, summer and winter offerings will meet the expectations of the most eclectic traveler as well as the tourist on a limited budget. World-famous *Best of the Alps* resorts such as St. Moritz, Zermatt, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Lech-Zürs and St. Anton are already planning for an exciting winter season. In the meantime, international music weeks and traditional events - from Bregenz, Salzburg, Munich and Garmisch-Partenkirchen to Lucerne, Montreux, Milan and Merano - spare no effort to satisfy their visitors from the United States, many of whom are repeat visitors.



Crossing borders

Today it is easier than ever to cross borders in the Alps. Hikers and mountain bikers follow in the footsteps of ancient mule traders and surmount Alpine passes unimpeded. Skiers and snowboarders use new lift systems to transport them across borders. They explore the runs of Switzerland's Zermatt and Italy's Cervinia or Germany's Zugspitze and Austria's Tirol on the same day. Legendary scenic trains like the Bernina Express as well as fast, state-of-the-art international trains like the InterCity Express and the Transalpino whisk visitors from one country to the next in style and comfort.

The Alps are still affordable...

In the competitive tourism market, the American travel industry has successfully tapped local resources in the Alps and is offering exciting and well-planned tours to the Alpine regions, town and cities - often at budget prices. Land arrangements for a 15-day escorted tour at \$124 a day offered by Globus & Cosmos are certainly an excellent deal. Such highlights as Germany's Romantic Road and Munich, Austria's Salzburg and Vienna, the Italian Dolomites' Cortina d'Ampezzo and the most scenic Swiss lakes are part of the package. Picasso Tours offer a 3-night package to Zurich, one of Europe's coolest capitals, for \$749, including air arrangements. These are but two examples of a wealth of offerings by the American tourism industry.

...and full of surprises

In the past five decades, the appeal of the Alps has steadily grown - last but not least by the dissemination of information in the U.S. travel press and by millions of fulfillment brochures distributed by the local tourist offices and the tourism industry. As a geographical entity, defined by a cultural diversity whose roots go back thousands of years, the Alps still hold many surprises. Treasures such as the UNESCO World Heritage sites are spread throughout the Alps. They include the Salzkammergut's Hallstatt-Dachstein cultural landscape, the Island of Reichenau on Lake Constance and the City of Bamberg in northern Bavaria, the ancient rock carvings in Valcamonica in the Italian Alps, St. Gallen, Bellinzona and Mustair in Switzerland - to name only a few. Theme routes as well as insider trips abound. Together with its U.S. partners, the Alpine Tourist Commission is looking forward to welcoming an increasing number of American visitors to the Alps whose pristine beauty, lifestyle and traditions the Alpine countries are eager to preserve.

Alpseurope.com - a virtual tour of the Alps

A wealth of information is to be found on the redesigned ATC website, www.alpseurope.com. It also guides visitors to the home pages of the ATC member countries and industry partners.

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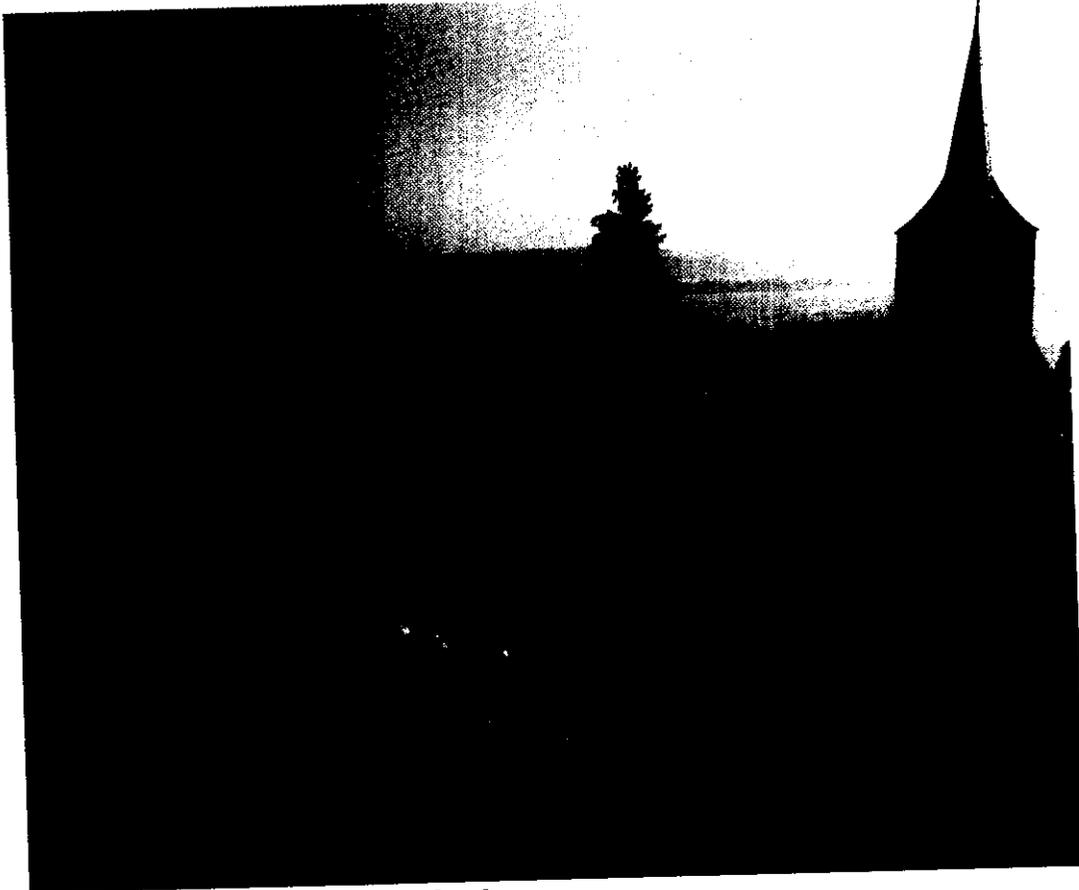


Summer
in the
Alps.

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Biking above Lake Biel, Switzerland

Summer In The Alps

From the limestone spires of Italy's Dolomites to the glacier-draped peaks of Switzerland, Austria, and Germany, the European Alps link several vibrant cultures with year-round majesty and beauty. In summer, some of the world's best ski slopes transform into verdant playgrounds for hiking, climbing, and biking, and jewel-like lakes come alive with water sports. Museums dot the landscape, tucked into picturesque mountain villages, chic resort towns, and fascinating cities. And warm weather brings festival season, with world-renowned events celebrating the rich arts and cultures of the Alpine regions.

Many Nations, One Alps

Fanning out over 750 miles from Italy's Po River Valley to Germany's Bavarian region, the Alps' confluence of cultures is nothing short of amazing. Once you're there, crossing national borders—whether by rail, road, or hiking trails—is easy and fun. Scenic trains, including high-speed lines like ICE and the Cisalpino, let you sit back and savor the Alpine views. By car, wend your way from country to country via breathtakingly beautiful mountain byways like the Brenner Pass, which links Italy and Austria. If you're up for a challenge, strap on your hiking boots or climb on a bike, and catch a trail connecting two nations. You

"What happens when the snow melts in western Switzerland? Two world-famous music events: the Montreux Jazz Festival and the Verbier Festival and Academy. Montreux's renowned musicians cover every angle of modern music, while Verbier marries accomplished classical artists with aspiring talent. Plus, winter's around the corner so polish your skis."

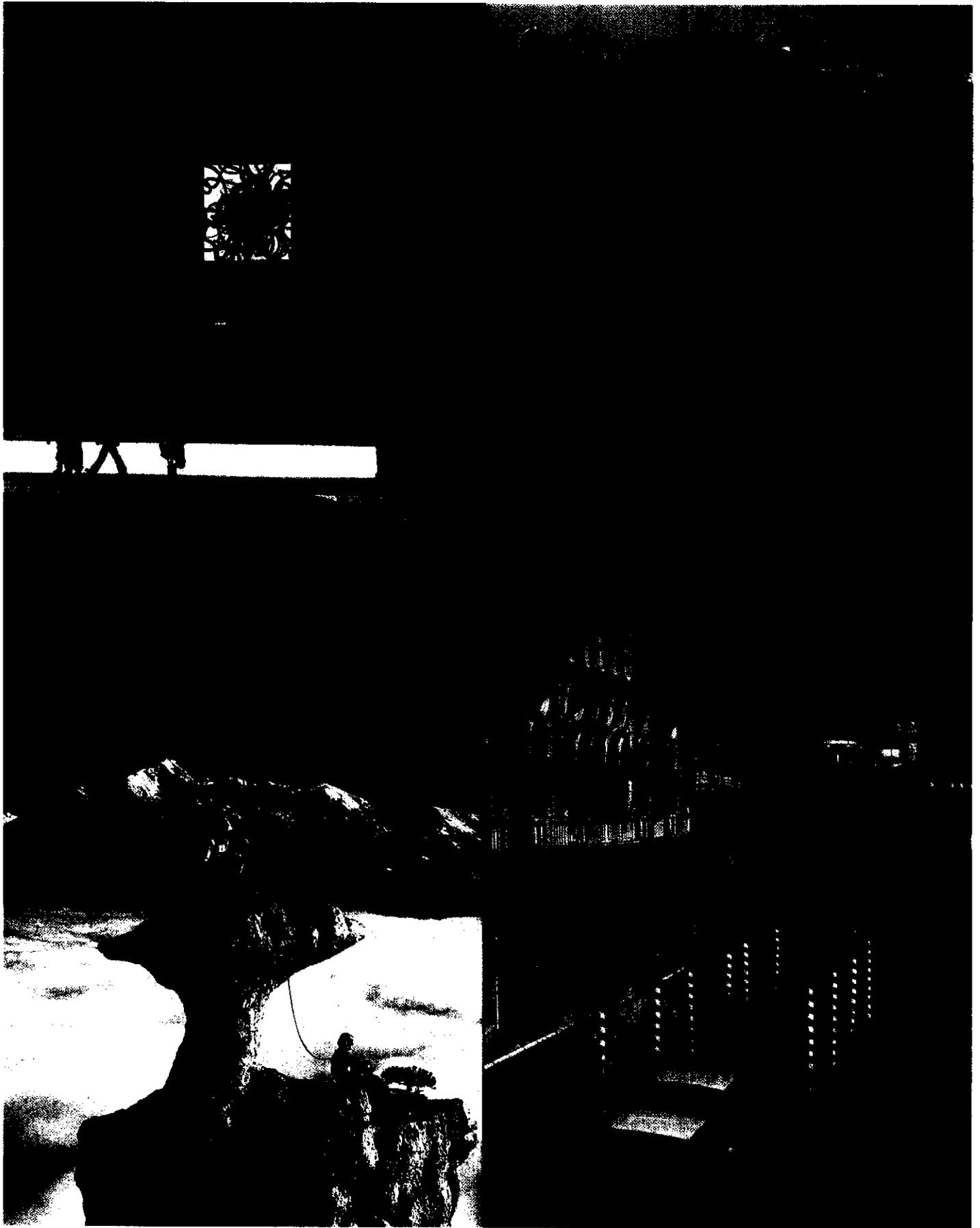
**MARCEL BIEDERMANN
SWISS INTERNATIONAL AIR LINES**

FLAVORS OF THE ALPS

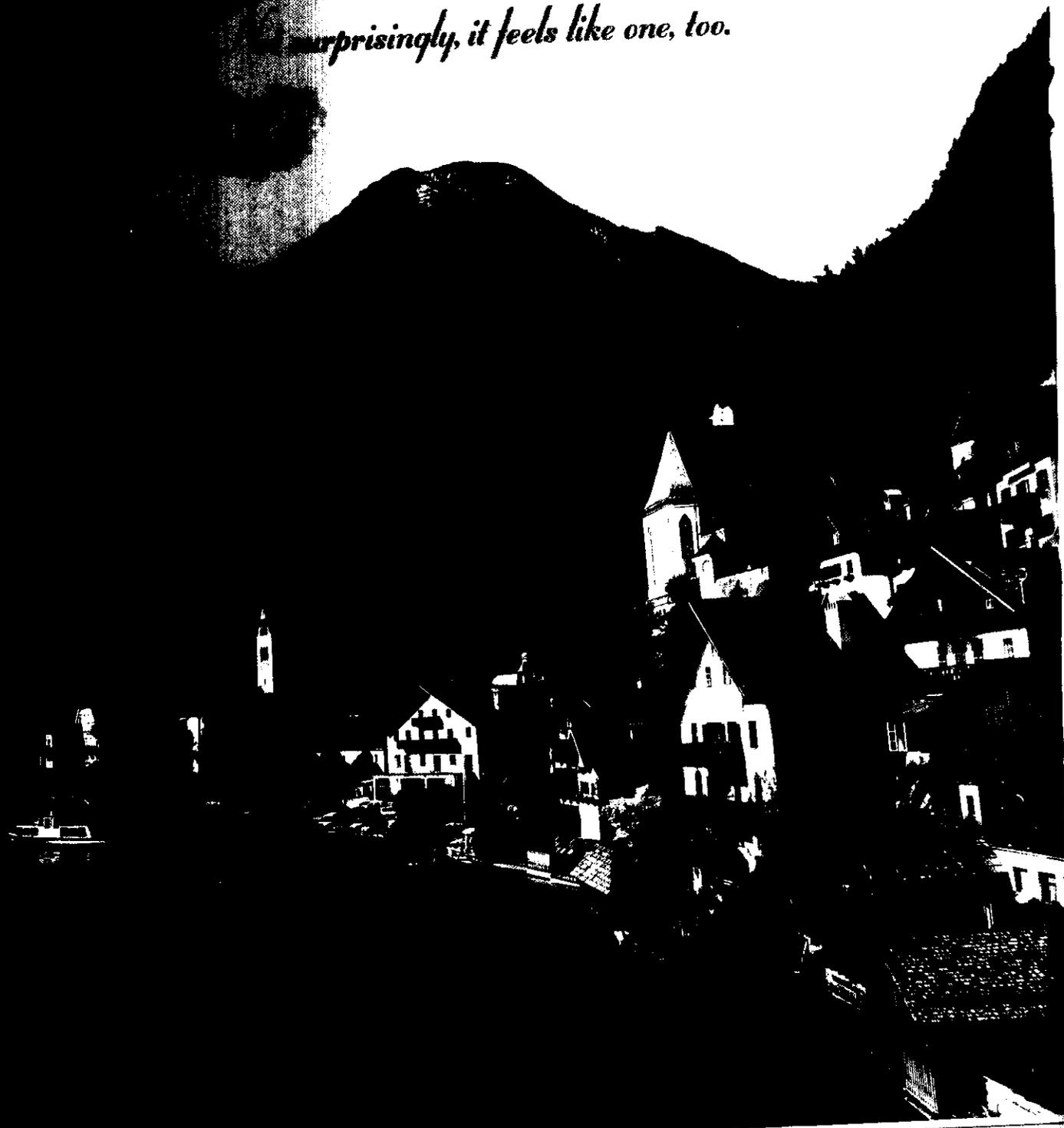
Rolling farmland surrounds the cities and towns of the Alps, ensuring that only the freshest local ingredients reach the kitchens of Alpine restaurants. The countries of the Alps have become as health-conscious as all other modern societies, and menus often feature lighter gourmet cuisine alongside the traditional hearty favorites visitors have come to expect.

Italy's Dolomite resort cities set an excellent table, often inspired by a mix of Venetian and Austrian flavors. Prosecco reinforces pasta as a culinary mainstay, and delicacies like Parma ham, Fontina and Asiago cheeses, and mushrooms from the Valle de Non make their way to Alpine tables. The kitchens of Switzerland, too, reflect a mix of culinary influences, with Fondue served in French-speaking regions, Roesti and Geachnetzertes in German parts, and Italian specialties in the Ticino.

While you'll find Germany's new and lighter fare all over the Alps, age-old favorites like Weisswurst made from veal, Leberkäse, and smoked ham are still ubiquitous, often accompanied by one of Germany's 4,000 kinds of beer. And in Austria traditional meals of Wiener Schnitzel and Goulash conclude with world-famous sweets like the scrumptious Sacher Torte.



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can even arrange to have your luggage transported separately so you can trek or ride in comfort.

On the Italian side of the Alps, famed Mont Blanc—Western Europe's tallest peak—looms majestically over the lovely Aosta Valley. Hilltop castles guard this region, known for its snow-capped peaks, Roman ruins, stunning architecture, and beautiful mountain villages. You'll find a disarming mix of Mediterranean and Alpine lifestyles and cuisines, with age-old mountain recipes served alongside French-influenced and classic Italian fare.

Also known for its blend of cultures, St. Moritz, the Swiss Alps' world-famous resort town, exudes a cosmopolitan elegance and flair. You'll hear the music of three languages—Romansh, German, and Italian (English, too, is spoken widely here and throughout the Alps). On the glittering lakes of the vicinity, windsurfing has become a popular summer pastime, while Switzerland's National Park attracts hikers from around the globe. The sun shines here 322 days a year, giving St. Moritz its so-called "champagne climate"—ideal for the holiday lifestyle.

Alpine Adventures

Blessed with spectacular scenery and fresh mountain air, the Alps offer sporting travelers the ultimate active vacation. While nearly every summer recreation flourishes here, biking and hiking consistently rank among the most popular Alpine pursuits.

In Austria, it isn't unusual to encounter road signs announcing "Bike Friendly City" or "Welcome Cyclists." A rich bicycling culture thrives here, with no shortage of dedicated bike paths, quiet country roads, and bicycle lanes alongside city streets. In Austria's western Alps, ride the mountain passes and gaze at fairy-tale villages, centuries-old castles, and jaw-dropping scenery. A wonderful bike trail traverses the province of Vorarlberg between medieval Bludenz and the city of Bregenz. Following the trail along the Inn and Rhine Rivers, you can plan to stop at the Suchard factory, where the famous Milka chocolate is produced; the medieval Old Town

of Feldkirch, with its towering castle; and Bregenz itself, known for its summer music festival.

Although it's famed as a winter-sport wonderland, Garmisch-

**"Italy is all about emotions:
The sensation of drinking an
espresso on a 'piazza' in
Merano, South Tirol. The colors
of the trees, the joyful
chatter from people passing
by, the mountain tops glow-
ing in the last beams of
sunlight and the anticipation
of a wonderful dinner."**

**EUGENIO MAGNANI
ITALIAN TOURIST BOARD**

Partenkirchen—Germany's top Alpine resort destination—transforms every summer into a hiker's paradise. Trails here suit every level of skill, from an easy ramble around lovely Lake Eibsee to a more demanding ascent into the Wetterstein range. Just a 25-minute hike from Garmisch will take you to the dazzling wild-water gorge of Partnachalm. Off the trails, explore the twin Bavarian villages of Garmisch and Partenkirchen, which retain their ancient charm.

Cultural Riches

Perhaps as integral to the region as the mountains themselves, the arts resonate deeply throughout the European Alps. From small local museums nestled in hill-top villages to world-renowned collections housed in bustling cities, the higher arts find abundant and varied expression.

In Switzerland's storybook city of Lucerne, the Rosengart Museum honors the Spanish artist Picasso with paintings and other works from the last 20 years of his life. Also here is the largest round panoramic mural in the world, the historic Bourbaki Panorama. And on the outskirts of town, the one-time home of Richard Wagner is now a museum showcasing Wagner memorabilia and some of the composer's original scores.

Cosmopolitan Vienna teems with world-

"One of the highlights of any trip to the Austrian Alps is a coffee break atop the Bergisel Ski Jump. This modern architectural structure blends beautifully with the stunning surrounding landscape. While enjoying a cup of Austrian coffee and some sweet delights, you can take in this incredible view of the imperial city of Innsbruck below and the mountains and sky above and around you."

**MICHAEL GIGL
AUSTRIAN TOURIST OFFICE**

"The German Alpine Road is the best way to see the German Alps. This marvelous 75-year-old 'Alpenstrasse' extends from Lindau at Lake Constance in the West to Berchtesgaden near Austria in the East, encompassing twenty-five castles, dozens of health resorts including Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Bad Tölz, and historic towns. Romantic castles, including King Ludwig II's Schloss Neuschwanstein, Hohenschwangau, and Linderhof, are must-see stops on the German Alpine Road."

**MICHAELA KLARE
GERMAN TOURIST OFFICE**

Bergisel SKI JUMP near Innsbruck

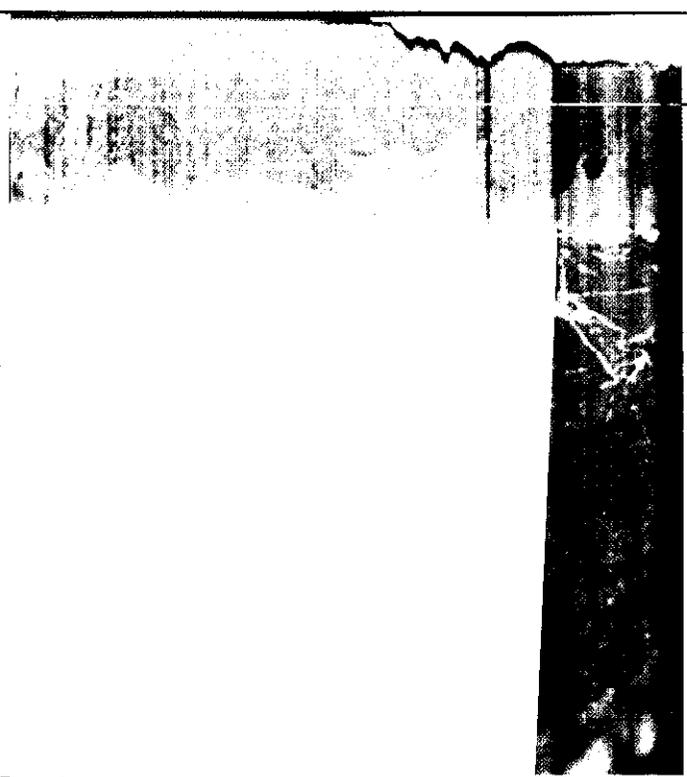
classical architecture. The most notable of these is the Kunsthistorisches Museum, which houses the world's largest collection of the 17th-century van Dyck. Highlights include countless other luminaries. And the Imperial Treasury (Imperial Treasury) is widely considered the greatest treasure in the world. It's among the most spectacular of jewels and other treasures, as well as lavishly beautiful historical treasures.

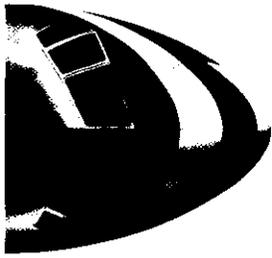
Some of the most distinguished arts festivals in the world come to the Alps each summer. In Upper Bavaria, the annual Mozart Festival takes over the Baroque city of Würzburg for the first few weeks in June. And at the lush Salzburg Festival, in Salzburg, Austria, music and theater unfold amid a backdrop of breathtaking mountain peaks. And in Verona, Italy, the Arena di Verona Opera Festival, held in a 2,000-year-old Roman amphitheatre, delights opera fans all summer long.

ARCHITECTURE

From Baroque to Romanesque and nearly everything in between, architectural gems dot the Alpine landscape and lend a stately grace to cities and towns. Highlights include:

- Vestiges of Roman settlements in Aosta and Verona
- The 13th-century Castle of Chillon, near Montreux, Switzerland
- The Chapel Bridge in Lucerne, the largest wooden bridge in the Alps
- The Wilten Basilica and the Golden Roof of Innsbruck, Austria
- Some 30 UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Wieskirche, a Rococo pilgrimage church in the German Alpine foothills, and the Bishop's Residence, in Würzburg, one of Europe's most ornate palaces





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View of Laghetto, Italy

May 12 - May 28	5th Munich Biennale International Festival for New Musical Theater
June 8 - August 28	Arena di Verona, Opera Festival
July 2-7	Montreux Jazz Festival
July 8 - 11	Saturday Jazz Weekend Regensburg
July 21 - August 22	Bregenz Festival (Music)
July 17 - 31	International Dance Summer Festival, Innsbruck
August 14-Sept. 20	Luzern Festival (Classical Music)

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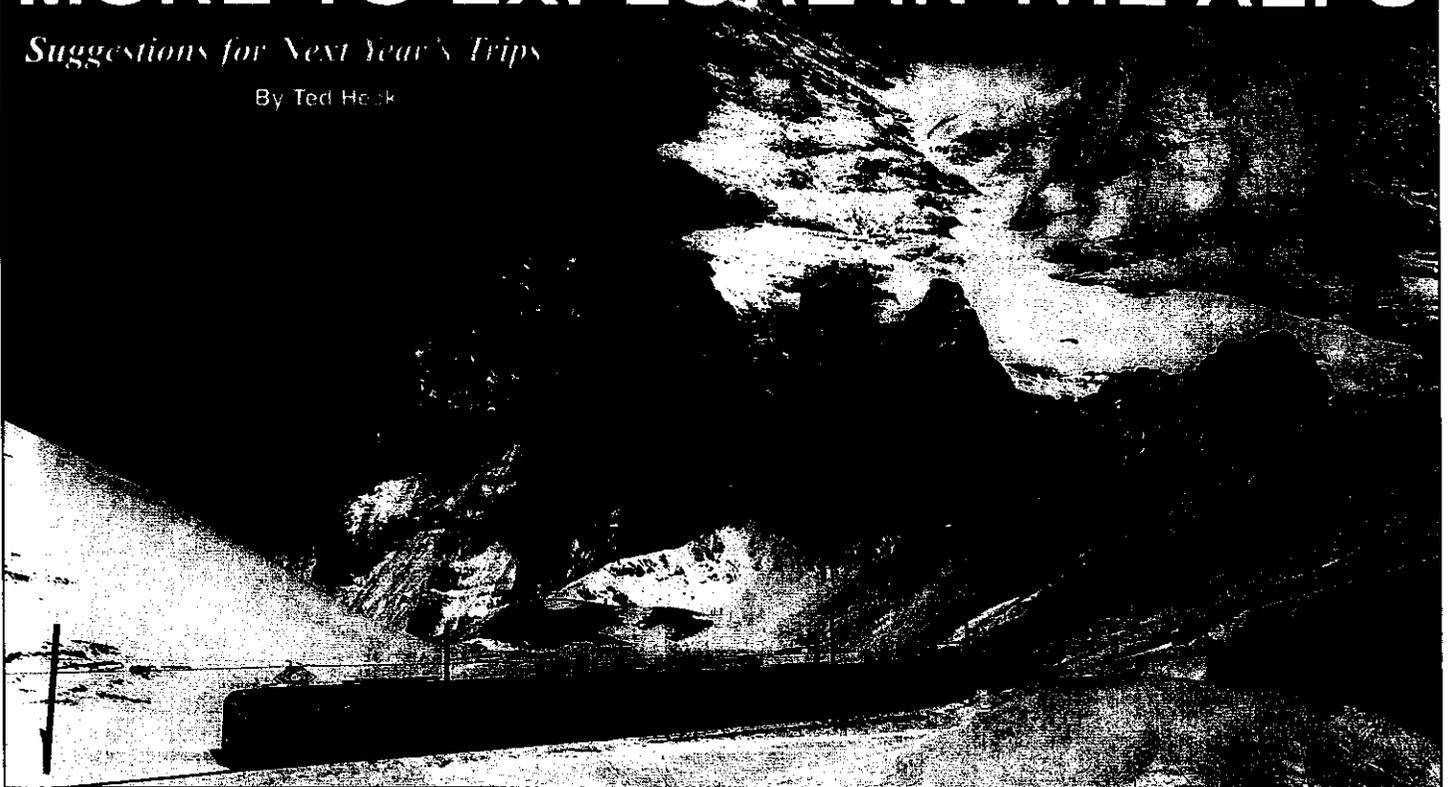
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MORE TO EXPLORE IN THE ALPS

Suggestions for Next Year's Trips

By Ted Heck



Scratch a skier and you find a romantic dreamer, confident explorer, and persistent pursuer of pleasure. That's why he or she comes to the Alps.

Skiers in the Alps this winter have enjoyed another year of abundant snowfall that will keep them skiing beyond Easter. Ski clubs who celebrated here in January and February are already looking ahead to next year. Trip leaders and committees are huddling to pick 2005 destinations.

Many will focus on the twelve famous resorts that comprise the Best of the Alps marketing consortium: Kitzbühel, Lech/Zürs, Seefeld, and St. Anton in Austria; Chamonix and Megève in France; Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Germany; Cortina d'Ampezzo in Italy; and Davos, Grindelwald, St. Moritz, and Zermatt in Switzerland.

All are safe bets for fun in the snow and excitement after dark. So are hundreds of other resorts in the four member countries of the Alpine Tourist Commission (ATC). The ATC invites skiers to consider BOTA resorts when planning future trips, but adds that there are many attractive alternatives. Here are just a few suggestions that a knowledgeable tour operator can put into action.

AUSTRIA

The picturesque valleys of Austria contain many ski resorts that dwarf well-known American ski areas in size and humble them in scenic grandeur. One spec-

tacular valley is the Zillertal in the eastern part of the state of Tirol, about an hour east of the capital city of Innsbruck.

In this valley, less than 30 miles long, are eleven distinct ski areas with amazing

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statistics: 365 miles of prepared slopes and 175 lifts. At the end of the valley is the famed Hintertux glacier, skiable year round. In winter it offers a longest run of seven miles and a vertical drop of more than a mile.

Several ski areas are interconnected—ski circuses are a prime allure of skiing in the Alps; they allow skiers to journey from peak to peak and village to village. Major hamlets along the way are Fügen, Zell am Ziller and Mayrhofen. (See www.zillertal.at)

The eleven resorts are a fraction of what the Tirol offers. Austria's largest state has 108 others, including those around Innsbruck. Wherever a skier chooses to go, he's assured of a colorful environment and exposure to Gemütlichkeit, the all-embracing term for the good life.

Eleven is also the operative number in the Montafon, another unusual valley in Vorarlberg, Austria's westernmost state, which borders on Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

The most important village here is

Schruns, with 4,000 inhabitants and 3,100 guest beds. Ernest Hemingway schlepped here in the 1920s, lugging his skis around the Silvretta Nova range. Papa remains an imported tourist attraction. Stop for lunch at the Hotel Taube and you can sit at the table where the author gambled and guzzled with the natives.

Vandans and Tschagguns are nearby. Farther up the valley are St. Gallenkirch, Gortipohl, Gschurn and Partenenen. The highest resort is tiny Gargellen, starting point for a popular back country tour around the Madrisa Horn and into Klosters in Switzerland.

The region has 65 lifts and 138 miles of prepared slopes, more than half considered easy, yet with plenty of off-piste opportunities. Their longest run is nearly nine miles, and the highest drop is 5,576 feet.

Hemingway would have smiled at the bumper sticker that says in German, "Please don't honk. I'm dreaming of Silvretta Nova". The Montafon is an easy 100-mile drive from Zurich airport. (See www.montafon.at)

GERMANY

Germany's number one winter sports resort is Garmisch-Partenkirchen, "the Olympic place under the Zugspitze." It is the country's only member in the BOTA group. Oberstdorf in the Allgäu region to the west is another prominent resort that has been featured previously in this magazine.

In Upper Bavaria, in addition to Garmisch, are a dozen other ski areas that Germans frequent. Two that Americans have found attractive are Mittenwald and Lenggries.

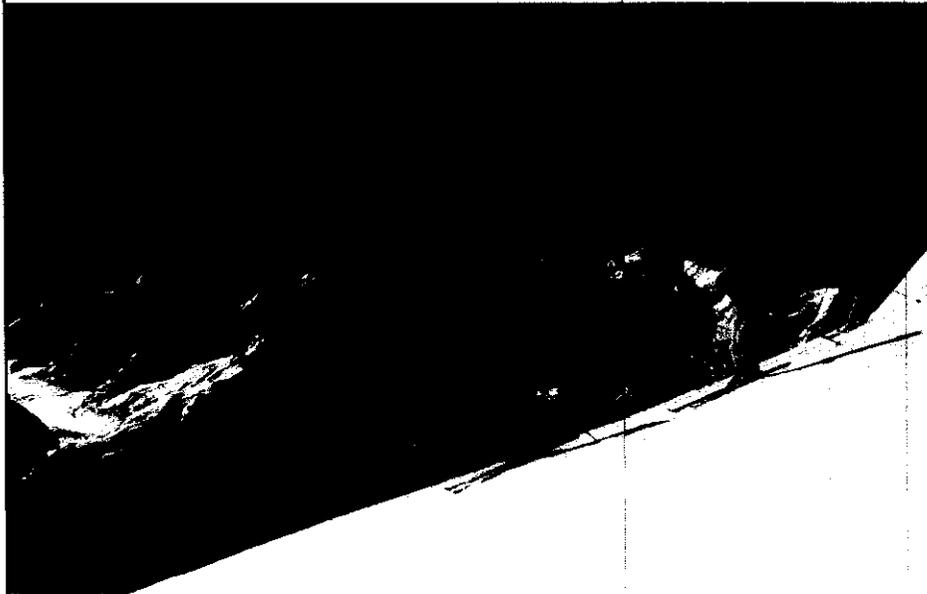
Mittenwald is the colorful village skiers drive through on the way from Garmisch to Innsbruck, noticing many homes whose exteriors are decorated with religious and historical murals. A cable car takes skiers and snowboarders up to the Karwendel peak for tough off-piste runs. But on the other side of town (8,200 residents, 5,500 guest beds) is the Kranzberg with nine lifts and nine miles of groomed trails. The vertical is a modest 1,100 feet. Mittenwald's lofty plateau actually has more miles of track for cross country skiers. Wintertime walkers have 43 miles of paths. Although downhillers might find the area limiting, they like the Bavarian ambiance. However, they can use a regional pass to ski in Garmisch and other areas. (See www.mittenwald.de)

Lenggries also is a sizeable town of 9,100 inhabitants and 2,200 guest beds. It is just below the spa town of Bad Tölz and only 50 or 60 miles from the city of Munich, a "must" on the itinerary of every skier who uses this gateway. The culturally and historically rich city is one of the great add-ons to a ski trip to Germany or Austria.

Lenggries has a commendable vertical of 2,600 feet, big enough to handle a World Cup downhill. More than 20 miles of groomed slopes are served by 18 lifts, including three chairs and a gondola. As in any of the resorts being reported on here, a full menu of winter sports exists: hang gliding, ice skating, curling, indoor tennis, and all sorts of wellness facilities. (See www.lenggries.de)

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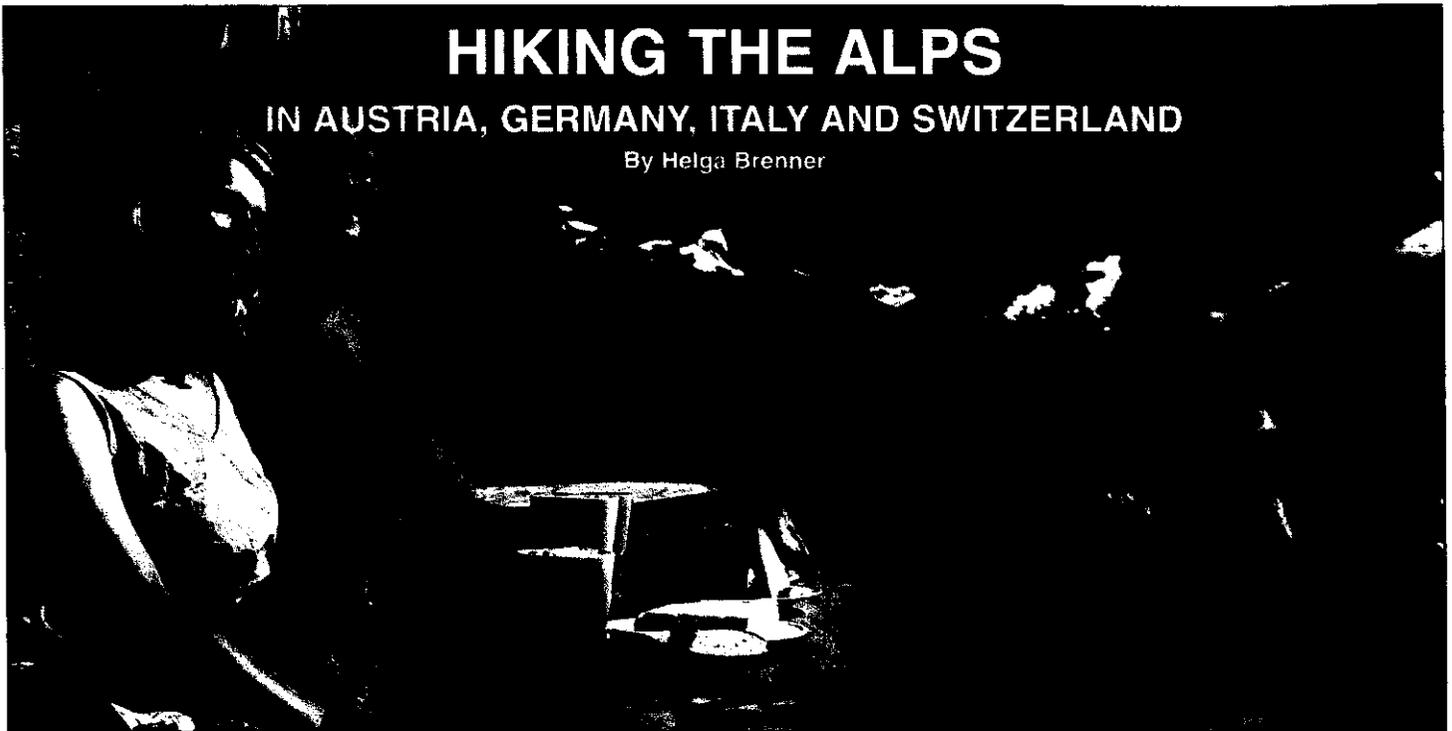
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HIKING THE ALPS

IN AUSTRIA, GERMANY, ITALY AND SWITZERLAND

By Helga Brenner

Hikers enjoy "lunch with a view" in the Austrian Alps

The unquenchable desire to climb every hill and scale every mountain strikes passionately once the skis have been stored away. In 2004, hiking the Alps is an invigorating, unforgettable experience at astoundingly affordable rates. New routes and offerings guarantee a total change of pace. A network of trails, dotted with mountain huts, crisscrosses the Alps. Breathtaking scenery beckons amongst lakes and peaks, glaciers and waterfalls, captivating nature lovers, thrill-seekers, individual hikers and families alike.

Whether embarking on the 500-mile trek from Zermatt, a Best of the Alps resort, to the Austrian Kleinwalsertal, or planning a hike in the forests and meadows outside Bolzano, Salzburg, St.Gallen, or Munich, hikers discover that their backpacks, boots and trail maps are the only equipment needed.

Austria

Austria boasts more than 18,000 miles of trails. They range from hillside paths to daunting treks and from lakeside rambles to narrow glacier trails. The far-flung hut system makes long hikes possible. There is no need to carry a heavy backpack with tents and a whole day's provisions, since huts are spaced three to five hours apart. They provide food and shelter and no one is turned away at night. There are huts with

simple single and double rooms as well as bunk-space in a dormitory style. Others are lavish lodges. Visitors appreciate the prevailing etiquette: No smoking, cooking, loud music or raucous behavior. It's the simple life enjoyed in the company of local hikers and climbers. A day's hike can, of course, also end in one of the legendary Austrian villages offering everything from 5-star luxury hotels with wellness oases to charming bed & breakfast inns.

Salzburger Land presents myriad choices, from the Alps to the gently rolling hills. Visitors from the United States and beyond feel transported into the land of "The Sound of Music".

Hohen Tauern National Park is home to 4,500 miles of marked trails. The Celts and Romans crossed the Hohen Tauern range some two millennia ago. Today, a hiking vacation offers facilities the forebears of the local populace could never have imagined.

Rudolfshütte, Austria's largest mountain hut, will be open for the hiking season in June. Located at 7,593 feet, it is superbly

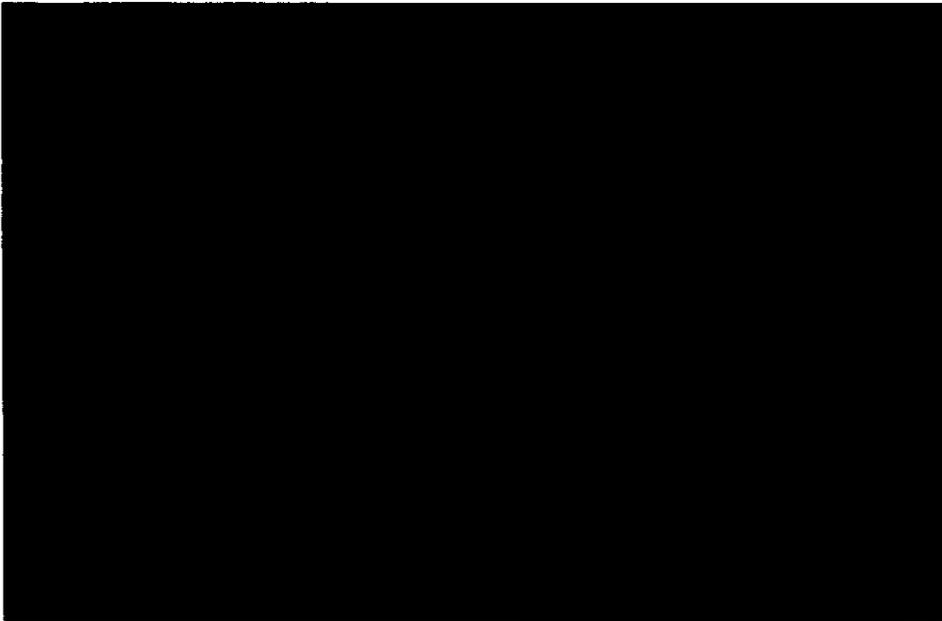
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Photo: Courtesy of the Austrian Tourist Office
 equipped and actually offers the comfort of an Alpine hotel. Mountaineering courses are available and there are 15 hiking trails leading to other huts as well as glacier trails.

Krimmler Tauernhaus, situated at 5,320 ft, is another extraordinary hut in the Hohen Tauern region. It was established 600 years ago as a refuge offering mountain rescue service. Mule traders, smugglers and tourists stopped over at Krimmler Tauernhaus. Today it is the only operating Alpine farm within the Hohen Tauern National Park.

All of Austria's scenic regions are traversed by hiking trails. The Tirolean resort of Alpbach, twice voted "Austria's Most Beautiful Village", boasts 100 miles of trails in a lush countryside. Hike the Wiedersberger Horn at 7,000 feet. Discover abandoned 15th century silver mines and farms. Visit Rattenberg, a glass blowing town dating from the Middle Ages, or Alpbach's farmhouse built in 1636.

Wanderweg Holidays, represented on the Austrian Tourist Office's Website, www.info@austria.info/us, offers hiking tours not only to Alpbach, but also to Hallstatt, an UNESCO World Heritage site in the Salzkammergut, to Igls, at 3000 ft overlooking Innsbruck, Kitzbühel and Lech, all of them renowned resorts for all seasons.



Germany's famous Neuschwanstein Castle

Germany

Afoot and afield in Germany: There are well-maintained trails and footpaths everywhere in the valleys and around the peaks of Germany's Alpine region. One of the most famous routes is the 68-mile King Ludwig Hiking Trail beginning in Berg at Lake Starnberg, where the ill-fated king drowned, together with his psychiatrist. The King Ludwig Hiking Trail wends its way through the Ammersee-Lech region into the Allgäu, a Bavarian region that is home to the king's famous Neuschwanstein Castle.

Another hike associated with the dreamer king leads to Mt. Schachen, where he built his wood-paneled hunting lodge in 1869. Starting your hike at Elmau, a lovely resort with a castle hotel, you will reach Mt. Schachen in 3 1/2 hours. Close to the king's hunting lodge is an Alpine Garden, with flowers and herbs typical of the

Photo: courtesy of Bayern Tourismus Marketing GmbH region. From Mt. Schachen, a trail leads to Meilerhütte (1 1/2 hours). After taking the same way back to the Schachen, descend to Oberreintal, a high valley. If you want to stay overnight in a cozy mountain refuge, hike to Reintalangerhütte in about two hours. The next day follow the trail through the valley to Knorrhütte (2 1/2 hours) and then ascend the Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain and only glacier (10,000 ft) and hike to the mountain restaurant Sonn Alpin (1 1/2 hours). If you had your fill of hiking, you may choose the effortless way down to Garmisch-Partenkirchen by means of the fine mountain trains and cable cars of the Zugspitzbahn. Intrepid hikers may opt to descend to the Knorrhütte and then hike via the "Gatterl" to Ehrwald (about four hours). From Ehrwald a train runs to Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

Among the popular hiking routes in Bavaria is a 75-mile trail along the Lech River from Landsberg to Füssen. From around 400 B.C. the Celts inhabited the area and gave the river Lech its name, Licca. Subsequently, during the Roman occupation, the Roman emperor Claudius built the Via Claudia Augusta in this region, leading to Augsburg. Archeological finds of coins and ceramics bear witness to the region's ancient past.

Friends of architecture appreciate the Prelate's Way, dotted with monasteries and churches. Wieskirche, a beautiful Rococo church, Andechs Monastery and

Kloster Ettal as well as Linderhof Palace on the Romantic Road are all nearby. The Prelate's Way leads from Marktoberdorf to East-Allgäu through Pfaffenwinkel and Isar-Loisachtal into Tölzer Land, the area around the well-known spa resort of Bad Tölz. Hotels can transport your luggage from hotel to hotel.

Munich, German's southern gateway to the Alps, is with its cultural offerings, museums and famous sights a wonderful destination before or after your hiking tour. Hiking and walking in Germany is a satisfying experience for the whole family. www.cometogermany.com

Italy

The Italian Alps beckon with hiking opportunities throughout the Alpine arc. The Aosta Valley, in Italy's western Alps, is dominated by the Mont Blanc Massif, Monte Rosa, Monte Cervinio and Gran Paradiso. Like most of the resorts in the Alps, Courmayeur, at 4,015 feet, is not only ideal for skiing, but also for exciting treks and invigorating summer hikes. It is overshadowed by Western Europe's highest mountain range, the Mont Blanc (5,767 ft high and 31 miles long). Even experienced mountaineers are advised to hire a local guide if they want to scale the Mont Blanc. Its paths of rock and ice are among the most difficult and spectacular in the Alps.

Among the most popular destinations in the Aosta Valley is Valsavarenche. Its main town, Dégiroz is a starting point for walks in the Gran Paradiso National Park, which includes a vast mountain region (2624 feet in the valley to 13,320 feet at the summit). Hikers will be delighted by the rich Alpine flora and a remarkable fauna of chamois, ibex, marmots and other protected species. Cogne is at the heart of Gran Paradiso. Every step of the way, hikers find old mule tracks, homes nestled in pastures, and lakes. www.granparadiso.org

In the eastern Italian Alps, the pinnacles

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THE CLASSIC MOUNTAIN RESORTS

BEST OF THE ALPS

Chamonix Mont-Blanc
St. Anton am Arlberg
Grindelwald
Kitzbühel
Zermatt
Seefeld

Garmisch-Partenkirchen
Lech Zürs am Arlberg
Cortina-d'Ampezzo
St. Moritz
Megève
Davos



Cycling along the shores of sixteen lakes between Lake Constance and Lake Geneva, which borders Austria, Germany, and Switzerland.

Set like jewels into a landscape of fragrant meadows and surrounded by wooded hills and snow-capped mountains, Alpine lakes have for centuries attracted visitors in search of invigorating and rejuvenating vacations to Austria, Germany, Italy and Switzerland. A legacy of glaciers, Alpine lakes are rich in minerals and range in color from sapphire blue to emerald green. Crystal clear, their water is so pure it is fit to drink. Lakeside vacations in the Alps are an effective antidote to the stresses and strains of today's busy lifestyles. What could be more exhilarating than swimming in Alpine lakes, hiking from the shore to the mountains and enjoying the myriad offerings of historic cities and picture-perfect lakeside villages? Summer is a special time to enjoy nature's beauty and bounty in the Alps.

Austria

The Danube republic is home to many beautiful Alpine lakes. One of the most stunning lakes is Lake Wolfgangsee in Salzburger Land's Lake District. It has for decades attracted savvy summer visitors from beyond Austria's borders. Rich in scenic beauty it offers outdoor activities for all ages and interests. Only 23 miles from the Mozart city of Salzburg, the lake is easily reached by car, bus and train. St. Gilgen, the birthplace of Mozart's mother, is a resort at the western end of the lake. It offers excellent hiking opportunities. A cableway leads to Zwölferhorn (5,000 ft) giving access to fine walking country.

St. Wolfgang is a popular health resort.

which boasts a late Gothic pilgrimage church. One of the resort's charming hotels, the "Weisse Rössl" (White Horse Inn), has been family-owned since 1712. The hotel became famous by being featured in an operetta by Ralph Benatzky. Bad Ischl, the spa resort in the Wolfgangsee region was the summer residence of the Austrian emperor Franz Joseph. Lake Wolfgangsee and its surroundings have inspired poets and painters, and summer visitors will be rewarded by the myriad cultural offerings, sports activities and events. On July 18, 2004 the first "Wolfgangsee Challenge", a triathlon, will take place.

Among the exciting excursion options are the Dachstein Caves, one of the world's largest ice caves. Another attraction is cave trekking in the Mammoth Cave. The route leads far into the heart of the Dachstein Mountains, never penetrated by daylight or radio waves. Qualified cave guides lead groups of 4-10 adventurous trekkers who can experience nature in her original and unadulterated form on this day trip. There are also shorter cave tours suitable for families such as a two-hour tour into the labyrinth of the Koppenbrüller Cave.

Weissensee is a beautiful lake in the province of Carinthia. The lake is also popular with divers, last but not least because of its pure water and abundance of fish. Diving schools are at your disposal. Advanced divers glide with a catamaran to the most beautiful spots and dive under expert guidance into the lake. www.tiscover.at.

Lake Constance is shared by three countries: Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

Join hikers and bikers on the marvelous trails around the lake. Bregenz, in Vorarlberg, is the lovely Austrian city on Lake Constance. Its famous lake stage is one of the venues of the annual Bregenz Festival, an important event in the world of music (July 21 - August 22, 2004). Lake Constance is also the backdrop for the Three Countries Marathon, October 3, 2004, which starts in the German city of Lindau, known for its beautiful harbor. After passing charming lakeside villages Switzerland is reached. The international runners end their Marathon in the casino stadium of Bregenz. www.vorarlberg-tourism.at.

Seewaldsee, a scenic lake, is to be found in Austria's Grosses Walsertal. It has become one of the most popular lakes for swimming, since its water temperature is relatively warm, compared to some other mountain lakes at higher elevations. It is a summertime attraction for visitors from beyond Austria's borders and the young and hip Austrian set. Seewaldsee is close to the German border.

Attersee in Salzkammergut is Austria's biggest lake. A wide variety of options for sports activities attract summer visitors: swimming, water skiing, fishing, hiking tours into the countryside and walking along the clean beaches of the lake. Among the attractions near Steinbach am Attersee are the Bruggraben Gorge, the Nixen-Fall, or Nymph Waterfall, and the Gimbach Cascades. Regattas take place frequently until October. Also see www.tiscover.at. www.info@austria.info/us



Sailboats on Bavaria's Lake Förgensee.

Photo: Courtesy of German National Tourist Office

Germany

Germany's southernmost state, Bavaria, is home not only to the country's highest mountains, it is also dotted with magnificent lakes. Lake Constance (Bodensee) is bordered by Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Part of the lake's northern shore is situated in Baden-Württemberg. Lindau, however, famous for its beautiful harbor, is a Bavarian city. Mainau, the Flower Isle, and the monastic Island of Reichenau are popular summer destinations. Hiking and biking trails around the lake lead to such interesting places as Unteruhldingen with its museum of prehistoric lake dwellings, the Baroque church of Birnau, Friedrichshafen with the Zeppelin Museum, and the city of Constance, a cultural center. On

board one of the lakeboats you can visit three countries on a single day!

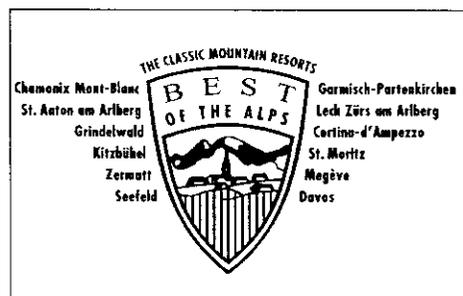
A train or car ride from Munich takes visitors in an hour to Lake Chiemsee, Bavaria's largest lake. Celts and Romans settled here thousands of years ago. The lake is bordered on its southern edge by the German Alps. Prien is a favorite resort at Lake Chiemsee and the starting point for lake cruises on this tranquil and sunny lake. Fine hiking trails lead to the surrounding mountains. Swimming, surfing, golfing, mountain biking, ballooning, raft-

ing are among the activities enjoyed here. King Ludwig II built Herrenchiemsee Palace on the island of Herreninsel. Today the palace, which is famous for its hall of mirrors, is the venue of cultural events throughout the summer. Another fascinating small island is Fraueninsel. It is home to a 1,200-year-old convent, where Benedictine nuns live and work to this day. Visit the nuns' herb garden and enjoy a meal or Kaffee und Kuchen.

Crystal clear Lake Tegernsee is another popular destination just 30 miles south of Munich. Lake Tegernsee is perfect for scenic walks, hiking and mountain biking.

The picturesque lakeside town of Bad Tölz is a sought-after spa resort. Water sports - swimming, sailing, fishing and water-skiing - have for decades attracted American visitors, especially army personnel, as well as Germany's chic summer clientèle. The Inline Hockey World Championships take place in Bad Tölz from July 10 to 17, 2004.

In the eastern part of Upper Bavaria you will find one of the country's most magical lakes: Lake Königssee. It is situated at the eastern end of the 278-mile German Alpine Road, which starts in the west at Lindau and Lake Constance and runs east through some of the Bavarian Alps most scenic sights: Garmisch-Partenkirchen and the castles of King Ludwig II near Füssen, Aschau, Rottach-Egern and Berchtesgaden. Lake Königssee's emerald-green water is extraordinarily pure. The excursion boat, the only vessel allowed to go on this pristine lake, takes you to the 14th century chapel of St. Bartholomew on a small island in the lake. There, you will be transported into another time and age. Marked hiking trails lead into the mountains above Lake Königssee where you stop at mountain huts for a repast. Mt. Watzmann and Mt. Jenner are part of the Berchtesgaden National Park, one of the oldest protected areas in the Alps. For more information about touring Germany's lake country, see www.cometogermany.com.



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Best of the Alps

12 classic Alpine resorts

By Helga Brenner



Grindelwald with the Bernese Oberland in the background

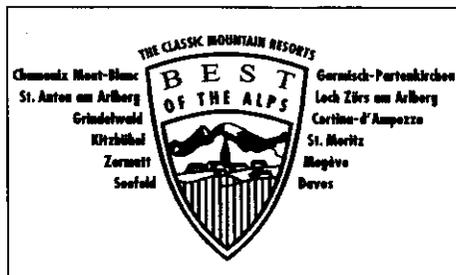
Photo: Courtesy of Swiss-images.

The Alpine countries' most glittering jewels, the Best of the Alps (BOTA) resorts, have attracted skiers and non-skiers from the United States and beyond ever since the Alps became a vacation paradise during the 19th century.

Ski villages that fulfilled certain characteristics, and were not purpose-built but had evolved naturally, were invited to join the Best of the Alps, a marketing cooperation established in 1989. Today, BOTA is comprised of twelve renowned authentic Alpine resorts. All of them are pioneers in skiing and mountaineering vacations, whose infrastructure has left the breathtaking Alpine environment intact. Visit www.bestofthealps.com for information.

Grindelwald is the present headquarters of the 12 Best of the Alps resorts. With the words "Our predecessors have done a lot of excellent work over the last 15 years," Sammy Salm, Director of Grindelwald Tourism and BOTA President, acknowledged the development of the quality label. "We have discovered that we are highly in demand on the market," he observed. Presided over by the Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau mountains, Grindelwald is renowned for its sheer endless ski runs in winter and its giant network of hiking and biking trails for summer and fall visitors. It is also a favorite with the young and the adventurous drawn to extreme sports. Grindelwald is home to 200 km / 124 miles of ski slopes, 300 km / 186 miles of hiking trails, and 44 cable cars and lifts. In the Jungfrau region visi-

tors enjoy looking over the shoulders of farmers who produce excellent cheese in their Alpine dairy farms. This is great fun



for the whole family. See www.grindelwald.ch for more information.

Davos is the venue of the Spengler Cup ice hockey tournament, December 26 - 31, 2004. A famous health resort even before skiing became the preferred winter sports activity, Davos was the scene of Thomas Mann's novel *The Magic Mountain*. Skiers have over 320 km / 198 miles of downhill slopes at their disposal, including the legendary Parsenn, as well as six toboggan runs and 55 cable cars. The focus of snowboarding is the Jakobshorn. Davos can lay claim to two superlatives: it's the highest town in the Alps and boasts Europe's largest natural ice rink. A lively resort surrounded by an unspoiled landscape, Davos offers 450 km / 279 miles of paths for hikers and mountaineers. Venue of the annual World Economic Forum, Davos is home to a large number of starred hotels and gourmet restaurants. But even the budget-minded traveler will find accommodations to suit his pocket. As in all of the Best of the Alps resorts, affordable packages are offered by many of the hotels, especially in the shoulder season. See www.davos.ch for more information.

Zermatt became a destination for winter sports as early as 1864, when the British discovered the Alps for their winter vacations. Dominated by the Matterhorn, arguably the world's most famous rock, Zermatt has preserved its Alpine charm and authenticity. The car-free village is defined by fascinating wooden houses, blackened by centuries

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of exposure to the sun, whose interior features elegant décor and the latest facilities. In summer, the hiking trails extend for 400 km / 248 miles, in winter hiking is enjoyed on 30 km / 19 miles of trails. Zermatt has 400 km / 248 miles of ski runs, the longest downhill is 7 km / 4 miles in the summer and 17 km / 11 miles in the winter. Zermatt, like all other BOTA resorts, is a village for all seasons. Families with children will feel at home in Zermatt's lovely hotels. For instance in the cozy La Ginabelle, which not only features fine dining and warm wood-paneled Alpine décor, but also a Kids Club. See www.zermatt.ch for more information.

St. Moritz, probably the world's most famous resort, is nestled amidst the beautiful lake landscape of the Engadine. At an altitude of 1,856 m / 6,088 ft on the southern flank of the Swiss Alps, St. Moritz is blessed with a "champagne climate" and sunshine on most days of the year. St. Moritz stands for cosmopolitan flair, elegance and style. Skiing, snow boarding, cross-country skiing, polo and tandem paragliding are all offered here. There are 350 km / 217 miles of downhill slopes on such legendary mountains as Corviglia, Corvatsch and Diavolezza. Spectacular toboggan races on the Cresta Run draw visitors from around the world. "Polo on Snow" is a spectacular winter event, which takes place on the last weekend of January on the frozen St. Moritz Lake. The St. Moritz Gourmet Festival will take place



The church tower in Chamonix
Photo: Courtesy of French Government Tourist Office
from January 31 – February 5, 2005. Skiers, music lovers and sybarites in general will not want to miss "Snow and Symphony," March 18 - 28, 2005. See www.stmoritz.ch.

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Chamonix Mont-Blanc is dominated by the European Alps' highest mountain, the Mont Blanc massif (4807 m / 15,767

ft). This breathtaking world of snow and ice attracts skiers from around the globe. In summer, the granite peaks remind the onlooker of flames. The French resort's altitude ranges between 1035 m / 3,395 ft and 3840 m / 12,595 ft. After the first ascent of the Mont Blanc in 1786, the fame of Chamonix began to spread rapidly. Skiers, snowboarders, as well as hikers and paragliders from near and far come to Chamonix Mont-Blanc. There are 47 cable cars and lifts and the skiing domain boasts 155 km / 96 miles of runs, including those in the remarkable Vallée Blanche. Chamonix, under the "Roof of Europe," is also one of the world's most sought-after mountain climbing destinations. Since the borders of Italy and Switzerland are nearby, border crossing is an attractive option - and an exciting adventure for the sports-minded. Please see www.chamonix.com.

Megève, in France's Haute Savoie province, joined the Best of the Alps in 2004. A charming Savoy village, it features beautiful chalet architecture. Hikers will find 150 km / 93 miles of trails in the summer and fall. Mountains rise on both sides of the high-altitude valley, ranging from 1,130 m / 3,706 ft - 2,353 m / 7,718 ft. Megève boasts 117 lifts, and its longest downhill run is 3.6 km / 2.2 miles. Toboggan runs total 502 km / 311 miles in the winter, and there are twice as many miles of sledge runs near the Jailliet gondola in the summer. A mosaic of forests and open spaces around Megève is spread out against the backdrop of Mont-Blanc. Geneva's Contrain Airport is only 70 km / 43 miles away. Sporting and cultural events and an atmosphere of savoir-vivre add to the magic of Megève. Please see www.megeve.com for more information.

Garmisch-Partenkirchen. This 1,200-year old town is not only Germany's winter sports capital, but also a climatic health resort for all seasons. Garmisch-Partenkirchen is a twin-city nestled at the foot of the Zugspitze, which is a part of the magnificent Wetterstein mountain range at the northern rim of the Alps. At 2,964 m / 9,721 ft, the Zugspitze is Germany's highest peak. It features an excellent mountain transportation system. There are 43 cable cars and mountain trains in and around Garmisch-Partenkirchen. For more information, see www.zugspitze.de. Garmisch-Partenkirchen pampers its guests in state-of-the-art hotels as well as small family-run

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