

Engadin

MAGAZINE No.3

MAGIC

ENGLISH EDITION

Engadin Winter — 20/21

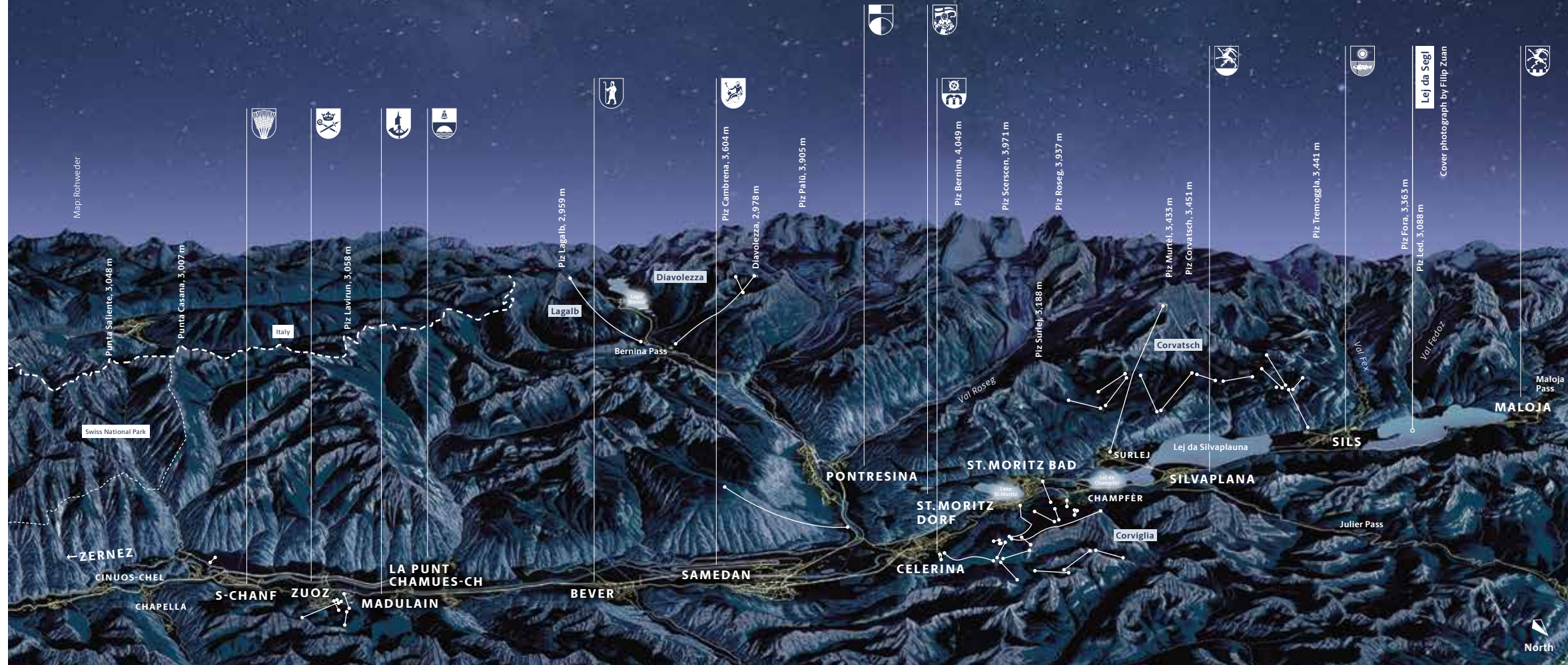


Dear guests,

Ideally we would like to magic you straight over to our valley, but unfortunately we are not able to do that just yet. Instead, you can come to us along a World Heritage railway line of fairy-tale charm, or travel over the bewitching snow-covered mountains with your own sleigh. We're waiting for you: with sparkling powder snow, all kinds of gastronomic wizardry and the purest ice in the world.

We wish you happy reading and a good journey – and we look forward to welcoming you here soon!

The people of the Engadin





p. 18



p. 50



p. 82



p. 98



p. 66



p. 34

Photo Cultura: Dokumentationsbibliothek St. Moritz, Andreas Pedretti / Photo Family, Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz / Photo Culinaris: Gasthaus Spiras / all others: Filip Zuan

06 INTRODUCTION

14 *Müravglius* A valley of winter marvels

18 SKI

20 *Power of powder*

22 *The dream of endless winter* The freerider Lucas Swieykowski spends all his life in one season

30 *Skiing for all* Fun on the pistes and adventure off-piste

34 CRAFT

36 *A tool conquers the world*

38 *Special Fex* Fire, steel and a touch of wizardry: the legendary blades from the Val Fex

48 *Hand-crafted* Unique artefacts of wood, stone and glass

50 ICE

52 *Song of the ice*

54 *Black magic* A rare wonder of nature: experience black ice on skates

62 *Frozen valley* Icy experiences

66 CULINARIA

68 *Colourful art of the cocktail*

70 *Lemon balm & peppermint* On the trail of the Hugo in the Val Bever

78 *A valley to savour* Gastronomic flights of fancy

82 CULTURA

84 *Swiss pioneering spirit aims high*

86 *Floating in heaven* Ingenious engineers trace a route to the skies

96 *Riding high* Cable cars, funiculars and more

98 FAMILY

100 *High school*

102 *A magical spell on life's journey* Where young minds from all over the world gain wisdom

110 *Family-friendly* Adventures for all the family

114 PINBOARD

114 A gallery of ideas for magical winter holidays in the Engadin, with even more activities, restaurants, accommodation and cultural attractions

138 *Summer preview* All about wood



Photo: Keystone, mauritius images, cidealps

In the moonlight:
the church of
San Gian in Celerina.



As if dusted with
icing sugar: nature around
the cross-country
ski trail near San Gian,
Celerina.

Photo: Filip Zuan



Photo: Roberto Molica, stock.adobe.com

A visit from Jack Frost:
icicles adorn the walkway
on Lake Sils.



Photo: Christian Brandstätter

Beacon for culture
lovers: the Red Tower
on the Julier Pass.

Müravglius

A valley of winter marvels



Sparkling star-filled skies

Anyone who lifts their eyes to the heavens on a clear night in the Engadin will be bewitched by the sight. Because of the valley's high altitude and its great distance from cities, the starry skies here are spectacular. Visitors interested in exploring the secrets of the night sky and getting to know the constellations will enjoy the tours and talks organised at the Samedan observatory by a welcoming local association, the "Engadin Friends of Astronomy".

engadiner-astrofreunde.ch

Heavenly sight:
conditions in the
Engadin are ideal
for star-gazing.



The fairy-tale Val Bever

In summer, the charming Fairy-Tale Trail winds along the idyllic Val Bever from Bever to Spinaz; in winter, a delightful winter walk leads along the same route through the snow-blanketed forest. Observant visitors may well spot animal tracks in the snow; no one, however, will miss the giant sculptures along the trail, all created by local artists.

Horse-drawn sleigh rides

What could be more charming and romantic than a cosy ride in a horse-drawn sleigh through the snowy Engadin? Snugly wrapped in blankets, passengers explore the wide plateau of frozen lakes or the idyllic side valleys, admiring the sparkling scenery as it glides gently by. The muffled thud of the horses' hooves on the snow, the animals' soft snorting and the jangling of the harnesses are the only sounds that break the stillness of the white surroundings. Along certain routes, the horse-drawn sleighs offer an "omnibus" service, running to a timetable; passengers may also book sleighs for private rides, with a wide choice of itineraries.



An enchanting experience of winter:

Horse-drawn sleigh rides in the Engadin

Find full information on routes and operators at engadin.ch/sleigh-rides

Spirits of the mountains

A mythical creature and two iconic birds have given their names to two mountains, an alpine col and their associated ski areas.

The Corvatsch, whose summit culminates at 3,451 m, is named after the "great raven"; Corviglia means "Alpine chough"; and the Diavolezza, a col at 2,978 m, translates as "she-devil".

Legend of the Morteratsch Glacier

How the mighty glacier acquired its name:



Long ago, two young people – Annetta, a prosperous farmer's daughter, and Aratsch, a herdsman – fell in love on an alpine pasture.

Her parents forbade the union as long as Aratsch had no wealth, so he travelled abroad to seek his fortune as a soldier.



As Annetta waited for her lover to come back, she suffered so much from loneliness and uncertainty that she died of a broken heart.

When Aratsch returned and learned of Annetta's death, he rode up to the pasture and spurred on his horse to make one last leap – into a ravine.



Annetta's spirit could not accept that her lover had died. She haunted the meadows, where people could hear her cry "Mort Aratsch!" ("Aratsch is dead!")

The new tenant drove away Annetta's wailing ghost, only to receive a curse in return.

The pasture became ever more desolate until it was eventually swallowed up under a thick layer of ice: the Morteratsch Glacier.

Advertising in the Engadin

Tell guests in the valley about your products and services with an advertisement in the Engadin magazine.

Distribution in the Engadin, Switzerland, Germany and Scandinavia.



The magazine is aimed at people with style, curiosity and a sense of adventure.

Interesting stories and information from the Engadin summer and winter, twice a year.

Contact: Gammeter Media AG, Via Surpunt 54, 7500 St. Moritz
werbemarkt@gammetermedia.ch, T. 081 837 90 00

Meteor showers

On some nights there are so many shooting stars that you can barely keep up making a wish for each one.



December
13–14



December
21–22



January
3–4



April
22–23



Muottas Muragl: magical

Samedan – Few views can be as breathtaking as those from Muottas Muragl, accessible to all by funicular: you feel as if the whole valley lies at your feet. In the evening, when the lights of the villages way below echo the sparkling stars high above, a trip up the mountain promises an especially magical experience. On full-moon nights, visitors can join a guided snowshoe walk, followed by a glass of wine and some local specialties in the panoramic restaurant: a taste of heaven on earth. engadin.ch/muottas-muragl



Winter walking on Muottas Muragl

On one of the three winter walking paths or along the snowshoe trail, suitable also for novices. engadin.ch/muottas-muragl/winter-idyll

Top 5: winter bucket list

Five things you simply have to experience in the Engadin winter:

- ☐ *Wrap up snugly and ride a horse-drawn sleigh into the Val Fex.*
page 15
- ☐ *Ski by the light of the full moon on the Diavolezza.*
page 32
- ☐ *Skate on a frozen lake.*
page 54
- ☐ *Drink the original Hugo cocktail at the Gasthaus Spinas.*
page 70
- ☐ *Ride the historical Muottas Muragl funicular.*
page 86



Float through the air

Just like the great raven after which the Corvatsch is named, visitors can glide silently through the skies under a paraglider: a chance to admire the glittering landscape of frozen lakes and snow-capped peaks from a new perspective, held aloft by the fresh and bracing winter mountain air. malojawind.ch



Full of Christmas charm

Hot mulled wine, gingerbread, Advent treats and all kinds of gift ideas, large and small: the Christmas markets that take place on December weekends in different villages throughout the valley are full of seasonal charm, and are guaranteed to delight visitors of all ages.

A place of special energy

Certain places seem to radiate a special energy: the Engadin is certainly one of them. The region clearly has a unique effect on people who visit: witness the long list of artists, writers and philosophers who have found inspiration in these magnificent landscapes.

Ski

Powder snow skiing is not fun.
It's life, fully lived –
life lived in a blaze of reality.

DOLORES LA CHAPELLE (1926–2007)
US-AMERICAN SKI MOUNTAINEER



Power of powder

White magic: So many of us look forward to the first snow of winter with eager anticipation! And then, one morning, we wake up and look out of the window to find that a white blanket has covered the landscape overnight: a sight to delight every child, and plenty of adults, too. The moment is magical – and has the power to conjure a smile on faces of all ages, time and again.

Sinking in snow: Abundant snow is no rarity in the Engadin winter. The actual snow record dates back 70 years, however. The night of 13/14 February 1951 saw the greatest snow depth in the Engadin since measurements began. On that night, the snow at the top of the Maloja Pass reached a height of no less than 2.99 metres above ground level!

Symmetrical but unique: Anyone who has the opportunity to examine a freshly fallen snowflake under a magnifying glass will be enchanted by its delicate beauty. The six points of a snowflake are invariably separated by an angle of 60 degrees and display an endless variety of filigree branching patterns that never lose their symmetry. Perhaps the most

remarkable aspect of these little marvels of nature is the fact that every single one is unique: scientists believe there have never been two snowflakes that looked exactly alike.

Cold variety: Every blanket of snow may appear the same at first sight, but closer observation soon reveals that the white mass can take on a great variety of textures. In the case of loose, fresh snow, for example, the individual snow crystals can still be recognised clearly. If a strong wind now blows, the uppermost layer of snow is compacted to produce a hard crust, known locally as Windharsch. Firn, meanwhile, is snow that has compressed steadily through a process of repeated partial melting and refreezing. Firn occurs more frequently as temperatures climb steadily and spring approaches, slowly but surely. It is the joy of skiing on well-prepared Firn snow, combined with the sunshine and pleasant temperatures, that makes spring skiing especially popular among many winter sports enthusiasts.

Ideal conditions: If ambient temperatures stay constantly below zero, as is fortunately almost always the case in the Engadin winter, the snow remains airy and light and lives up to its name of powder snow. This variety may not be so suitable for a snowball fight, but it is especially cherished by all the snow sports enthusiasts who enjoy heading off-piste into deep, unprepared snow.

The dream of endless winter

Lucas Swieykowski lives for powder snow and spends his whole life in one season: winter! The pro freerider commutes between the Engadin and Argentina; his favourite mountain: the Corvatsch.

Text FRANCO FURGER
Photographs FILIP ZUAN

Snow, ice and rock:
Lucas is happiest
in the high mountains
of the Engadin.

Always looking for the perfect line: freeride skier Lucas Swieykowski (above).

Light, deep powder: Lucas's favourite kind of snow (below).

Lucas trudges through the deep snow, breathing heavily. He is walking along a long mountain ridge in order to access an untouched slope. Eventually he reaches the start of his run. He peers cautiously into the abyss. The snow looks perfect: powdery and deep, just as he likes it. Before Lucas sets off, he checks his equipment: his avalanche airbag is ready for action, his goggles are in place, his ski boots firmly buckled up. One last deep breath, and he launches himself into the untouched snow.

Up here on the Corvatsch, the 37-year-old knows his way around. He loves this high mountain, its steep flanks, its mischievous hollows and long runs. "I find all the technical challenges I seek as a skier," he says. "And what always bowls me over, time and again, is the view over the lake-strewn valley. In early winter, when the lakes haven't frozen over yet, the scenery reminds me of the fjords in Norway."

The art of reading the snow

Lucas places his turns precisely and dynamically to make the snow spray up as much as possible. His run down the long couloir ends with a whoop of joy right by a chairlift, where he meets other freeriders who congratulate him on his stylish line. They compare notes on runs they have done, on the consistency of the snow and their assessment of the


avalanche risk. About 30 centimetres of fresh snow have fallen in the last two days; even more up at 3,300 metres.

Every day, the professional freerider studies different weather reports, snow-fall charts and the avalanche bulletin. Where has the most snow fallen? Which direction is the wind coming from? How are temperatures changing? Such questions occupy Lucas's mind constantly. "Because a good powder day begins with good preparation," he says. Up on the mountain, the questions continue to fill his head: do the forecasts and reports match my observations? What does the surface structure of the snow tell me? Are there signs of natural avalanches? The veteran skier evaluates the conditions: "The wind wasn't as strong as expected," he says in English, "and that's good."

Skiing rather than studying

Lucas Swieykowski was born in the Argentinian capital, Buenos Aires. He learned to ski at a young age: he and his family regularly spent holidays in Bariloche, probably the best-known ski resort in South America. When Lucas was 11, the family moved permanently to Bariloche, and skiing became the focus of his life. He became involved in the local alpine club and soon completed all levels of Argentina's ski instructor training programme.





In the heart
of the couloir:
“On the
Corvatsch
I find all the
challenges
I seek.”

After he finished high school, Lucas went to Sweden, where his grandfather had lived for a long time. The young skier intended to study in Lund, like his elder brother, but he realised this was not his path: he wanted to ski and earn his living that way. In order to work as a ski instructor during the Argentinian summer, too, he travelled to the northern hemisphere: first to the USA, then to Canada, and later Europe, France, Austria, Andorra. And finally to the Engadin, which has become his second home.

It all began with a bar job

But even Lucas's work as a ski instructor did not give him the satisfaction he sought. He wanted to ski more for himself and gain new skills in powder snow and open terrain, where real adventure lay. And he dreamed of a career as a freerider. Lucas confesses: “If I can't be outdoors in the mountains, I become weird with time. I have to feel the elements: the wind, the cold, the snow spraying in my face. And the feeling of gliding over deep powder snow and riding a mountain slope in a controlled way is simply incomparable.”

As chance would have it, a friend got him a job in St. Moritz – not as a ski instructor but in a bar. Since then, Lucas has been spending every winter in the Engadin. “The magic of this valley

Another perfect powder day! Lucas can't wait for more...

grabbed me immediately: beautiful, mighty mountains with a superb network of lifts that take you up to high-altitude alpine terrain. The possibilities of finding good snow and long runs here are virtually boundless.”

Skiing boring? Never!

Lucas's first winter in the Engadin was also the springboard for his career as a professional skier. He had the opportunity to take part in the Engadinsnow event with the world's top freeriders. “We abseiled from the Corvatsch cable car straight into the competition slope, which was scattered with cliffs,” Lucas remembers. “It was crazy!” Sponsorship deals soon followed, and Lucas began to travel the ski world and carry out film projects. The Engadin became his base for the winter. “I was in Japan, Alaska, Russia; and every time I came back to the Engadin, I was amazed how good and beautiful this valley is for skiing.”

Lucas spends the Engadin summers in the Bariloche winter. “I have family, friends and a home there,” he says. In Argentina, he continues to work as a ski instructor and also increasingly as a mountain guide, having completed this tough professional training, too. In this way, Lucas lives the dream of the endless winter. Skiing all year: doesn't that ever get boring? “No way! I always

find new aspects and constantly develop my skills. Today I look at mountains in a totally different way to 10 years ago. When I saw the Piz Palü for the first time, for example, I thought: I'll never go up there. Since then I've been up several times – and skied down.”

High up on the Corvatsch, Lucas is preparing for his next run. He is standing by the legendary Furtschellas Couloir: he has skied down dozens of times, but every time it's a new feeling, he says. “The snow is always different, so you never know exactly what to expect on the way. That's precisely why I'm a freerider,” Lucas says – and disappears in the powder.



Sensational mountain terrain

The Corvatsch is Silvaplana's local mountain. The summit station, 3,303 m above sea level, is the highest in Graubünden. corvatsch.ch



Skiing for all

Fun on the pistes and adventure off-piste



Far from the pistes: tips for extra safety

The freedoms of a freeride outing also carry certain dangers. However, by following various rules, participants can reduce risk. Riders should study the latest weather and avalanche reports before every trip, for example; they

should venture on to open terrain only in company and never alone; tackle steep slopes one by one; and carry the necessary equipment at all times. Find further tips for freeriders at engadin.ch/free-ride

Freedom calls,
far from the
prepared pistes.

Life-saving courses

All freeride enthusiasts and ski tourers are recommended to take avalanche awareness courses regularly in order to know best practice in an emergency. The one-day course run by the Pontresina Mountaineering School covers conduct on the slopes, use of avalanche transceivers, interpretation of avalanche bulletins and best shovelling technique. Participants put this knowledge into practice right away on the mountain – where the emphasis is on avoiding avalanches in the first place. bergsteiger-pontresina.ch



Down the White Carpet

The thought of immaculately prepared but deserted pistes is enough to get even the most laid-back skier or snowboarder out of bed early. Many lifts in the region already start at 7.45 am: no hint of a queue anywhere. At the summit, as the first rays of sunshine light up the slopes, early risers enjoy their personal White Carpet: a glorious run down perfect pistes. There's no better way to start the day! engadin.ch/white-carpet

Safe and expert guidance

Glorious views, pristine slopes and a real blast of adrenaline: freeriders can't live without them. In return, they accept the dangers that unpredictable nature brings. In order to minimise risk, it is well worth joining a guided freeride trip and taking advantage of the knowledge and wealth of experience of local mountain guides and ski instructors. These veteran riders guide their charges safely through the snow – and of course, they know all the best runs. engadin.ch/free-ride



White Risk app

Provides information on current snow conditions and avalanche risk in Switzerland. whiterisk.ch

Transceiver/freeride checkpoint

At the Diavolezza & Lagalb summit stations and the Corvatsch & Furtschellas middle stations.

Peace of mind with Snowcare

Good insurance cover is essential for enjoying the slopes to the full. Snowcare insurance may be purchased together with a lift pass for just CHF 5 per day. engadin.ch/snow-care

Kit checklist for a freeride day

Freeride enthusiasts should always carry the following safety equipment when venturing off-piste:



Avalanche shovel
To dig out a person buried under snow as quickly as possible.



Avalanche transceiver
Transmits a signal and can also detect signals from other transceivers.



Avalanche probe
Allows rescuers to determine exactly where an avalanche victim is buried and how deep.



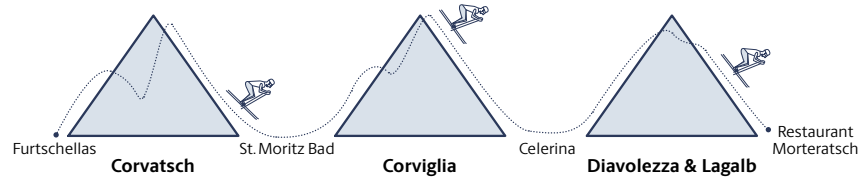
Avalanche rucksack
Equipped with an airbag system that provides buoyancy in an avalanche.



First aid kit
Includes a survival blanket and bandages.

Snow Safari

The Snow Safari leads via some of the finest pistes and cosiest mountain restaurants in the Engadin. engadin.ch/snow-safari



By the light of the full moon

Diavolezza – “Glüna Plaina” means “full moon” in Romansh. This is also the name of a special treat for snow sports enthusiasts: gliding at night down the pistes of the Diavolezza, illuminated only by the soft and magical light of the full moon. The freshly prepared runs open at 7.30 pm, promising an enchanting experience of the snowy mountain landscape. Also recommended: a fortifying dinner at the Berghaus Diavolezza mountain restaurant before setting off. engadin.ch/full-moon



Other night skiing experiences

Corvatsch Snow Night

Every Friday evening from 7 pm to 00.40 am (Dec–Jan) / 1.40 am (Feb–Apr). engadin.ch/snow-night

VIP Snow Night

Have the piste all to yourself for the whole evening: bookable Saturday to Thursday. engadin.ch/vip-snownight/en

Down the Diavolezza’s glaciers

Diavolezza – The Diavolezza glacier run leads through an enchanting wilderness of snow and ice: all the way down the Pers and Morteratsch Glaciers to the very end of the mighty river of ice. With a total length of 10 kilometres, this is Switzerland’s longest glacier run. Clear markings along the ungroomed itinerary make this an ideal first glacier experience for good skiers. engadin.ch/glacier-run



8,848 metres for the club

Lagalb – Ever dreamed of conquering the 8,848 vertical metres of Mount Everest, the world’s highest peak? Winter sports enthusiasts can make the dream come true in the Engadin – and in so doing, become members of the legendary Club 8848, founded in 1970. To join, they must climb on foot from the upper cable car station to the Piz Lagalb four times, and ski or snowboard down to the base station 11 times. Anyone who completes the arduous task becomes a member of Club 8848. engadin.ch/club-8848/en

45^{CHF}

for a one-day lift pass
p.p. inc. public transport:
special reduced rate
with the “Sleep + Ski” deal
for guests spending at least
one night at participating
accommodation.
engadin.ch/sleep-ski

Snow-Deal

Book early for the best deals! Thanks to the Upper Engadin lift company’s new dynamic pricing system, visitors who book early can enjoy an attractive discount on their ski pass.

snow-deal.ch

Fun runs to suit every taste

Countless kilometres of piste await skiers and snowboarders in the Engadin. From easy practice slopes to challenging black runs, the region has everything to thrill winter sports enthusiasts of every ability.

1 In a world of glaciers

Diavolezza/Lagalb – The large ski area boasts two superlatives: the longest secured glacier run in Switzerland and the steepest piste in the whole canton. diavolezza.ch

2 Freeride paradise

Corvatsch – Alongside sensational runs on- and off-piste, including the famous Hahnen-see, attractions include one of the Alps’ largest snowparks. engadin.ch/freeride



3 Beginner-friendly

Surlej – Novices enjoy the easiest conditions by the Cristins children’s ski lift. engadin.ch/for-families

4 Classic action

Corviglia – St. Moritz and Celerina’s local mountain offers snow sports enthusiasts 36 runs of all levels of difficulty. engadin.ch/slopes

5 For budding racers

Languard – The small ski area with gentle lifts and Snowli Kids Village is ideal for families and beginners, who can enjoy their first experience of winter sports on the easy piste. Every Thursday, children’s ski races take place. engadin.ch/for-families

6 Pistes for kids

Samedan – A long magic carpet, a fun park and practice terrain full of variety make this small

ski area especially attractive for families and for ski and snowboard schools.

engadin.ch/small-ski-resorts

7 White playground

La Punt – A children’s snow zone, magic carpet, play area and two child-friendly runs promise endless ski fun for youngsters.

engadin.ch/small-ski-resorts

8 For families

Zuoz – In the large children’s ski area, youngsters hone their skills, experienced skiers and snowboarders enjoy the immaculately prepared pistes, and all who enjoy a little speed can glide down the race run with automatic speed timer. engadin.ch/for-families

9 For novices

S-chanf – The beginner’s lift and easy slope are ideal for all who are enjoying their first experience on skis or on a snowboard. engadin.ch/small-ski-resorts

10 Tricky runs

Aela – This small ski area near Maloja offers two challenging pistes for experienced skiers and snowboarders and, a little further up the valley, a practice slope for beginners. engadin.ch/small-ski-resorts



Map: Rohweder



Craft

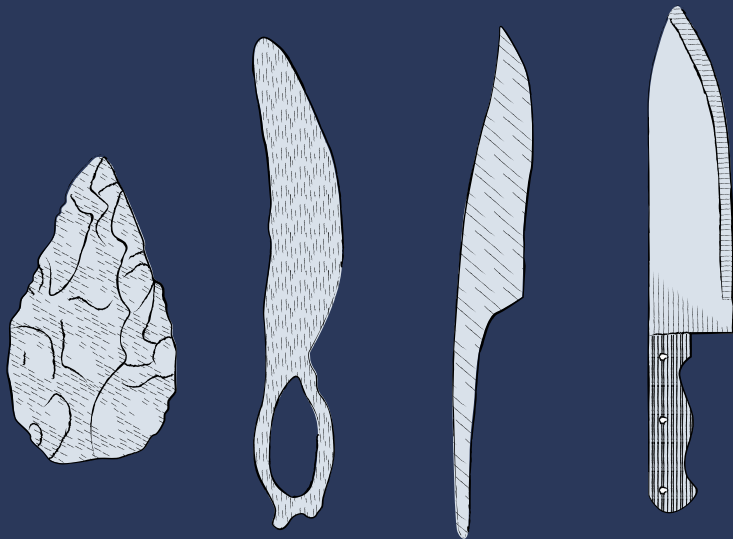
Handwork has a soul.

FRANK DOMMENZ (B. 1961)
PAINTER AND ILLUSTRATOR

Photo: Filip Zuan



A tool conquers the world



Through the centuries: evolution of the knife.

Indispensable: Knives of all shapes and sizes, simple and slim, lie in every kitchen drawer. At first sight, the blades may appear unassuming, and yet they are crucial to practically every area of life. The knife is also one of the few objects that people of all cultures use

Illustration: Seraina Fels

throughout the world: for cooking and eating, as a tool, as a weapon and for hunting.

Stone tools: For people in the Stone Age, the hand axe, shaped from stone, was an important tool. Thanks to its many functions, it is often called the “Stone Age Swiss Army Knife”. The almond-shaped tool was useful for scraping, striking, chopping, and of course cutting.

From stone to metal: The beginning of the Bronze Age marked a change in the production of tools. People probably started making knives from copper instead of stone from the 4th millennium BC; later, they began to use the tougher copper-tin alloy of bronze, or the copper-zinc alloy of brass. Compared with stone, these metals were easier to work.

Triumph of iron: Eventually, the iron knife superseded all its predecessors. Provided that people had the necessary technological capability: processing the iron ore requires temperatures of 1,250 degrees Celsius. While the Iron Age began in some areas as far back as the 17th Century BC, in central Europe it dawned only in the 8th Century BC.

Craftsmanship from the Val Fex: The knife is not only an essential everyday object, it can also be a work of art – particularly when it has been forged, shaped and sharpened with great skill. And a work of art is the only way to describe the exquisite Damascus knife made in the Val Fex: the legendary “Fexer”.



Shower of sparks:
Roger Rominger uses
a circular cutter to
cut the steel to
the length of a knife.

Special Fex

**Deep in the
Val Fex, a gifted
craftsman con-
jures blades of
sparkling beauty.**

Text **DANIEL SCHÜZ**
Photographs **FILIP ZUAN**

As a child, Roger Rominger would wander through the forests of the Val Fex, and when he saw an appealing piece of wood, he would reach into his trouser pocket and pull out his knife. A Swiss Army knife, bright red, decorated with a silvery cross, which his father had given him. Roger was extremely proud of his folding knife.

Today Roger still lives in the same valley, on the same farm, where he was born 35 years ago. In the meantime he, too, has become a loving father – who helps his wife, Martina, around the home, feeds the sheep in the shed, and tells legends from the mountains to the children, Marina and Gian-Marchet. In the autumn, he shoulders his rifle and heads up into the mountains to hunt chamois and red deer.

Farmer, father, hunter: Roger has many faces. But few know the face of Roger the artist-craftsman. Only a select number gain access to the place where he displays his mastery: his cutler's smithy is an art studio, place of pilgrimage and sorcerer's den, all in one.

He closes the door and draws the curtains before fastening his leather apron and adjusting his protective goggles. "They're important," he says, "because of the sparks and swarf. I'm already nearly blind in my left eye." The forge, in which he lights the gas flame, is the heart of his smithy, together with the anvil and a forging press that he built

himself and named “S-charpa fier”: Romansh for “the steel-ripper”, after the faithful dog in a Romansh legend that finished off a fearsome dragon.

From another age

Roger now places the tongs beside the forge and the heavy hammer by the anvil; he takes three flat, matt-grey steel bars from a shelf, weighs them up in his hand and places them precisely one on top of another. The flickering glow of the fire bathes Roger’s bearded face in a mysterious light: the craftsman has become a fire wizard. The artist from the Val Fex – the Fexer, as they say round here – seems a figure from another age: from a time when brave heroes would sever the heads of fire-breathing dragons, and noble knights would cut up their own robes to share with beggars. The heroes and knights would have carried swords that Roger would have forged, tempered and sharpened.

Here, today, the swords have shrunk to knives, to become fine tools in the hands of famous chefs or precious collectors’ items that can cost two to three thousand francs a time. A Fexer knife, as many of Roger’s clients testify, possesses magical powers.

It takes a week of patience and devotion, sweat and passion to finish one of the hand-made knives. The steel is heated to temperatures of up to 1,200 degrees and folded into many layers, while certain chemical elements ensure quality: vanadium protects the blade from wear, manganese makes the steel more workable, and carbon hardens it. In between several heating phases, the Fexer forges the glowing yellow bar with his hammer to shape it. Each time the hammer lands, yellow borax sparks spray out of the metal. “I use the forge hammer,” Roger says, “to beat my energy into the knife!”

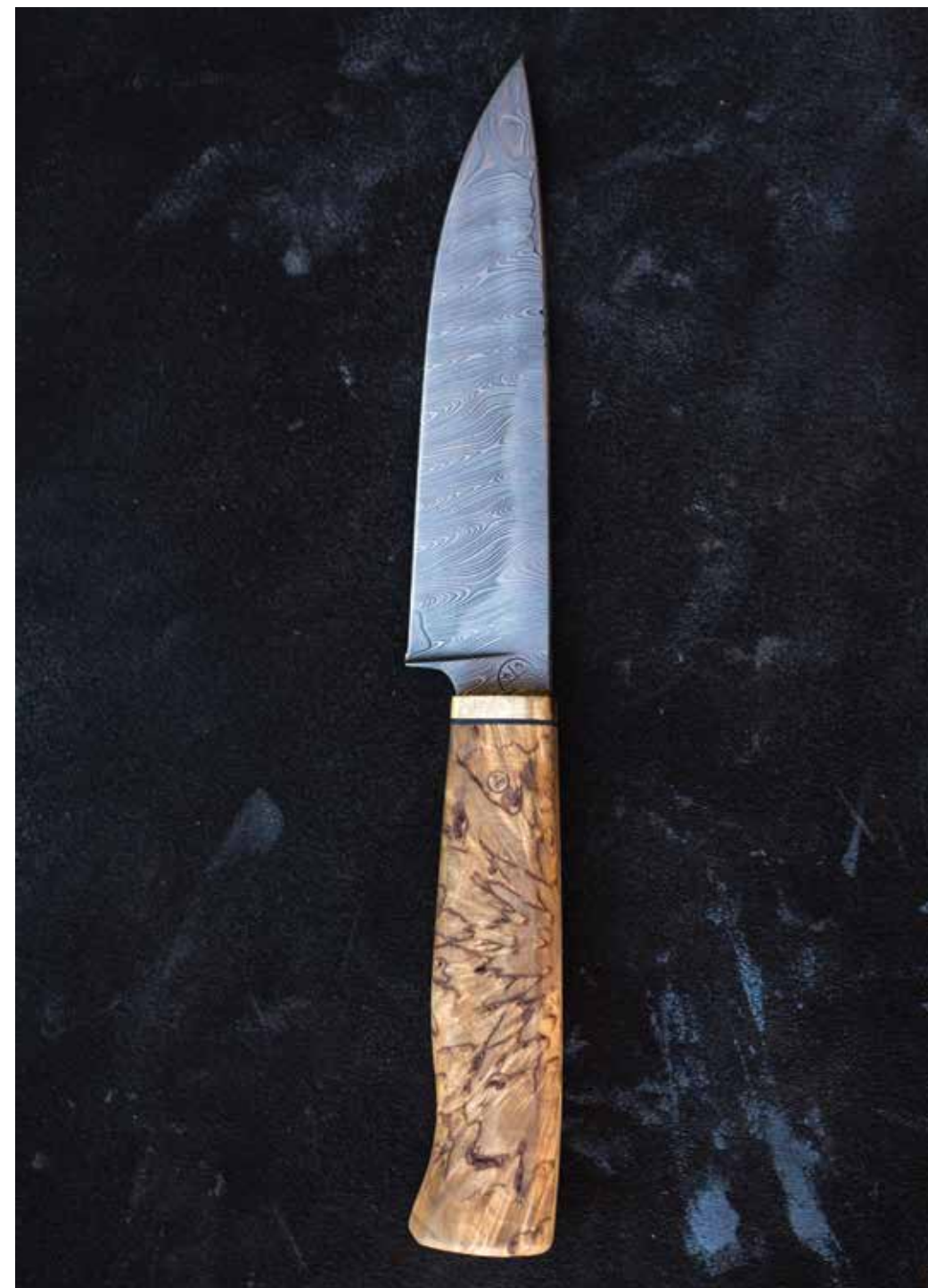
The first day:
the metal has
been folded into
384 layers and
has a tempera-
ture of more than
1,000 degrees
(above).

The last day:
Roger places the
hot blade on the
anvil and works
it with measured
and precise
hammer blows
until it is straight
(below).





Before: the glowing metal,
heated to 800 degrees.



After four days: the sparkling
knife, worth 1,800 francs.



Tools: tongs and hammers are Roger's key utensils (above).

Signature stamp: at the very end of the process, the knife is adorned with the Fexer stamp (below).

“Right then I knew that a perfect knife could be made only here, in this valley.”

ROGER ROMINGER *The Fexer*

Lifelines of the knife

Right at the end of the process, when he sharpens the tempered steel, Roger has to take special care. Blood can easily flow. “I don’t have the time then to go running to the doctor,” he says with a grin, and points to his tool box. “The wound closes up well with some fast-drying glue and insulating tape.” He has always done that, he says, and never suffered an infection.

He began his career as a farrier – and horseshoes really did bring him luck. Nearly 20 years ago, as Roger was starting his apprenticeship and helping his boss to shoe a horse, he lifted a hoof and looked up – straight into the eyes of the young horse rider. Nine years ago, they married. Since then, Martina has been busy in the Fexer kitchen, baking walnut cake, roasting lamb and entertaining hikers at the “MangiaBain” mountain restaurant with infectious enthusiasm. It is the same dedication that drives her husband when he takes his knife out of the forge and works it with his hammer until mysterious patterns form deep in the metal, the patterns that will eventually adorn the Damascus knife.

“Those are the knife’s lifelines,” Roger says. And he tells the story of how he was out hunting many years ago and discovered a big rock on the slopes of the Piz Tremoggia. “It was stuck deep in the ground, and its surface was smooth – and had exactly the same pattern as on a Damascus knife. Right then I knew that a perfect knife could be made only here, in this valley.” And he decided to teach himself the skills to become a knifsmith.

Secretly he hopes that one day he will actually succeed in fashioning the perfect knife. He wouldn’t admit it, though – because if he did, he would have no reason for carrying on.

Engadin. *Ice sports*
***One element,
 many worlds.***

www.engadin.ch



Engadin. What mountains, what lakes, what light.

Free use of public transport for
 guests who stay more than one night.
 Further information:
engadin.ch/ov-inklusive-winter



Visual check:
 a perfect
 blade must
 be absolutely
 straight.

“This one,” Roger says, taking a Damascus knife from its holder, “is approaching perfection.” Recently, he continues, the Victorinox company called. It wasn’t to offer him a job: executives from the biggest and best-known Swiss knife company wanted to travel to the Val Fex to see how the Fexer makes his knives. “We forged this wonderful blade together,” he says.

The Victorinox visit reminded him of happy childhood days – and of his first pocket knife, made by Victorinox. Thirty years later, the childhood dream has come true. “A prototype,” Roger says, smiling, “you could call it the first Victorinox-Fexer Damascus knife!”



Handwork in smithy and kitchen

Roger creates sharp knives while Martina conjures delicious lamb burgers – and, for dessert, tasty walnut cakes. Enjoy on site at the restaurant “MangiaBain” or order online from fexer.ch

Hand-crafted

Unique artefacts of wood, stone and glass



Every house is a work of art

As soon as you notice one, you spot them everywhere: pretty decorations adorn the facades of old houses throughout the Engadin. The ornate patterns are not painted on but scratched direct in the plaster. This technique also gave the art form its name: “sgraffito”, derived from the Italian word “sgraffiare”, which means “to scratch”. Ever since the 16th Century, people of the Engadin have decorated the walls of their houses in this way with traditional patterns, symbols and motifs.

Photo right: By kind permission

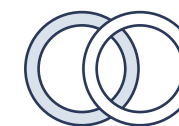
Craft delicacies for foodies

La Punt Chamues-ch – Anyone seeking high-quality meat specialities from the Engadin soon comes to Laudenbacher: here, a great deal of skill and care go into each Engadin sausage and every piece of dried meat. It all began in 1965, when Giovanni and Hanna Laudenbacher started making fine sausages in the two rooms they lived and worked in. Today, Laudenbacher is a successful family business with branches in Pontresina, La Punt Chamues-ch and St. Moritz. The shops also sell Engadin cheeses, wild salmon from Alaska and delicious cakes. laudenbacher.ch



Skis shaped by hand

Imagine gliding down slopes of freshly fallen snow on skis that you have made yourself: that was the dream of Raffael Viletta and the brothers Dino and Nando Wespi. They started to tinker and experiment, sought out knowledge and materials on the Internet and even developed their own ski press. For nearly ten years, the fruit of their labours has been delighting powder skiing enthusiasts who value high quality as much as elegant design. Lain skis, hand-crafted from fibreglass and fine timber, are certainly beautiful to look at. About 40 hours of painstaking work go into each pair, and the love and care of the person making them is obvious in each case. lainskis.ch



The “Engadin Goldsmiths” work with gold and silver – and also natural stones from the Engadin mountains.

Engadiner Goldschmiede Sils Maria engadinalgold.ch

Colourful glasswork

Zuoz – What do Zuoz’s church of San Luzi, chapel of San Bastiaan and the passageway to the town car park all have in common? At each, visitors find beautiful stained-glass windows that create a magical play of colour and form when light shines through. These fragile works were created by artists ranging from Augusto Giacometti to Zuoz’s own Gian Casty.

Sculptures of ice

Sils Maria – The sparkling works of art by Reto Grond can be admired for only a few months of the year before the sunshine and warmth of spring turn them inexorably back to water. The artist uses hammer and chisel to create his ornate and surprisingly delicate ice sculptures, which decorate the forecourts of hotels and shops. The best way to find and enjoy them is on a leisurely stroll through the village. eisfiguren.ch



New life for old wood

The artist Jeff Lleshi uses driftwood from the Engadin and olive timber from Greece to make his dramatic sculptures, imaginative lamps and all kinds of furniture. The materials he uses retain all their original character, so each of his creations is unique.

lleshi-art.ch

The background is a dark, textured surface with numerous glowing, circular, and swirling patterns that resemble light trails or particle tracks. These patterns are concentrated in the upper half of the image, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall color palette is dark, with highlights from the glowing patterns.

Ice

For dancers:
Slippery ice
A paradise
If your dancing skills suffice.

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE (1844-1900)



Song of the ice



Black ice: a chillingly beautiful natural spectacle.

Black magic: Sub-zero temperatures and no snowfall: when these conditions coincide, the surface of Engadin lakes freezes to form an almost smooth sheet of clear ice that sparkles, black and mysterious, in the sunshine. There are no snowflakes and hardly any air bubbles frozen into the so-called black ice, which makes it appear transparent. This natural wonder of uncanny beauty is rare, however. On average, the phenomenon occurs only twice a decade, casting a spell on those lucky enough to witness it.

The lake sings: Black ice is not only an optical curiosity; it also has a distinct acoustic character. The thick layer of ice may appear rigid and lifeless, but it is actually in constant movement, contracting and expanding all the time. Especially when the air above the lake is colder than the water under the ice, the whole sheet comes to life. At such times the lake creaks, sighs, bangs and bubbles, producing the wildest sounds. If there is still no layer of snow covering the ice at this point, the insistent concert is clearly audible.

The ice as sports venue: The frozen lakes are almost as important as the snow for winter tourism in the Engadin. The wide expanses provide a setting for all kinds of events including horse races and car races, as well as a vast playground for countless winter sports enthusiasts – who gather for Bavarian curling, speed skating, snowkiting or simply to trace some elegant pirouettes on the ice.



Black magic

Clear, still and biting cold air has a bewitching effect on the surface of a lake. The result, under the right conditions, is a natural work of art: a scintillating venue for winter sports enthusiasts.

Text ANNA HERBST

Photographs FILIP ZUAN



Wingsurfing FOR TRENDSETTERS

Wingsurfing is a cross between kitesurfing and windsurfing: not a new sport, but one that has been enjoying a boom in recent years. Even in low wind, the hand-held wing carries enthusiasts along swiftly – either with a board on water or with skates on ice.

Preparation: Take instruction in summer in order to be ready for winter.



***Ice hockey* FOR TEAM PLAYERS**

Not for the faint-hearted: ice hockey demands speed, agility and excellent control from team players who do not shy away from physical contact as they attempt to steal the puck from their opponents.

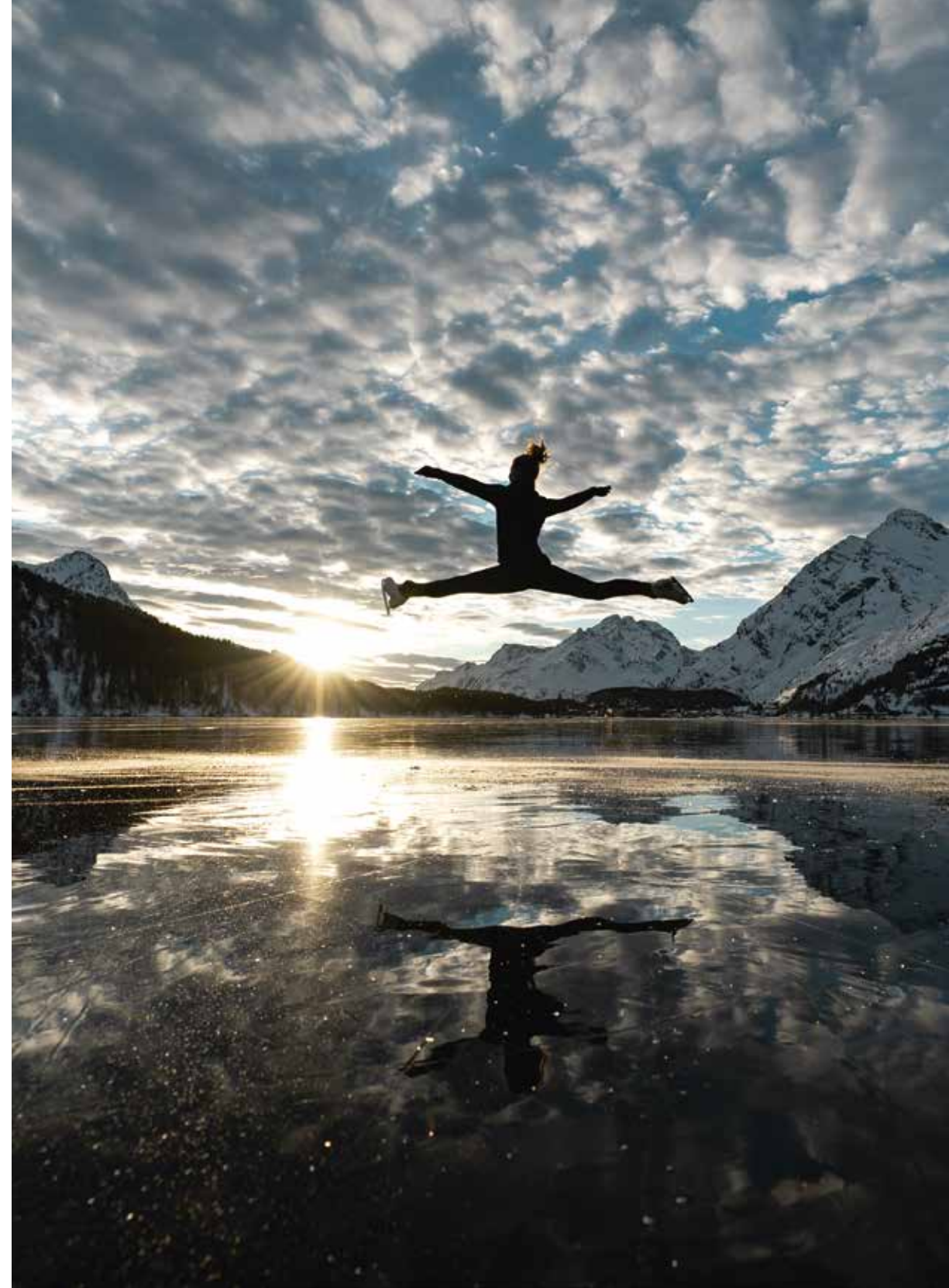
Where to play: On nine of the Engadin's ice rinks, some of which also rent out ice hockey equipment. engadin.ch/ice-sport-adrenalin



Figure skating FOR AESTHETES

When it comes to grace and elegance, hardly any sport can compare with figure skating. On the mysterious black ice, the challenging jumps, spins and other moves look even more magical.

Skate rental: at any of the eleven ice rinks along the valley or from certain sports shops.



Frozen valley

Icy experiences



A celebration of beauty, speed and skill

St. Moritz – Frozen Lake St. Moritz, under the sparkling Engadin sunshine, has already provided an original venue for IWC Schaffhausen's top-class IWC Racing team to show its skills. "The ICE" – the International Concours of Elegance – is

a unique celebration of the beauty of the automobile. In February 2021 this select international gathering of enthusiasts once again celebrates the joys of speed on snow-covered ice – in grand style. theicestmoritz.ch

The Mercedes-Benz 300 SL "Gullwing" of the IWC Racing Team rockets across the ice.

Photo left: Mathieu Bonnevie



Gliding in style along the banks of the Inn

Madulain – Skate across the snow-covered meadows along the Inn, admire the play of light on the river, enjoy the views of the historical heart of the village of Madulain and breathe the pure tranquillity that reigns along the valley floor: the Madulain "ice path" offers a special skating experience, surrounded by nature. The trail starts by the works yard in Madulain and extends for about a kilometre. Bring your own skates; please note that you use the ice path at your own risk.

engadin.ch/ice-way



Climbing walls of ice

Pontresina / Corvatsch – With crampons on their boots and an ice axe in each hand, enthusiasts scale mighty walls of ice painstakingly. They have two options in the Engadin for testing their skills. By the Corvatsch cable car summit station, staff release water at the clifftop to create an ice climbing wall, the highest of its kind in the world; aficionados can also tackle the frozen waterfall in the gorge at Pontresina. The Pontresina Mountaineering School offers daring novices the chance to try the sport under expert guidance. engadin.ch/ice-climbing

Angling on ice

Ice fishing on Lake Sils offers a wonderfully relaxing experience of nature.

engadin.ch/ice-fishing



Skating down a twisting channel of ice

Every year, on a Saturday at the end of the winter season, the Olympia Bob Run offers an unusual and thrilling spectacle: up to 150 ice hockey players in full protective kit skate down the ice channel from St. Moritz to Celerina at breakneck speed.

olympia-bobrun.ch/bobrunskating

Engadin. *Cross-Country Skiing*

*Always on
the right track.*

www.engadin.ch



Engadin

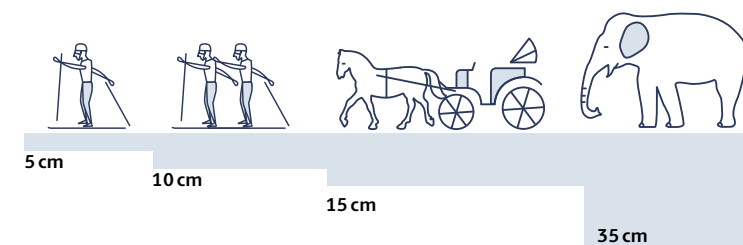


Engadin. *What mountains, what lakes, what light.*

Free use of public transport for
guests who stay more than one night.
Further information:
engadin.ch/ov-inklusive-winter

How strong is ice?

The thickness of ice
needed to support people,
carriages and elephants.
Beware: where the ice is
over flowing water, it needs
to be considerably thicker!



Secrets of the glaciers

Pontresina – No fewer than 173 glaciers cover 40sq. km of the Upper Engadin: an impressive 6 per cent of the region's entire surface area! Visitors of all ages can discover the secrets of these marvels of nature in the "Bernina Glaciers adventure territory" between the Engadin and the Valposchiavo. Among the attractions is the Glacier Trail to the Morteratsch Glacier. While adults follow the audio tour on the Bernina Glaciers app and learn fascinating facts about the mighty rivers of ice, children can solve the puzzle of the little glacier spirit, Sabi.

bernina-glaciers.ch



Train ride through the world of glaciers

Enjoy glorious views of the sparkling
landscape through the panoramic windows
of the Bernina Express.

engadin.ch/bernina-express/en



Rules for venturing onto frozen lakes

Stay in company
*Never venture on to
the ice alone.*

Avoid thin ice
*Look for fissures that show
the thickness of the ice.*

Shun weak spots
*Keep away from broken or
milky ice and areas where
water flows in, out or through.*

Beware poor visibility
*Only step on to the ice
in good light conditions.*

Visitors venture on to the
ice at their own risk. Safety
tips are available from
tourist information offices
in each resort.

Daredevil Brits

St. Moritz / Celerina – It was a
group of four British guests who
brought the idea of holding a
toboggan race down a channel
of ice to the Engadin in 1884.
The hotel pioneers Johannes and
Caspar Badrutt placed a run at
their disposal, and since then
the Cresta races have been a key
feature of St. Moritz life. The
toboggans are little more than
narrow boards on runners, but
they pick up tremendous speed
in the twisting channel of ice:
riders and toboggans hurtle down
the steep run from St. Moritz
to Celerina at up to 140 km/h.
Beginners can test their nerves
on the ice on a training run.
cresta-run.com



An ice rink for every taste

*Skaters of all ages can choose from no fewer than
11 different natural and artificial rinks along the
valley. While experts glide around in style, beginners
can gain confidence with the help of a penguin or
other skating aids. Equipment can be hired locally.*

engadin.ch/ice-sports



Culinaria

**Life is like a cocktail:
it's all in the mix.**

FRIEDRICH LÖCHNER (1915–2013)



Colourful art of the cocktail



The right mixture: the key to a good cocktail.

Photo: Cody Chan, Unsplash

Colourful variety: Cocktails come in all colours of the rainbow: poured into special glasses and decorated with a slice of orange, a cherry or a small paper parasol, each one is a little work of art. Some make an ideal pre-dinner aperitif, while others are so strong that a few sips are enough to turn the head – and make their effects felt down to the fingertips.

Name with a mystery: The question of the origin of the name “cocktail” has given rise to plenty of stories. One says that it originated at cockfights, after which the owner of the winning cockerel would put a tail feather from the losing bird into the drink. According to another theory, the different layers of liqueur, carefully poured one over another into the glass, resemble the colourful plumage of a cockerel. We will probably never know which story is true – but we can enjoy debating the question at length over a well-mixed cocktail.

Endless possibilities: While some classic cocktails are enjoyed almost worldwide, most bartenders also have their own secret recipes up their sleeve. Now and again, one of these drinks will become a hit, winning fans far and wide.

Liquid celebrity: A recent arrival on cocktail menus that has already become a popular favourite is the sweet and sparkling Hugo. Its inventor is the man who runs the welcoming Gasthaus Spinas in the Val Bever: discover their story on the following pages.



Already on the train ride into the idyllic Val Bever, visitors feel the place's special magic.

Lemon balm & peppermint

Roland “AK” Gruber is the man behind the Hugo. To taste this cult cocktail mixed by its creator, you have to travel deep into the sleepy Val Bever. High up the valley, surrounded by snow-blanketed forest, Roland runs the welcoming Gasthaus Spinas.

Text **ANDRIN WILLI**

Photographs **FEDERICO SETTE, FILIP ZUAN**

While snowflakes float in the dry winter air outside, indoors it's warm and cosy. “Magical, secluded and beautiful.” That's how Roland Gruber, better known as AK, describes it. He is a down-to-earth type: bushy beard, knickerbockers, check shirt, neatly combed wavy hair: all the charm of Italy's German-speaking South Tyrol region. Yet here he is, in the middle of an enchanted snowy forest, far from civilisation, in front of the restaurant that he runs: the Gasthaus Spinas.

The menu

From simple dishes for CHF 23 to house specialties for CHF 79, the menu has something for everyone. "We're not a pretentious mountain restaurant with high prices and small portions. Here you meet hikers, cross-country skiers, families and all kinds of people who just enjoy good food," Roland Gruber says. The classic dish here is typical Engadin sausage with South Tyrol sauerkraut and bacon dumplings. "Our idea is to work with the best producers in the region or elsewhere in Switzerland. Good food, a delicious wine and to finish off, a fine fruit brandy or a grappa. That's us, that's the Spinas."

The original HUGO



As mixed by the
cocktail's inventor,
Roland "AK" Gruber



150 ml
Prosecco
(dry)



2 cl
lemon balm
syrup



mineral
water



fresh
peppermint
leaves



ice cubes

"I landed here by chance," he says. The veteran restaurateur moved around between different venues in Switzerland for 12 years before settling in the Engadin with his wife, Gabriella, and children, Erik and Livia. That was in 2016, when the owners of the Chesa Salis in Bever entrusted him with the secluded restaurant and appointed him manager. The Spinas's success proved them right – and also speaks for the trust they put in Gruber. "We enjoy a lot of freedom, which we really appreciate and make use of in our daily work," AK says. But first of all, let's step inside.

A lively and colourful history

The first written record of this secluded building serving as a hostelry at the far end of the valley dates from 1876. The boom came 23 years later, in October 1899, when work began on construction of the Albula railway tunnel. Back then, Spinas was home to up to 1,300 foreign labourers, mostly Italian: lodged in cramped huts deep in the forest, they lived on dried sausages and pasta – and plenty of booze, apparently. A contemporary account reports how the local country policeman had to expect the worst when he visited the inn. "After closing time, to be on the safe side, he walked out of the inn backwards," wrote one of the engineers at the time. The latter also made a point of stressing how the greatest commotion erupted in the inns the moment the engineers arrived.

Major commotions are no longer the order of the day in Spinas, but things still get lively when walkers and cross-country skiers arrive at the same time for lunch. Or in the evening, when a Rhaetian Railway train stops on request. Soon afterwards, a convivial buzz of conversation fills the two dining rooms, and the unmistakable aroma of melted cheese hangs in the air in the fondue parlour. At such moments, it is well worth having a table booked in advance.



While snowflakes float in the dry winter air outside, indoors it's warm and cosy.

As soon as guests take a seat, the commotion gives way to eager anticipation for the gastronomic delights to come. For the menu and the wine list, AK and his team have blended the charm and specialities of South Tyrol with the magical power of the Engadin. To achieve this, they take ingredients from regional alpine cuisine – which are pretty much the same in both mountain regions – and make them into fresh, seasonal dishes that defy national boundaries. The team also enjoys experimenting with new flavours and conjuring fresh creations. “Except for things like Röstli: our Swiss guests don’t appreciate it if we try anything fancy,” AK says with a smile. Even if you can order Röstli just about everywhere, taking it off the menu is virtually taboo, he says. AK runs his fingers through his flowing grey beard and says in a hushed voice: “Believe me, I’ve tried...”

The good old-fashioned Röstli here is actually very good. But that is not what draws the growing number of foodies who make the pilgrimage to the idyllic Val Bever: rather, the fine nuances of the imaginative and skilful Spinas cuisine based on carefully selected ingredients from the region. Guests certainly have to make an effort to come here: there is no car access, so the only way to the Gasthaus Spinas is on foot, on cross-country skis, in a horse-drawn sleigh or by train. “We even have our very own station!” AK says, proudly. He has fitted work schedules around the Rhaetian Railway timetable.

Before coming to the Engadin, Roland Gruber had gained a variety of experience – also in his previous career in business. He used to run a bar in the South Tyrol called the “SanZeno”, and it was here that he invented the Hugo: a cocktail made with Prosecco, lemon balm syrup and fresh mint, launched in 2005 and subsequently a big success, especially in German-speaking regions. “Some guests come to the Spinas just because of that,” AK says. And hardly a day goes by

From the
hundred-year
old bowling
alley to shared
fondues,
a convivial
atmosphere is
guaranteed.

without someone talking to him about the cult cocktail. Even in the depths of the Val Bever winter, people regularly order Hugos. “Of course that makes me proud, but I don’t go in for all the hype,” he says. “The whole thing was never meant to be anything serious, but for the past 15 years the story has been following me around!” It has also brought him wealth – but only a wealth of stories and experiences. Recently, a guest even came from Paris specially because of the drink. Such encounters are gratifying – but that’s the end of the story, he says.

The draws: nature, cuisine and a warm welcome

With this important signature cocktail on the drinks list, it is hardly surprising that the Spinas produces and sells its own home-made lemon balm syrup, along with jams and Swiss stone pine syrup – all in this idyllic alpine setting, 1,818 metres above sea level. “My Hugo has never been anywhere near elderflower syrup and never will. I remain totally stubborn about that,” AK says with a smile. After all, it is the lemon balm syrup that gives the drink its unique harmony, which so delights guests.

Visitors also feel a sense of harmony when they sleep in one of the 12 small guest rooms, decorated and furnished with charming simplicity. Bathrooms are shared, as befits mountain accommodation. AK is delighted that more and visitors and repeat guests choose to stay for longer. “Anyone who stays for more than a week comes for the natural setting, but also for the cuisine and the hospitality,” he says with conviction. They also come for the tranquillity. As soon as the last train has departed, all you can hear deep in the Val Bever is the dreaming of the snow-covered trees under the glittering stars.



Drink the original Hugo

Your host: Roland “AK” Gruber,
Gasthaus Spinas, Val Bever,
7502 Bever, +41 81 851 19 20
spinasbever.ch



Spinas: a haven of hospitality and cosy cheer in the heart of the snow-covered landscape.

A valley to savour

Gastronomic flights of fancy



Fondue under a star-filled sky

Champfèr – Guests can enjoy a delicious fondue and sparkling champagne under a glittering star-filled sky – without a shiver! The exclusive experience is on offer at the pop-up restaurant “RSRV Cheese & Champagne” (pronounced: Réserve) on the terrace of the Hotel Giardino Mountain. A transparent dome covers the dining tables and allows a view of the night-time landscape. Advance booking strongly advised. engadin.ch/giardinohotels/en

The pop-up restaurant promises an original dining experience.

Photo left: By kind permission / Photo right: kronenhof.com

Restaurants to suit all tastes

St. Moritz and the Engadin are known internationally as a gourmet destination: the region is home to a wide variety of restaurants that serve a mouth-watering range of superb cuisine.

1 Hotel Castell

Zuoz – Unpretentious cuisine inspired by alpine traditions. hotelcastell.ch

2 Chesa Stüva Colani

Madulain – Original dishes and an intimate ambience. hotelchesacolani.com

3 Hotel Gasthaus Krone

La Punt Chamues-ch – Chef Andreas Martin is known for his 4-course “Swiss stone pine” menu. krone-la-punt.ch

4 La Padella, Hotel Donatz

Samedan – Seasonal dishes and meat specialities made with the finest Angus beef from Engadin mountain cattle. hoteldonatz.ch

5 Kronenstübli gourmet restaurant

Pontresina – Selected delicacies from Italian-Mediterranean and French cuisine. kronenhof.com



6 Gianottis Wilderei

Pontresina – Exquisite meat and fish dishes served direct from the grill in the middle of the room. gianottis.ch

7 St. Moritz

St. Moritz is renowned for its superb and diverse cuisine: a tenth of all restaurants have been awarded a gourmet label! engadin.ch/st-moritz

8 Ecco St. Moritz

Champfèr – This opulent and fashionable restaurant fully deserves its two Michelin stars. giardino-mountain.ch

9 Restaurant Murtaröl

Plaun da Lej – The fish and seafood dishes, especially, have given this restaurant on the shore of Lake Sils a superb reputation. plaundalej.ch

10 Kuhstall

Sils Maria – In summer, the “cattle shed” really does house cows; in winter, it serves imaginative cuisine and fine wines. corvatsch.ch

11 Arvenstube, Hotel Edelweiss

Sils Maria – Local and international cuisine served in a cosy, pine-panelled dining room. hotel-edelweiss.ch

12 Ristorante Bellavista

Maloja – Home-made pasta and other traditional Italian dishes. ristorante-bellavista.ch



A world of flavours

Further information on gourmet restaurants at engadin.ch/gourmet-restaurants/en



Engadin. *Skiing* *Heavenly runs* *at every turn.*

www.engadin.ch



Engadin. *What mountains, what lakes, what light.*

Ski pass for CHF 45 per overnight stay.
Further information:
engadin.ch/sleep-ski



Legacy of the patissiers

In the 17th Century, the Engadin was a tough place to live, whose inhabitants struggled to make a living from the bare soil. A large number emigrated – including many to Venice, where they earned a living as patissiers, opened coffee houses, brewed beer and made chocolate. They never forgot their homeland, however, and many returned to the Engadin wealthy. The region consequently acquired palatial buildings that dominate the valley to this day – such as the Lyceum Alpinum in Zuoz and what is now the Hotel Margna in Sils Baselgia.

engadin.ch/sweet-empire



Sweet temptations

The Engadin's many patisseries sell hand-made chocolates, "pear bread", walnut cake and more.

For night owls

After sunset, the Engadin reveals sparkling new attractions.

engadin.ch/nightlife



Walther Bar, Pontresina
Surrounded by works of art, guests enjoy live piano music, an attractive choice of drinks and fine cigars.



Bar «Püf», Silvaplana
“Püf” is Romansh for “owl” – the perfect name for this popular nightspot with a cosy ambience and cool vibe.



Hotel Castell, Zuoz
Friday night is film night at the Hotel Castell in Zuoz, with a programme of hand-picked gems. After screenings, everyone gathers in the stylish Red Bar, designed by the artist Pipplotti Rist.

Gastronomic treat in the open air

Anyone who does not mind the cold, loves a fondue but prefers to not to fill the air at home with the aroma of melted cheese can enjoy a gastronomic outdoor adventure with a difference: a fresh-air fondue. The requirements: warm clothing, a good-quality burner and a hearty appetite for a meal to remember!

Alpine herb liqueur

Musk milfoil is an alpine plant that grows between altitudes of 1,700 and 2,300 metres and is known in Romansh as “Iva”. People in the Engadin use the plant's white flowers – also regarded as a cure for upset stomach – to make a clear, bittersweet herbal liqueur, and have probably done so since at least the 18th Century. This Iva liqueur is best served neat, on ice.

Who invented it?

The origin of the Graubünden walnut cake, one of the best-known and most popular Swiss cakes, is the subject of many stories – and no fewer than three families claim to have invented it. By the time you are enjoying your first mouthful of buttery pastry, caramel and walnuts, however, the question of who created this heavenly delicacy seems academic.



For sun worshippers

What would a day in the snow be without a relaxing break in the winter sun? In addition to the mountain restaurants in the ski areas, there are many lovely spots at the foot of the mountains for soaking up the sun: for example, in the garden of the Bar Cetto in Sils Maria, on the wooden terrace of the Hotel Castell in Zuoz or at Sils's Beach Club on the shores of Lake Silvaplana.

engadin.ch/sun-terraces

A high-altitude mountain landscape with a sea of clouds. In the foreground, a cable car is suspended from thick cables, moving across the frame. The background shows a vast expanse of white clouds under a soft, hazy sky. The overall tone is serene and majestic.

Cultura

For something to be possible,
you have to keep attempting
the impossible.

HERMANN HESSE (1877–1962)



Swiss pioneering spirit aims high

The combination was unique: pioneering entrepreneurs ahead of their time, talented engineers who dreamed up groundbreaking technology, and sufficient financial means. Together, these enabled Switzerland to take a trailblazing role in the construction of innovative new transport systems.

- 1847** The first fully Swiss railway line links Zurich and Baden. It acquires its nickname of Spanisch-Brötli-Bahn ("Spanish bun railway") from the sweet pastries, baked in Baden, that it transports for the well-to-do of Zurich.
- 1866** The world's first passenger cable car goes aloft near Schaffhausen. It serves to carry turbine attendants across the Rhine.
- 1871** Europe's first cog railway carries tourists from Vitznau up the Rigi.
- 1882** The opening of the Gotthard railway creates a comfortable link between southern and northern Europe and makes Switzerland's pioneering spirit world-famous.

- 1886** An electric tram carries guests between St. Moritz Bad and St. Moritz Dorf for the first time.
- 1889** The first section of the narrow-gauge railway between Landquart and Davos opens.
- 1889** The world's steepest cog railway, the Pilatus Railway, scales the Pilatus for the first time.
- 1903** Construction of the Albula tunnel links the Engadin to the Rhaetian Railway network.
- 1907** The first funicular in the Upper Engadin opens, taking visitors up to Muottas Muragl.
- 1928** The world's first funicular designed purely for winter sports is built for the Winter Olympics in St. Moritz.
- 1934** The world's first ski lift, with a J-shaped bar, goes into action in Davos. Just a year later, St. Moritz also inaugurates a drag lift.
- 1944** Switzerland's first chairlift enters operation at the Jochpass.
- 1971** The Furtschellas cable car is founded. It celebrates its 50th anniversary in winter 2021/22.

Floating in heaven

Switzerland's cable cars, with their timeless charm, feel as if they have always been part of the landscape. But inspiration, innovation and pioneering spirit were needed before the cabins could take to the skies.

The Furtschellas cable car, officially called Sils-Maria-Prasüra, has run since 1972.

Photo: Kulturarchiv Obereggen

Text **STEPHANIE ELMER**

Dad's big hands on my shoulders warmed them up and made me forget my cold toes in my heavy ski boots for a while. I lay my forehead against the window until the glass misted up and I could trace stars and dots on it. I imagined the cable car was a magic ship. A pitching, swaying ship that would simply carry on floating beyond the summit station, past the Furtschellas cliffs, on and on and on. The sea of white cloud below, the blue sky above – and us in between, light as a feather.

Pioneering spirit

In former times, mountains were seen as rocky monsters to be avoided. The idea of floating up or over them was unimaginable – not only for technical reasons. With the Age of Enlightenment in the 18th Century, this perception changed gradually: fear gave way to awe. Now admired for their beauty, the Alps became a magnet for mountaineers in search of adventure and glory, as well as for travellers eager to marvel at the majesty of these wonders of nature. From the mid-19th Century, the Swiss Alps became the most-visited travel destination in Europe.

The arrival of the travellers prompted a desire within Switzerland for greater mobility and prosperity. New railways made remote valleys accessible and carried day-trippers up to mountaintops. By the time the Gotthard railway line opened in 1882, Switzerland's pioneering

spirit was world-famous. The crossing through the Alps not only connected German-speaking Switzerland with the Italian-speaking canton of Ticino, but effectively linked northern Europe with India – as the historian Joseph Jung argues in his book “Das Laboratorium des Fortschritts. Die Schweiz im 19. Jahrhundert” (“The laboratory of progress: Switzerland in the 19th Century”).

In hindsight, we can say that construction of the Gotthard railway also marked the birth of the Rhaetian Railway. When the Gotthard line opened, the volume of traffic transiting through Graubünden collapsed overnight, and the mountain canton plunged into an economic depression. A visitor from the Netherlands, Willem Jan Holsboer, believed that only construction of a railway could help the region out of stagnation.

Source: “Die Schweiz im 19. Jahrhundert” by Joseph Jung / “Bahnvisionen im Engadin” by Marco Jehli et al. / Photo: By kind permission



The Piz Nair cable car, probably during its first winter season 1955/56. To the right, the old summit station of the Corviglia funicular.

Skywards

Funiculars, cable cars, gondolas: the Engadin has many ingenious installations that carry visitors quickly, safely and comfortably from the valley up to the snowy summits. Here is a selection of the best-known facilities, including dates and hours of operation.

Piz Lagalb, 2,893 m

First ascent: 09.00 / 08.30
Last ascent: 16.00 / 16.30
daily, every 10 minutes,
from 23 Dec 20
to 5 Feb 21 /
6 Feb to 11 Apr 21



Diavolezza/Lagalb

This ski area is heaven for experienced skiers and freeride enthusiasts. As well as demanding pistes and fabulous views, it offers a spectacular glacier run.

Bernina Diavolezza

First ascent: 08.40 (1st half of season) / 08.00 (2nd half of season)
Last ascent: 16.20 / 17.00
daily, every 20 minutes,
from 23 Dec 20 to 5 Feb 21 /
6 Feb to 2 May 2021

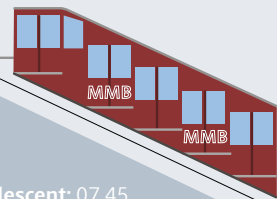


Diavolezza, 2,978 m

Bernina Lagalb

Muottas Muragl, 2,456 m

First ascent/descent: 07.45
Last ascent/descent: 23.00
daily, every 30 minutes,
from 19 Dec 20 to 5 Apr 21



Muottas Muragl

A historical funicular carries visitors to one of the finest vantage points in the Engadin.

First ascent: 07.50
Last ascent: 16.30
First descent: 08.00
Last descent: 17.00
daily, every 10 minutes /
from 13.00 every 15 minutes,
from 28 Nov 20 to 5 Apr 21

St. Moritz Bad

Signal, 2,130 m



Punt Muragl, base station

Furtschellas, 2,312 m



Piz Nair, 3,057 m



First ascent: 08.45
Last ascent: 15.45
First descent: 09.00
Last descent: 16.30
daily, every 15 minutes,
from 19 Dec 20 to 5 Apr 21

First ascent: 08.15
Last ascent: 16.00 / 16.15
daily, every 15 minutes,
from 23 Dec 20 to 5 Feb 21 /
6 Feb to 11 Apr 21

Corvatsch

The Corvatsch is one giant playground for winter sports enthusiasts of all tastes. The ideal topography promises superb snow conditions until the end of April.

First ascent: 08.20
Last ascent: 16.00 / 16.20
daily, every 20 minutes,
from 28 Nov 20 to
5 Feb 21 / 6 Feb to
25 Apr 21



First ascent: 08.15
Last ascent: 16.00
Last descent: 17.00
daily, every 15 minutes,
from 23 Dec 20 to 11 Apr 21

Corviglia, 2,486 m

First ascent: 07.45
Last ascent: 17.00
First descent: 08.05
Last descent: 17.05
daily, every 15 minutes,
from 28 Nov 20 to 27 Mar 21

Corviglia

The mountain on St. Moritz's doorstep has twice served as a Winter Olympics venue; the Alpine World Ski Championships have taken place on its steep slopes no fewer than five times.

Marguns, 2,279 m

First ascent: 07.45
Last ascent: 16.30
Last descent: 17.00
daily, from 28 Nov 20
to 5 Apr 21





Thanks to his initiative, the first section of the new narrow-gauge railway went into operation in 1889: the line from Landquart to Davos. Over the following years, the rail network was continually extended throughout the “canton of 150 valleys”. The first journey from Landquart to St. Moritz in 1904 took 12 hours – not really

faster than with horses, but substantially more comfortable.

Ever higher

At the same time as the railways were developing rapidly in the second half of the 19th Century, engineers were searching for new ways to negotiate major climbs via the shortest possible route.

Photo: Dokumentationsbibliothek St. Moritz, Andreas Pedretti

The motto of the day: ever further, ever higher. During these decades, pioneers invented the technology behind the cog railway and the funicular railway, for example – and put these into operation in grand style.

These successes gave wings to attempts to carry passengers through the air – and

The funicular sleigh led from Corviglia to the plateau below the Piz Nair Pitchen; it was inaugurated in 1937.



SPORTS AND FASHION – TRADITION AND QUALITY

GIOVANOLI SPORT & MODA • SILS • WWW.GIOVANOLI-SILS.CH

in 1866, the world's first passenger cable car went into operation. Located by the Rhine Falls near the Swiss town of Schaffhausen, this installation carried turbine attendants across the river to their workplace. In 1955, the first cable car in the Upper Engadin took to the skies. Gliding from Corviglia up to the Piz Nair, this was the first cable car open to the public to break the 3,000-metre altitude barrier.

Today, there are more than 1,700 cable car facilities throughout Switzerland; if the minor (and often nerve-tingling) installations are included, the total comes to more than 3,000. Many of these cableways are primarily for tourism; many, however, are also lifelines for precipitous and remote locations that are otherwise inaccessible. Together, these facilities embody a colourful diversity of uses and a remarkable variety of technology, with a fascinating cultural and historical significance. As a result, many are listed in the Swiss Cableway Inventory for

cableways worthy of protection – the first of its kind in the world.

All the cableways, however, whether or not they are listed, tell of countless pioneering deeds that first enabled visitors to glide up to the peaks. Take the Furtschellas cable car, for example: the project was launched in 1971, and its anniversary is now being celebrated.

That was the year that John Lennon's "Imagine" hit the charts worldwide. In Switzerland, women finally won the right to vote in federal elections; in Great Britain, Queen Elisabeth II awarded Agatha Christie the honour of "Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire".

The two cabins of the Furtschellas cable car not only connected permanently the valley with the mountain and the mountain with the valley: they also made Sils a coveted destination for winter sports enthusiasts.

The sounds of these installations have remained the same for nearly five decades. The clanking of the doors as they close; the hum of the cables as the cabin starts moving; the clatter of the rollers as they ride over the supporting towers. "We're flying," a child says, as we glide gently skywards.

Riding high

Cable cars, funiculars and more



From cable car to cheese restaurant

The former cable car in front of the Hotel Steinbock in Pontresina no longer carries visitors up to the Diavolezza, but instead offers gastronomic flights of fancy. The cosy Gondolezza serves Raclettes

and fondues made with delicious cheese from the region, along with a variety of tasty side servings. Adventurous diners can brave the spicy “Devil’s fondue”. gondolezza.ch

The Gondolezza takes cheese lovers to seventh heaven.

Photo left: Hotel Steinbock



Mountain rides

The Engadin’s lifts in figures.

58 lifts transport guests in winter – including cable cars, gondolas, funiculars, chairlifts, T-bars and other drag lifts.

3,303 metres is the altitude of the Corvatsch cable car summit station. That makes it the highest summit station in the whole of the canton of Graubünden! From here, pistes lead via the Corvatsch Glacier down to the valley floor.

Early ride to sunrise

Corviglia – While other people are still snoozing under the duvet or pouring their second cup of coffee at breakfast, early birds are looking forward to a special start to the day. Before the normal official opening time, they ride by cable car up to the 3,057-metre Piz Nair to enjoy the spectacle of the sun’s first rays emerging from behind the mountains and casting a magical light over the waking landscape. At sunrise, precisely, the summit restaurant serves a generous buffet breakfast. Fortified, visitors can then ride back down to the valley in the cable car – or glide down on skis or snowboard. During the winter season 20/21, the early-morning rides take place on the following dates: 31 January, 28 February and 28 March.

engadin.ch/sunrise/en

22 snow grooming machines operate every day on the Corviglia and Muottas Muragl mountains alone, keeping the runs and trails in top shape.

65,000 people can be transported every hour on the Engadin’s cable cars, funiculars and ski lifts.

A look behind the scenes

Corviglia – Skiers witness little of the work that goes on behind the scenes in ski areas. St. Moritz’s local mountain offers groups – on reservation – the chance to see with their own eyes the effort required to ensure carefree skiing for guests. The visit covers everything from the chairlift “garage” to the gondola motor; highlight is the chance for participants to drive a piste grooming machine themselves. mountains.ch



World Heritage on rails

Just like the mountains and lakes, the red carriages of the Rhaetian Railway are an integral feature of the Engadin landscape. A ride on one of trains, meanwhile, is an adventure in itself. The Albula line from Chur to St. Moritz and the Bernina line, which leads through a world of glaciers and snow before heading down to Tirano in Italy, form part of UNESCO World Heritage. engadin.ch/train-rides

Round off the day in style

Visitors who do not manage the early ride to see sunrise can enjoy the “magic hour” at dusk instead.

The best place to make the most of the bewitching Engadin twilight is the Muottas Muragl panoramic restaurant. During a romantic candlelit dinner, guests can gaze along the entire valley and see the sparkling lights of the houses in the villages echo the twinkling stars in the sky.

mountains.ch

Family

**“In dreams, we enter a world
that is entirely our own.”**

ALBUS DUMBLEDORE IN
“HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN”





High school

The region's best-known school, founded more than 100 years ago, overlooks the peaceful village of Zuoz – 1,721 metres above sea level.



Biology lesson at the Lyceum around 1948.

Fresh air for young blood: With construction of the Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz, the founders of the school achieved their goal of giving young people from the lowlands the opportunity to complete their schooling in a pleasant and secluded setting with fresh air to stimulate mind and body. The project all began with a daring

idea: an alpine school providing education at the highest level. The challenge: conjuring it into existence.

The impetus came from the region itself: on 19 September 1896, a group of influential people from the Engadin met in Bever to discuss “the question of founding an educational establishment at a peaceful location in the Engadin.” Long years of research and preparation followed before the construction contract could be awarded in 1902.

The Lyceum opens its doors: On 15 June 1904, the first year at the “Institut Engiadina” began for 22 eager schoolboys. Alongside 10 Swiss boys, another four travelled from America, three from France, three from England and two from Russia.

A school village is born: The school expanded considerably in the 1920s and gained an indoor pool as well as a theatre and concert hall accommodating up to 250 people. During this decade, girls were allowed to study at the Lyceum for the first time – but not yet to board. This only came about in 1991. In addition, the school bought a large area of meadow by the river Inn in 1922 on which to create Europe's highest cricket pitch.

Higher education: Today, children and teenagers of both sexes from about 30 countries study at the school. Among the mountains of the Engadin, they obtain the Swiss Matura, the German Abitur or the “International Baccalaureate” – and learn plenty of lessons in life, too.

Source: “Schulen auf besonnener Höhe” (“Schools on the sunny heights”), by Peter Metz / Photo: Keystone, Photopress-Archiv, Walter Studer

A magical spell on life's journey

Deep in the mountains, a unique place of learning transforms the destiny of youngsters from all over the world.

Text **KARL GRAUHANS**

Harry Potter for Muggles*

Chocolate Frogs, Bertie Bott's Beans and Liquorice Wands – magical sweets on sale in the Hogwarts Express, the train to the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

**Muggle* – the name wizards and witches give to people without magical powers.

Albus Dumbledore – the headmaster of Hogwarts.

Nimbus 2000 – an especially fast flying broomstick, also used for Quidditch, the sport played by witches and wizards.

Sorting Hat – a speaking hat that assigns new arrivals to one of the four houses at the beginning of their first school year.

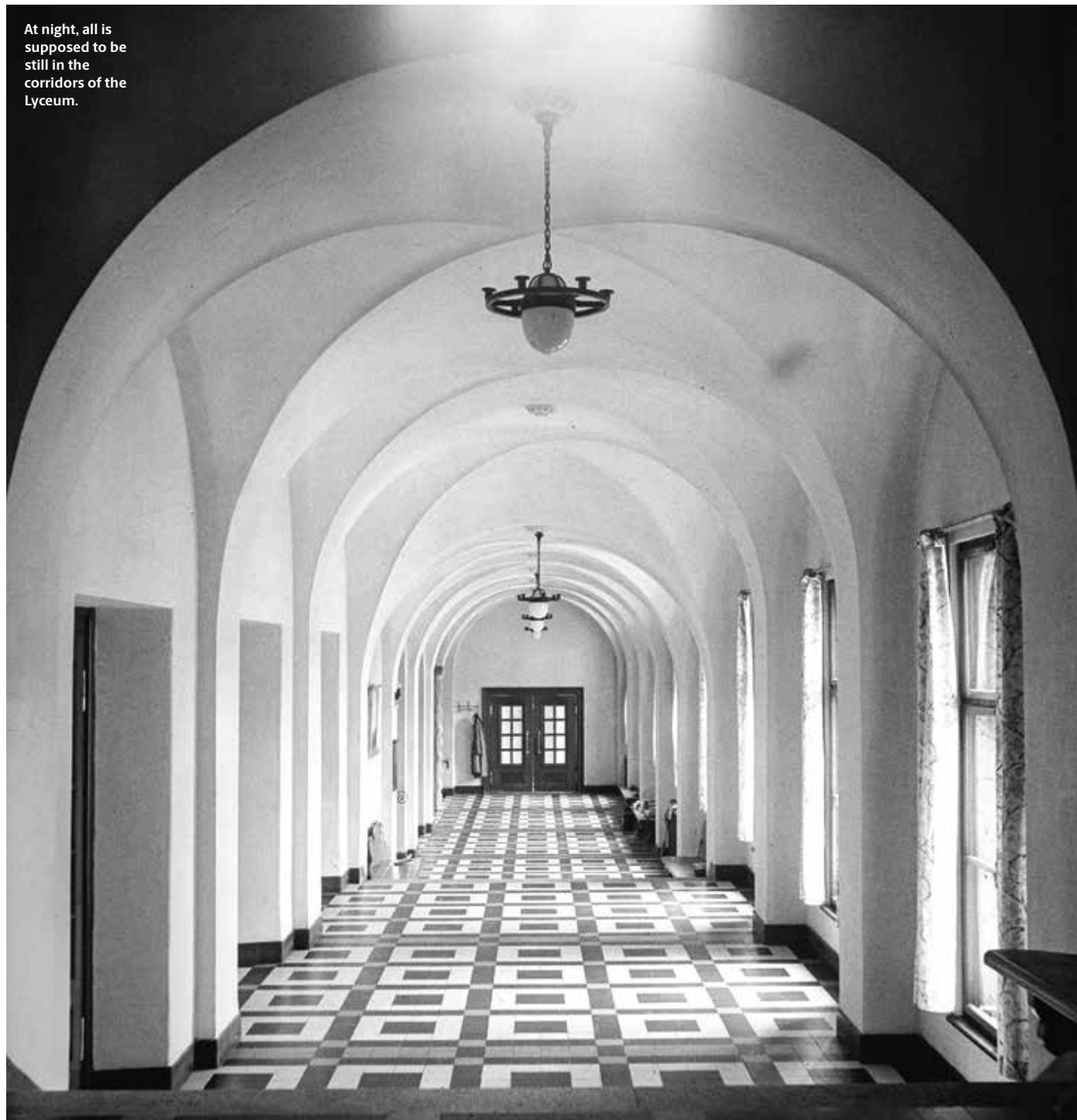
Softly and silently, the owl turns its head and looks down the long valley. Evening is approaching. The air is cool and fresh, filled with the scent of pine; the last rays of sunshine are disappearing up the mountainsides, and all is still.

Suddenly, a deep rumble from the forest disturbs the silence. The trees start to shake; the rattling noise gets louder and louder. The next moment, a train thunders out of the forest and across the white meadow. Powder snow sprays around the red carriages. The iron horse plunges into the next curve with a metallic screech. A couple of sparrows fly up; the owl focuses its gaze and peers into the brightly lit carriage. It is full of youngsters, chattering simultaneously and gesticulating wildly as they hurtle towards their destination. Surely any moment the food trolley will come along and hand out “Chocolate Frogs”, “Bertie Bott's Every Flavour Beans” and “Liquorice Wands”... It is Sunday evening, and the train is bringing the students to the old school.

The “Lyceum Express” brings students to the old school.

Photo: Roberto Molola, Alamy Stock Photo

At night, all is supposed to be still in the corridors of the Lyceum.



Where the world comes together

At Zuoz, the students get off the train and watch as it continues its journey. Up on the slopes above, the imposing buildings of the Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz await. The castle-like campus is visible from far and wide; with its proud clocktower and network of interconnected buildings, impossible to overlook. An impressive sight. What could be going through the minds of students as they look up for the first time at this mighty complex on the mountain? Awe? Excitement? Anxiety? For many of them, the school will become their second home for years.

About two-thirds of the 300-odd students have travelled from distant corners of the world – from the desert strongholds of Arabia, perhaps, or the splendid castles of Russia or the endless expanses of the Amazon. In Zuoz, they meet students from the valley, who may never have left this magical place: an explosive mix of Muggles and initiates that, especially at the start of their schooldays, can lead to conflicts and tears.

Over the years, however, most of the friction is resolved and the students form sworn friendships in groups that transcend all national

boundaries. As Albus Dumbledore says: “We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.” After all, the students are all here for a simple reason: to prepare for life and to acquire skills and tricks that will help them on their journey. So they learn foreign languages, study the laws of nature and, through

all kinds of competitions, train mind and body for success. They also explore the great dramas of world history through performances at the school’s in-house theatre, and use all the latest technology to discover the knowledge that rules the world.

Mens sana in corpore sano

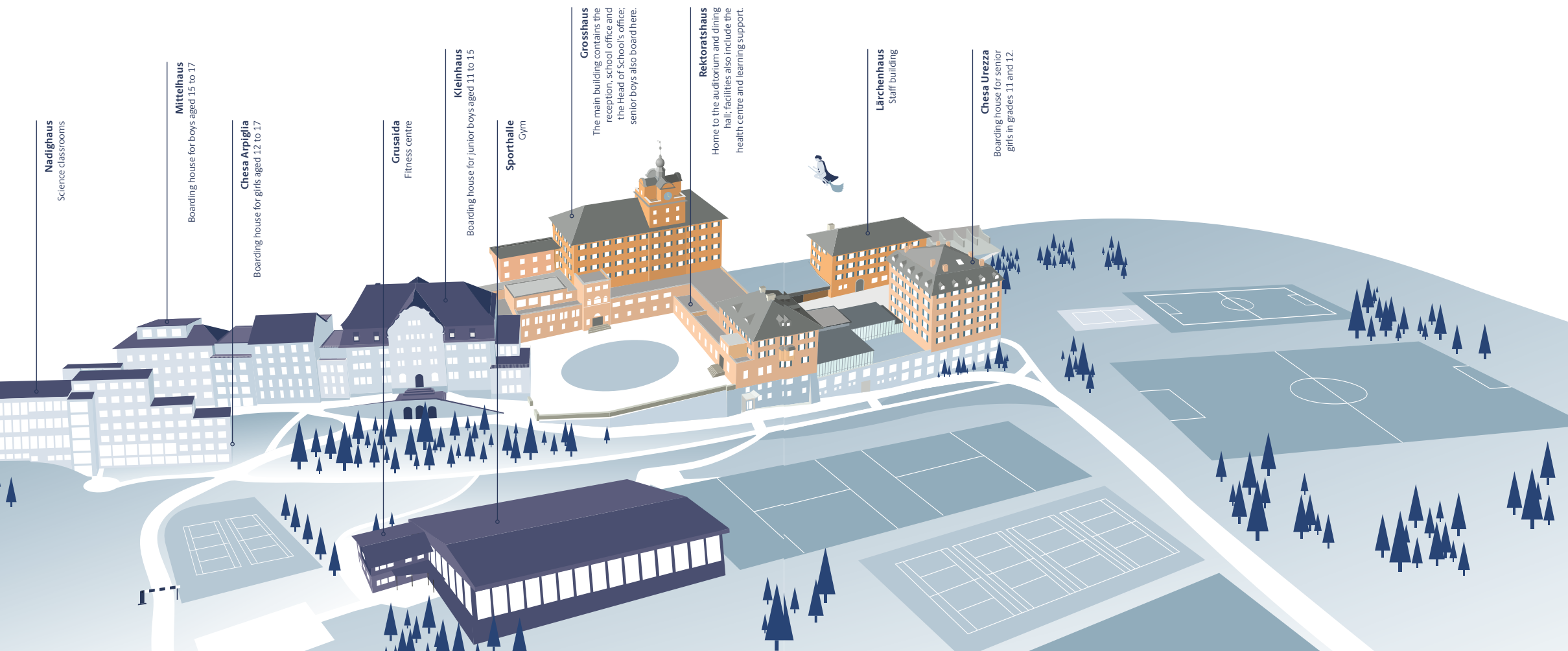
After long hours in the library, the students head for the schools’ numerous sports facilities: a healthy mind requires a healthy body. They are introduced to the secrets of Eton Fives, for example, a special game played only at select schools. It is tempting to want to come along with a nippy Nimbus 2000 broomstick: after all, in Eton Fives a small ball flies around wildly, and the players have to

“We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.”

Photo: Keystone, Photopress-Archiv, Walter Studer

hit it with special gloves. This is a very fast game that requires quick reactions, stamina and a sense of fair play. Luckily the rules are relatively simple, so that even a perplexed newcomer quickly figures out how the game works, who wins and what tricks help.

One aspect of the game, however, remains a mystery to many students, even to the end of their schooldays: the board by the lower Eton Fives courts in Zuoz. It shows a clock with a bone and an arrow for hands, which together show the time of 1.25 pm. Only the more inquisitive children find out during their schooldays what the board is all about: this is an affectionate tribute to two legendary Zuoz teachers that students nicknamed Bone and (Arrow) Stork, who used to play a game of Eton Fives every day at 1.25 pm.



The houses

After the first, long day at school, local boys and girls head back to their familiar home, but international students remain in the school's spacious premises, where they board in different houses. Instead of a "Sorting Hat" to assign students to the different houses, the lady in the school office performs the task, grouping the youngsters by age and sex. Boys are sent to the Kleinhaus, Mittelhaus or Grosshaus, girls to the Chesa Urezza and Chesa Arpiglia.

When they arrive, they meet their House Captain, a student who represents house members and who plays an important role in the smooth running of boarding school life. He or she reminds the newcomers that visiting other houses is forbidden – so it is important

they should not get caught trying to do so. Professor dormiens nunquam titillandus. No doubt there have been students who have wished they could have a cloak that would make them invisible. Like the student who wanted to abseil from a window using an extendable dog lead, although he really needed something rather stronger than the leash for the little dog it was originally intended for. A secret underground passageway, through which one could sneak unidentified into another house, would also be most welcome – but unfortunately this was omitted during construction.

Instead there is the Red Corridor, in which spirits of the past live on. Its walls are adorned with photographs of successful sports teams: pictures that extend back to the earliest days of the Lyceum. These include legendary images such as the group photos from the Olympic winter of 1928, when Lyceum ice hockey wizards were able to play with Swedish and other Olympic teams and pose with them. It can happen that that these photographs get swapped, as if by magic – replaced by shots of current students getting up to mischief in period style.

The Spirit of Zuoz

Time passes quickly; weeks become years. The newcomers grow into young adults. They have honed their academic, creative and sporting wizardry; now they may collect their certificates and return home. They will set off back into the world with more than just pure knowledge. What they carry with them, when they board the red train again and travel through beautiful landscapes into their future, is “The Spirit of Zuoz”. This approach to life imbues students’ entire schooling and becomes second nature to them. It is a noble spirit, shaped by five key concepts: Self-Discipline, Commitment, Learning for Life, Fair Play and Cosmopolitanism.

After their departure, the Lyceum Alpinum will await the next newcomers as it continues to pursue its proud vocation, high in the mountains.



Experience the Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz

The Lyceum Alpinum opens its doors and admits visitors for public theatre performances at the Zuoz Globe.

lyceum-alpinum.ch → Activities → Theatre & Zuoz Globe

Eton Fives works a little like Quidditch: two teams pursue a small ball as it hurtles around a defined space (above).

The Zuoz Globe is a beautiful theatre at the school used for traditional performances of Shakespeare (below).



Photo: Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz

Family-friendly

Adventures for all the family

1.★
Travel to unfamiliar worlds in the books at the Biblioteca Engiadinaisa.

2.★
Look for the Forbidden Forest’s magical creatures in the Taiswald.

3.★
Instead of Chocoballs from Honeydukes, try Silserkugeln (“Sils balls”) from the Furnaria Grond.

4.★
Feel free as a bird, like Harry on his broomstick, high up in the Serlas climbing hall.

5.★
Travel on the Rhaetian Railway and imagine you’re on the Hogwarts Express.

6.★
Search for animal tracks in the snow and discover the valley’s wild side.

On the trail of Harry Potter in the Engadin

You do not have to travel to Hogwarts to experience something magical: the Engadin, too, has spellbinding surprises in store. No speaking books or flying broomsticks – but you will certainly find bewitching landscapes and enchanting villages.



Winter walks with a pushchair

Going for a walk is a delightful activity for all the family at any time of year – including winter. Even if young children cannot manage the outing on their own two feet, families can still enjoy the stroll through the snowy landscape together: the Engadin has plenty of winter walking paths that are suitable for pushchairs, too. The path across frozen Lake St.Moritz, especially, is a real highlight – and as it is flat, requires no great effort. It is important, however, to heed directions on site about venturing on to the ice. Families who are ready to tackle more of a climb will enjoy the walk up to the frozen Läggh da Cavloc.

engadin.ch/en/winter-hiking

Action on screen

Sils – Every day at 5 pm, the lights go down in the children’s cinema at the Hotel Waldhaus in Sils as the assembled kids settle down for the afternoon’s screening. The selected new releases and classics take the children to new worlds and into thrilling adventures – all from the comfort of their cinema seats. No break in the action, then, following the day’s fun up on the pistes. Adults, meanwhile, can linger over a leisurely drink at the bar, a gentle prelude to an evening’s relaxation.

waldhaus-sils.ch/en/kinder



2 resorts

in the Engadin – Zuoz and Pontresina – have been awarded the “Family Destination” quality label. Parents and children alike are in especially good hands here: many of the facilities and offers are geared specifically to the needs of families.

Thrills, fun and tricks at ski school

Learning to ski is fun – especially when it’s with the help of a professional instructor. The ski areas of the Engadin are home to a variety of ski schools. Here, youngsters can enjoy their first experiences on skis or a snowboard – or improve their skills and learn new tricks.

engadin.ch/skischool



Space for creativity

Pontresina – Explore your creativity, give your imagination free rein, experiment with new materials: the Creative Box offers the space and means to do all this and much more. The studio is open to the public and well-equipped with colours, utensils and all conceivable materials. Here, visitors of all ages can playfully find new ways to express themselves, create art to their hearts’ content – and perhaps even discover the odd hidden talent.

plattnerundplattner.ch/creative-box

Engadin. *Winter Hiking* *Stepping softly* *through nature.*

www.engadin.ch



Engadin. *What mountains, what lakes, what light.*

Free use of public transport for
guests who stay more than one night.
Further information:
engadin.ch/ov-inklusive-winter



Adventure pools **for all ages**

Alongside vast quantities of snow and ice, the valley offers a variety of opportunities to enjoy the element of water in its warmer, fluid form. Water slides, diving boards and paddling pools delight the youngsters, while saunas, steam baths, whirlpool baths and a choice of massage treatments promise blissful relaxation for adults.

engadin.ch/en/spa-pools



Playground in the snow

Muottas Muragl – From the gentle baby swing to the climbing castle with hidden slide and secret passageway, the outdoor play area up on this panoramic vantage point welcomes children in winter, too, offering a delightful venue for fun and adventures. While the kids play in the snow, adults can take a seat in one of the comfy wicker beach chairs, relax and soak up the rays of the winter sun.

mountains.ch



Ring the changes

Maloja – Forwards, backwards, round and round: snowtubing promises a different ride down the slope every time. The inflatable ring looks like something you might expect to see in a water park rather than on a toboggan-style run in the snow. Trying to steer the ring is futile, but that is all part of the fun – and despite the lack of control, snowtubing isn't dangerous at all on the specially designated run.

engadin.ch/tobogganing



More tobogganing fun

Sils toboggan run

From the Hotel Waldhaus through the snow-covered God Laret forest to the shore of Lake Sils.

Madulain toboggan run

An hour's walk up for a thrilling ride down.

Ski passes for the whole family

With the Family Pass, families enjoy discounted rates for ski lifts throughout the region. Children under the age of 6, accompanied by an adult, ride free of charge in many places.

snow-deal.ch

The best fun and games in the snow

Make the most of the perfect play material!



Making snow angels

Find an area of untouched snow, lie on your back, and move your arms and legs to create the wings and cloak of an angel.



Building snowcastles

Who said sandpit toys are only for playing with sand? You can make magnificent castles and other creations with snow, too.



Sledging thrills

Even the smallest slope is enough to make your own sledge run. No sledge? Just slide down on the seat of your trousers!



Snowball contest

Who can throw a snowball the farthest? Before starting, make sure you only throw where there aren't any people – or anything breakable!

Pinboard

A gallery of ideas for wonderful
winter holidays in the Engadin.

CONTENTS

116	<i>How to reach the Engadin</i> Travel in comfort by train or car.
118	<i>The resorts</i> An overview.
122	<i>Activities</i> Even more winter fun.
124	<i>Culture</i> Art and architectural highlights.
126	<i>Restaurants</i> From alpine delicacies to exquisite fish.
128	<i>Shopping</i> Hand-made gifts, useful accessories and more.
130	<i>Accommodation</i> From campsites to 5-star hotels.
132	<i>Wellness</i> A long tradition of bathing and relaxation.
134	<i>Events</i> Sports, music, gastronomy and more.
138	<i>Summer preview</i> From white to green: a magical transformation.
146	<i>Heart of the action</i> The Engadin in Europe.

How to reach the Engadin



Passengers enjoy magnificent views along the train journey.

By train

The red trains of the Rhaetian Railway follow a spectacular route through the mountains on their way to the Engadin, twisting along narrow valleys, slipping through countless tunnels and gliding across bridges and viaducts that are masterpieces of engineering. The ride from Landquart (via Davos) or Chur (via Thusis) is a two-hour adventure to rival any journey in the world. In 2008, the Albula and Bernina lines became a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Further information
See travel times, stops and journey durations for the Rhaetian Railway at engadin.ch/get-here

Photo left: swiss-image.ch, Andrea Badrutt



The Julier Pass stays open also in winter.

By car

Motorists can look forward to a dramatic drive to the Engadin. The various pass roads – via the Ofen Pass, Julier Pass, Maloja Pass or Bernina Pass – promise plenty of twists and turns along with superb views. Alternatively motorists can skip the pass roads by using the car transporter rail service from the Prättigau (Selfranga) through the Vereina tunnel to the Engadin (Sagliains). The ride takes just 18 minutes; at busy times, a shuttle departs every 30 minutes.

Further information
See details of current traffic conditions in the Engadin and info on car shuttle waiting times at engadin.ch/get-here

The resorts



The Chiesa Bianca in Maloja.



Maloja

Located at the Maloja Pass, border with Italian-speaking Switzerland, Maloja is the starting point for the Engadin Skimarathon. The ideal holiday destination for Nordic skiers, nature lovers and families, it has attracted many world-famous artists.



Sils

Idyllically set between frozen Lake Sils and Lake Silvaplana at the entrance to the Val Fex, Sils casts a spell on alpine skiers, snowboarders, cross-country skiers and winter walkers alike. Ice fishing and snow-kiting enthusiasts also enjoy superb conditions.



Silvaplana

Situated in the heart of the Upper Engadin lake plateau at the foot of the Corvatsch, Silvaplana is a lively and trend-setting resort, a paradise for alpine and Nordic skiers, snowboarders and snowkiters.



St. Moritz at twilight.



St. Moritz

The mountain resort known for its classy metropolitan lifestyle also offers a variety of unusual sports, cultural attractions and world-class events. It was here that winter tourism was invented, and to this day no other resort celebrates it in such style.



Celerina

The sunny village, with its typical Engadin houses and distinctive roofless church tower of San Gian, is linked by gondola to the world-famous ski area of the Corviglia. Cross-country skiers can access the Engadin's extensive trail network direct from Celerina.



Pontresina

Located at the foot of the Bernina massif, with superb views of the highest peaks of the Eastern Alps, the village is a dream destination for families, nature lovers, winter sports enthusiasts and gourmets.



The church in Samedan dates from the 17th Century.



Samedan

The capital of the Upper Engadin is a picturesque town with magnificent historical Engadin houses. Special attractions include the three-storey Mineral Baths & Spa, the stylish cross-country ski centre and the children’s ski area above the town.



Bever

The sleepy Engadin village at the entrance to the Val Bever offers an idyllic holiday destination for the whole family. Guests of all ages are charmed by the pure tranquillity and the pristine natural beauty.



La Punt Chamues-ch

The palatial houses built by patricians long ago tell of centuries of civic pride. The village enjoys an idyllic setting by the river Inn at the foot of the Albula Pass road, closed in winter to offer a wild toboggan run.



Traditional Engadin houses in Madulain.



Madulain

The smallest village in the Upper Engadin is a paradise for cross-country skiers and winter walkers: an enchanting haven for all seeking tranquillity.



Zuoz

With its well-preserved historical core, Zuoz is known as one of the Engadin’s prettiest villages, home to a child-friendly ski area and scenic cross-country ski trails.



S-chanf

Long ago, mule drivers would stop at this village; today, racers in the Engadin Skimarathon cross the finish line here, and families enjoy the peaceful winter world.

More info?
In the guides to the municipalities or online at engadin.ch/en/resorts



1



2



3



4



5



6

Photo 3: Lukas Pitsch, proimagehub.ch / Photo 5: Nick Nussbaum

Even more winter activities

1 Pure adrenalin in the snowparks

Corvatsch/Corviglia – Flips, grabs and drops: anyone whose heart races at the mention of the words will enjoy the Corviglia and Corvatsch snowparks, two giant playgrounds for skiers and snowboarders who wish to hone their freestyle skills. engadin.ch/crowland, corvatsch.ch

2 Toboggan runs in the Engadin

As soon as the first snow has settled, pass roads and footpaths turn into white snow trails that offer fun tobogganing. Alongside plenty of short rides and leisurely routes, the Engadin has six toboggan runs that promise high thrills – such as the 4.2-kilometre descent at Muottas Muragl, from the funicular summit station down to the valley. engadin.ch/tobogganing

3 Snowkiting

Silvaplana/Pontresina – In winter, skiers and snowboarders can enjoy the exhilarating sensation of gliding across frozen lakes pulled by a kite. Lake Silvaplana and the Lago Bianco, with their thick layer of ice, topping of snow and consistently strong winds, offer ideal conditions. engadin.ch/snowkiting

Nordic skiing: across the frozen lakes

By mid-winter, several centimetres of ice and a smooth layer of snow cover the big Engadin lakes: perfect conditions for exploring the expansive, flat valley floor on cross-country skis. The trail across Lake Sils, Lake Silvaplana and Lake Champfèr measures 12 kilometres, and forms part of the famous Engadin Skimarathon route. engadin.ch/cross-country-skiing

4 Snowshoeing along the Lake Trail

Furtschellas – The Corvatsch Lake Trail is an easy snowshoe trail with an extra level of comfort and convenience. As walkers follow the marked route, they enjoy glorious views of the snow-covered valley and its frozen lakes – with the prospect of a fortifying snack or a delicious meal at the Ustaria Rabgiusa en route. engadin.ch/snowshoeing

5 Yoga on Snow

Corviglia – Sun salutations and warrior poses are not just for the yoga studio. Enthusiasts can also practise on snow – at the world's first yoga piste. Info panels at four locations along the ski piste offer a unique experience of alpine relaxation. The only difference: yogis practise not on their mat but on the snow. engadin.ch/yoga-on-snow

6 Bavarian curling

Precision, accuracy and natural flair: players need them all to be good at Bavarian curling. Popular especially in the Alps, the sport is similar to traditional curling, but instead of stones uses circular “ice stocks” with a stick-like handle. Several ice rinks in the Engadin offer the chance to play and also hire out the necessary equipment. Some even provide a short introduction to the sport for novices. engadin.ch/ice-sports

More info?
Online at engadin.ch



1

Selected cultural attractions

Werkstatt Hildegard Schenk

Zuoz – The Werkstatt Hildegard Schenk is a combination of gallery, workshop and event space. Temporary exhibitions show the work of talented artists and craftspeople. werkstattzuoz.ch

1 Wald Galerie – “Home” exhibition by Babuschkina

La Punt Chamues-ch – The “Forest Gallery” in the “God Fainchs” woods hosts landscapes by the local photographer Miri “Babuschkina” Roth at ten sites among the Swiss stone pines. babuschkina.com

Upper Engadin Cultural Archives

Samedan – Photographs, books, maps and paintings reveal the eventful history of this high valley. kulturarchiv.ch

Atelier Segantini

Maloja – The Atelier Segantini offers an insight into the life and work of the painter Giovanni Segantini. segantini.org

Bobsleigh Museum

Celerina – Ancient wooden toboggans and the legendary 5-person bobsleighs that hurtled down the icy run at the 1928 Winter Olympics in St. Moritz evoke all the thrills of high-speed winter sports. bobmuseum.ch

Nietzsche House

Sils Maria – Friedrich Nietzsche lived here during his time in the Engadin; a comprehensive

exhibition explores the philosopher’s life and work. The house also provides accommodation along with space for work, research and exhibitions of contemporary art. nietzschehaus.ch

Exhibition and theme trail: Centenary of the Bernina line

Pontresina – The spectacular Bernina railway line celebrated its centenary 10 years ago. To mark the occasion, schoolchildren created a theme trail that tells the fascinating story of this pioneering railway. engadin.ch/bahnlehrpfad/en

Creative Box

Pontresina – Artistic studio open to all who wish to explore their creativity: no limits are set to imagination here! Various materials are available. plattnerundplattner.ch/creative-box

Historical village centres

The style of the old Engadin houses is unmistakable: mighty walls, playfully decorated facades and elegant gables. The best way to discover them is on a guided walk through one of the villages. engadin.ch/village-tours

More info?

In the Engadin culture guide, available from tourist information offices, or at engadin.ch/arts-culture



Photo 1: By kind permission / Photo 3: Piste 21 / Photo 4: Bo's Co / Photo 5: Marco Cadonau / Photo 6: Gian Giovanelli

Selected restaurants

1 Wohnwerkstatt

S-chanf – A restoration workshop, event venue and bar in one. The regular “guest tables” feature delicious fresh cuisine made with ingredients from the region.

wohnwerkstattengadin.ch

2 La Marendaria

Madulain – This cosy restaurant on the high pastures of Alp Es-cha Dadour is a top insider tip – not least for the home-made local dishes. Guests who wish to glide back down to the valley after a meal can borrow a sledge here.

marendaria.ch

Morteratsch restaurant

Pontresina – Glorious views of the Bernina massif and its glaciers are among the highlights at the Morteratsch restaurant; guests choose between convivial pine-furnished dining rooms and the sunny terrace.

morteratsch.ch

3 Piste 21 restaurant & pizzeria

Samedan – Delicious cuisine at sensible prices in a magnificent setting. Tables on the panoramic terrace are especially popular during the Engadin Skimarathon.

restaurant21.ch

4 Bo's Co

Celerina – This laid-back, lovingly decorated restaurant in the heart of Celerina serves hot food throughout the day and evening.

bos-co.ch

5 Longhin

Maloja – The Longhin restaurant is known for its chestnut specialities, all prepared with the finest sweet chestnuts from the Longhin's own grove in the Val Bregaglia.

longhin.ch

6 Conrad's Easy

Silvaplana – The day begins here with a generous breakfast. Later, the restaurant serves a selection of soups, pastas and salads; in the evening, guests enjoy crispy, gourmet pizzas.

cm-lodge.com

Burdun café-restaurant

La Punt – Founded in 1975, the Burdun serves local specialities as well as light meals and snacks. At lunchtime, a mouth-watering buffet offers an additional choice of fine flavours.

restaurant-burdun.ch

Dorta

Zuoz – Guests at this former Engadin farmhouse, with its period ambiance, feel as if they are on a trip in time.

dorta.ch

More info?
Online at engadin.ch/culinary



Photo: shop.lehrwerkstatt.ch

Selected shopping tips

Barbamax, Kessler Max

S-chanf – Creative and decorative items in wood by Max Kessler, who works almost exclusively with Swiss stone pine timber from the Engadin. engadin.ch/barbamax-kessler-max/en

Caferama coffee bar & shop

Zuoz – The irresistible aroma of freshly roasted coffee hangs in the air around Zuoz. The coffee roastery's shop sells a wide variety of Café Badilatti blends along with an assortment of other coffee-related products. cafe-badilatti.ch

1 Engadiner Lehrwerkstatt für Schreinerei: gift ideas

Samedan – The “Engadin apprentice workshop for joinery” offers a range of gift ideas and household items such as wooden fruit bowls, flower vases and pepper mills, along with customised furniture and interior fittings. shop.lehrwerkstatt.ch

Inspiraziun

Samedan – Visitors to this lovingly appointed shop find a variety of handmade gifts such as textile bags, jewellery and seasonally inspired decorative items. Every Friday, visitors with a creative streak can learn how to make pretty roses out of fabrics. inspiraziun.ch

Heimatkunst

Sils Maria – The ideal option for souvenirs and postcards, small gifts and beautifully made ceramic items – plus a selection of fascinating books. engadin.ch/heimatkunst/en

La Fainera Sport & Mode

Sils Maria – This attractive sports and fashion shop offers everything for customers to look stylish on and off the piste – and in town, too. lafainera.ch

Robbi's Schatztruhe

Silvaplana – “Robbi's treasure chest” is the perfect place to find a special present or a small gift to bring home. engadin.ch/robbis-schatztruhe/en

Alpenstil and CK Interieur & Immobilien

Pontresina – Carefully selected range of stylish decorative objects, high-quality fashion, jewellery and individual accessories. alpenstil.com

Laretino fashion boutique & boots

Pontresina – Stylish, high-quality fashion articles that are also functional. engadin.ch/fashionboutique-laretino/en

Nanuk Sport St. Moritz

St. Moritz – The appropriate equipment and clothing for every winter adventure, plus the widest selection from the brands Norrøna and Patagonia in the whole of the Engadin. nanuksport.ch

More info?

Online at engadin.ch/shopping and stmoritz.com/shopping

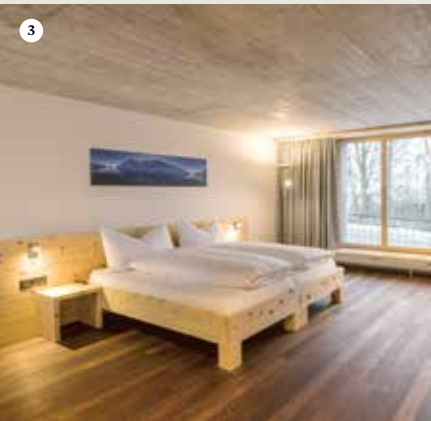


Photo 1: Gian Giovanelli / Photo 2: Manolo Yllera / Photo 3, 4, 6: By kind permission

Selected accommodation

1 Waldhaus Sils

Sils – This member of Swiss Historic Hotels high above Lake Sils is an architectural, cultural and historical gem with its own museum. waldhaus-sils.ch

2 Villa Flor

S-chanf – The beautiful and stately Villa Flor was built in 1904 by a family that had emigrated, made its fortune in Parma and returned wealthy. Choice of seven charming rooms. villaflor.ch

Hotel Engadinerhof

Pontresina – Guests at the Hotel Engadinerhof enjoy a delightful sense of nostalgia; cosy, well-kept rooms to suit every budget. engadinerhof.com

3 Laagers Hotel Garni

Samedan – Hotel appointed in modern style just five minutes' walk from Samedan station. Bread and pastries for breakfast come oven-fresh from the in-house bakery. laagers.ch

Hotel Schweizerhaus

Maloja – At the charming, 125-year-old Hotel Schweizerhaus, the traditional and the modern form a stylish combination rather than a contrast. schweizerhaus.swiss

4 Hotel Saluver

Celerina – A convenient location close to ski lifts and cross-country ski trails makes the beautiful Hotel Saluver especially popular with winter sports enthusiasts. Its restaurant is known for its variety of cuisine and especially its delicious fish dishes. saluver.ch

Hotel Crusch Alva

Zuoz – Centrally located on Zuoz's historical main square, the venerable Hotel Crusch Alva has been welcoming guests from far and wide for more than 500 years. cruschalva.ch

5 Kronenhof Pontresina

Pontresina – Listed as a monument, the Kronenhof is the grande dame of Pontresina. All seeking tranquillity will find total relaxation in the spacious spa. kronenhof.com

Hotel Nira Alpina

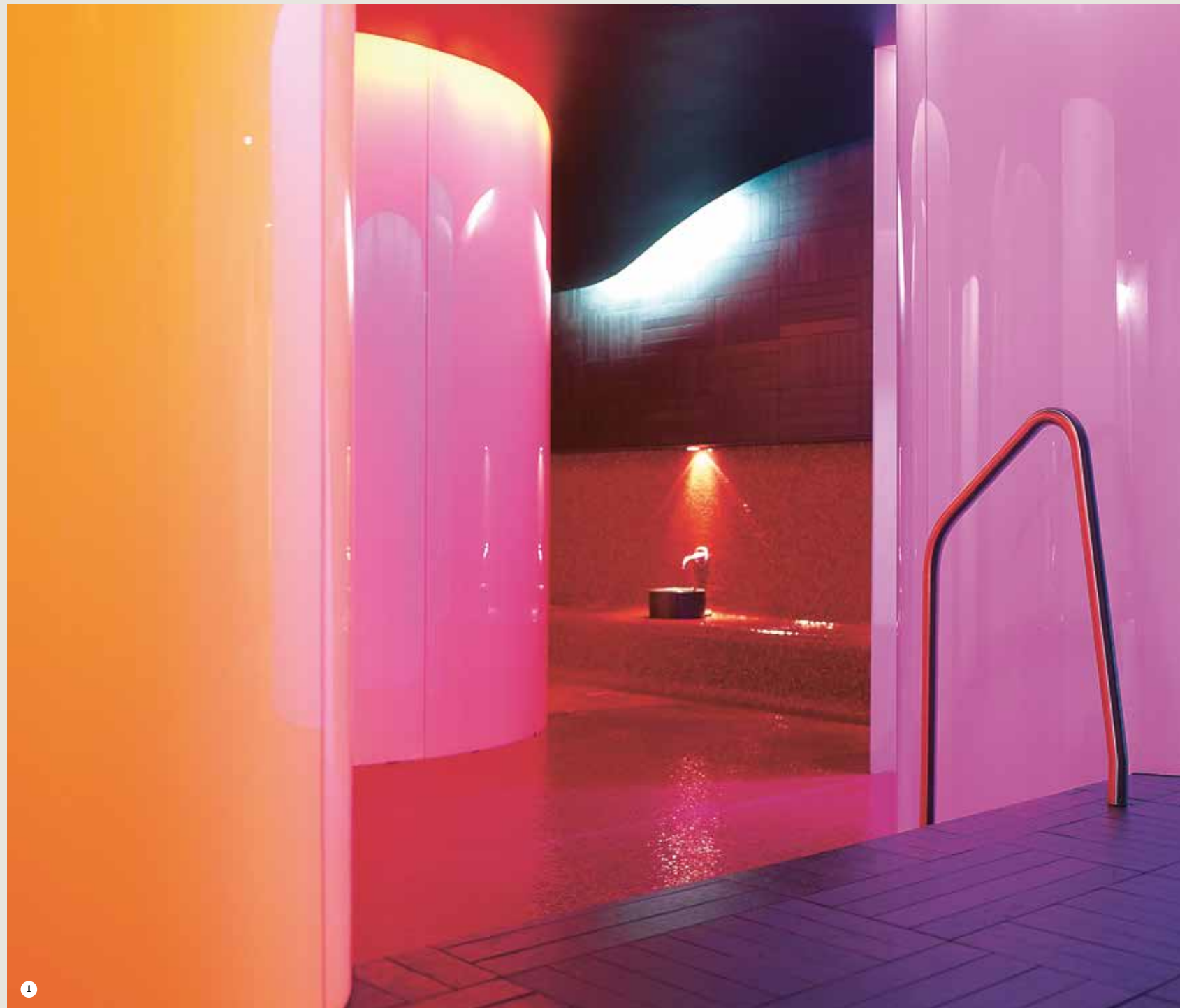
Silvaplana – With the cable car on the doorstep, the Hotel Nira Alpina makes the ideal base for winter sports enthusiasts. At the end of the day, guests relax in the spa area or enjoy gastronomic delicacies in one of the two restaurants. niraalpina.com

6 Winter camping

Pontresina – The laid-back Morteratsch campsite lies a little outside the resort, but cars with winter tyres can reach it easily even in snowy conditions. The sanitary facilities are heated, the shop is open all year, and guests who do not wish to cook can eat in the cosy restaurant. camping-morteratsch.ch

More info?

All hotels, holiday homes, campsites and Swiss Alpine Club (SAC) huts online at engadin.ch



1

Spas & wellness

Bellavita Pool & Spa

Pontresina – While children have fun in the adventure waterpark, grown-ups relax in the attractive wellness area. pontresina-bellavita.ch

Mineral Baths & Spa

Samedan – Visitors progress through a labyrinthine sequence of pools and steam rooms spread over three storeys. mineralbad-samedan.ch

MTZ Heilbad – Medical Wellness

St. Moritz – The latest medical knowledge combined with the benefits of thermal spa traditions ensure all-round wellbeing. heilbad-stmoritz.ch

Ovaverva Pool & Spa

St. Moritz – Hydromassage pools, saunas and spa treatments for the adults, water slides for the youngsters. ovaverva.ch

Kronenhof Spa

Pontresina – The spacious spa area (more than 2,000 sq. m) offers a new dimension in relaxation and wellness. kronenhof.com

Waldhaus Spa

Sils – A temple of tranquillity, in which the borders between indoors and outdoors are mysteriously blurred. waldhaus-sils.ch

1 Hammam at the Hotel Castell

Zuoz – A magical taste of the orient in the wild beauty of the Engadin. hotelcastell.ch

Diavolezza hot tub

Pontresina – Cool relaxation in blissfully warm water at a snowy 3,000 m, framed by dramatic mountain scenery. engadin.ch/jaccuzzi

More info?
Online at engadin.ch/wellness

Photo: Hotel Castell



Photo 1: Stöckli

Events Winter — 20/21

More info? engadin.ch/en/events

December

29 November – 23 December

1 Stöckli Ski Fun Days, Silvaplana

Kick off the season in style and test the latest ski models from Stöckli. silvaplana.ch

11–12 December

Audi FIS Ski World Cup St. Moritz

The world's fastest female skiers battle for precious World Cup points on St. Moritz's local mountain, the Corviglia. skiweltcup-stmoritz.ch

16–20 December

World Para Alpine Skiing European Cup

Slalom and giant slalom races for the best para-athletes. plussport.ch

28–30 December

Sinfonia Engiadina

Musicians from renowned European orchestras gather in the Engadin to perform at a variety of attractive venues. sinfonia-engiadina.ch

January

January & February

St. Moritz natural ice rink

Tracks for ice skating and speed skating on frozen Lake St. Moritz. natureislauf.ch

2–3 January

2 Swiss Bobsleigh Championships

Switzerland's top male and female racers compete on a historic ice track. olympia-bobrun.ch

10–13 January

Coppa Romana

Curling in the open air? In Silvaplana, everything is possible. silvaplana-curling.ch

15–17 January

3 Out of the Blue's

Two blues gigs in joiners' workshops plus a Sunday-morning blues service in Samedan's church. samedanblues.ch

16 January

4 La Diagonela

This shorter cross-country ski race from Zuoz to St. Moritz offers a fine contrast to the big Engadin Skimarathon. ladiagonela.ch

20–22 January

CfC St. Moritz

Private blockchain conference for investors. crypto-finance-conference.com

22–24 January

5 Swiss Pond Hockey Championship

The thrilling ice hockey contest takes place on frozen Lej Suot. pondhockey.ch

28–31 January

6 Engadinsnow by Dakine

The finest freeride skiers and snowboarders tackle the legendary north face of the Corvatsch. engadinsnow.com



March

6 March

Bob Run Skating

Daredevil skaters in full ice hockey kit hurtle down the twisting Olympic bobsleigh run. olympia-bobrun.ch

14 March

53rd Engadin Skimarathon and 14th Half Marathon

Switzerland's biggest cross-country ski race, from Maloja to S-chanf, electrifies the whole valley. engadin-skimarathon.ch

19–21 March

SunIce Festival

International DJs bring hot beats onto the snow at Marguns and Salastrains. sunicefestival.ch

26–27 March

4 Freeski World Cup Corvatsch

The world's best freestyle skiers compete for glory in the Corvatsch Park. corvatsch.ch

26–28 March

5 3-Summits

Series of three ski mountaineering races on different Engadin mountains. 3-summits.ch

26–28 March

St.Moritz Music Summit

Well-known DJs from the electronic dance music scene entrance the public. musicsummit.ch

April

15–20 April

Swiss Freestyle Championships

The elite of the Swiss freestyle scene show their skills on the Corvatsch, promising a sensational season finale. corvatsch.ch

24–25 April

Spring Festival, Corvatsch

Hot rock acts wow music fans at the open-air stage by the Murtèl middle station. corvatsch.ch

29–31 January

1 37. Snow Polo World Cup St.Moritz

Frozen Lake St.Moritz has staged world-class polo games since 1985. snowpolo-stmoritz.com

29–31 January

Engadin Art Talks

Artists and architects explore an original chosen theme with visitors in Zuoz. engadin-art-talks.ch

29 January–06 February

2 St.Moritz Gourmet Festival

Top chefs from throughout Switzerland enchant festival guests. stmoritz-gourmetfestival.ch

February

5–7 February

La Sfida

Mini “Tour de Ski” open to all cross-country enthusiasts. lasfida.ch

7, 14, 21 February

White Turf St.Moritz

International jockeys race their horses across the snow as corks pop in the grandstand. whiteturf.ch

18–21 February

Nomad St.Moritz

A platform for collectors, artists and architects, which travels from Monaco to Venice. nomadstmoritz.com

18–20 February

Cricket on Ice

Unusual but cool and compelling: games of cricket on frozen Lake St.Moritz. cricket-on-ice.com

20 February

Cresta Run: Grand National

Athletes leap onto their toboggans, head-first and face-down, to hurtle down the twisting ice track at up to 138 km/h. cresta-run.com

27 February

The ICE

Elegant vintage cars and historical racing cars stir up snow in style on frozen Lake St.Moritz. theicestmoritz.ch → page 62

Heralds of spring: a sea of crocuses brings the first breath of colour into the blossoming valley.



Preview Summer—21

The summer season in the Engadin starts in mid-June.

Summer comes to the Engadin

As temperatures rise, the valley awakens from its winter sleep. Migrating birds return, marmots stick their noses out of their burrows, trees free themselves from their burden of snow and stretch their branches out towards the sunshine.

The forests come to life

Once the last of the snow has melted, the first buds and leaves appear. Hesitantly at first, and then the greenery appears literally to explode – and the forest invites visitors to listen to its sounds and stroll among its trees. Find out more in the summer edition.

Photo: Keystone, Interfoto, Bernd Ritschel



Large expanses with woodland of wild beauty dominate the summer landscape in the valley – as here, beside Lake Silvaplana.

Photo: McPhoto, Alamy Stock Photo



Oasis on the water: a wooden walkway leads across the wetland meadows on the shores of Lake Staz, the Engadin's best-known swimming lake.

Photo: St. Moritz Tourismus, Filip Zehn

Wood in all forms:
the natural material
offers a tremendous
variety of uses.



Photo: Robert Bosch

This illustration is inspired by an old travel guide from 1931. St. Moritz lies about 200 km from Zurich Airport. The journey by road from other European cities is rather longer, but well worth the drive.



Publisher: Engadin St. Moritz Tourismus AG — **Concept/text/editing/copy-editing & proofreading:** Transhelvetica/Passaport AG, passport.ch, Jon Bollmann, Pia Bollmann, Anna Herbst, Stephanie Elmer, Claudia Walder — **Layout:** Transhelvetica/Passaport AG, Sarina Strebel — **Photographs:** Filip Zuan, filipzuan.com, @filipzuan; unless specified otherwise, made available by Engadin St. Moritz Tourismus AG and partners — **Translation:** James Bedding — **Printer:** Gammeter Media, St. Moritz; made in Engadin — **Visual guiding concept & lead agency:** jäger & jäger, Agency for Brand Identity & Branded Content — **Contact:** Engadin St. Moritz Tourismus AG, Jan Steiner, jan.steiner@engadin.ch — **Copyright:** all rights reserved. Engadin St. Moritz Tourismus AG, www.engadin.ch; reprint of all or part of this magazine only by express permission of the tourism organisation Engadin St. Moritz Tourismus AG and with acknowledgement. *Retail price: CHF 20*

