

Engadin

MAGAZINE No.1

WHITE

WINTER — 19/20 ENGLISH

Engadin Winter
—19/20



Dear guests,

We are delighted to present to you the winter edition of our Engadin magazine. Inside you will find all that makes the Engadin special: mountains such as the Piz Lagalb, with its special connection to the Himalayas; the wide expanses of the valley, whose lakes and forests offer endless adventures; the unique quality of the light, which caresses guests throughout the day; and much more.

We wish you happy reading and look forward to welcoming you here!

The people of the Engadin





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"Nature" photo: Lorenz Richard / "Cultura" photo: Archiv da la Fundaziun Planta, Chesa Planta, Samedan / all others: Filip Zuan

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With each step, ski touring enthusiasts earn their exhilarating descent on virgin snow.

Photo: ESTIM, Filip Zuan



Photo: Keystone, Mauritius Images, Clickalps

Winter fairy tale: a drive through the snowy landscape near Plaun da Lej.



On the ice rink,
the backdrop
complements
the skater's grace
perfectly.

Photo: ESTIM, Filip Zuan

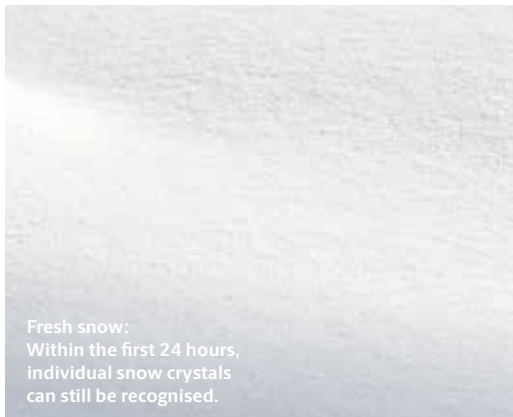


The Engadin is known as a cross-country ski destination, not least because of the Engadin Skimarathon.

Photo: Keystone, Peter Klauzner

Terra alva

All about our wonderful white world



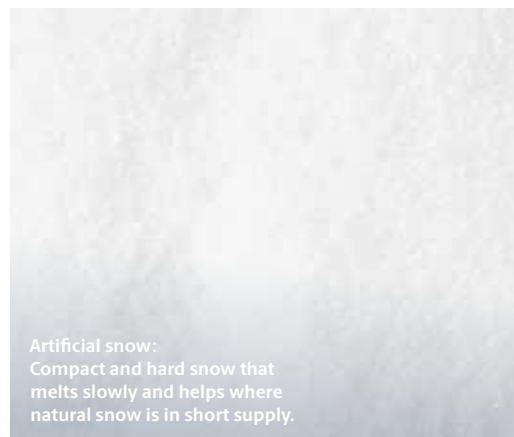
Fresh snow:
Within the first 24 hours, individual snow crystals can still be recognised.



Firn:
Old snow that has hardened through repeated melting and refreezing.



Slush:
Large-granule snow that is soaked with snowmelt.



Artificial snow:
Compact and hard snow that melts slowly and helps where natural snow is in short supply.

The colour of winter

All snow is not the same: depending on its temperature and age, the versatile white substance can feel and look completely different. Take airy, light powder snow, for example, which means so much to winter sports enthusiasts. In order for this kind of snow to form and last, the ambient temperature must remain continuously below zero:

happily, in the Engadin winter, these conditions are pretty much the norm! If a strong wind blows, the uppermost layer of snow is compressed to produce a hard crust. And then there is the unloved slush, from which the meltwater is already running, and which often indicates the end of winter...

Photo left: stock.adobe.com; Alamy Stock Foto / Photo right: AF archive; Alamy Stock Foto / Robert Bösch



James Bond in the Engadin

Piz Bernina – Dressed in a bright yellow ski suit, James Bond hurtles down a slope on the Piz Bernina, pursued by a group of villains: he skims between glacier crevasses, jumps from natural kickers and glides through the crisp Engadin air. This two-minute sequence from the film “The Spy Who Loved Me” (1977) took three weeks of work by the film crew on the glaciers around the Piz Bernina, in extremely low temperatures and at times under heavy snowfall. The footage was filmed by Willy Bogner Jr., former ski racer and film maker. Roger Moore, who played Bond in the film, was never on the Piz Bernina himself: a stuntman stood in for him. The Bond film “A View to a Kill” (1985), Moore’s last appearance as 007, once again featured sequences filmed in the Engadin.



More action in the snow

Fire & Ice

Willy Bogner Jr. also filmed several ski scenes for the sports film “Fire & Ice” (1986) in St. Moritz.

Snow record in the Engadin

The highest snow depth recorded on the valley floor since official measurements began was on the night of 13/14 February 1951, when the snow on the Maloja Pass reached a height of 2.99 metres!

Top 5: winter bucket list

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

- Go ice skating on frozen Lake St. Moritz.*
Page 31
- Tackle the ten-kilometre glacier run in the Diavolezza ski area.*
Page 47
- Eat a slice of Engadin walnut cake and one of Engadiner Torte and pick your favourite.*
Page 81
- Take part in the Engadin Skimarathon.*
Page 84
- Drive away the winter at the Chalandamarz festivity on 1 March.*
Page 113



What mountains!

The photographer Robert Bösch knows the mountains intimately. He captures natural treasures such as the mist-wreathed Piz Roseg in magical images. Produced in limited edition for the Bildhalle gallery in Zurich, the photograph now also decorates the cover of this edition.
robertboesch.ch



What space!

The Upper Engadin extends for about 50 kilometres from Maloja to S-chanf. While this high valley is framed by towering peaks, the exceptionally wide valley floor creates an uplifting sense of spaciousness. The best vantage point for admiring the boundless expanses: the panoramic peak of Muottas Muragl. engadin.ch/mountains/muottas-muragl

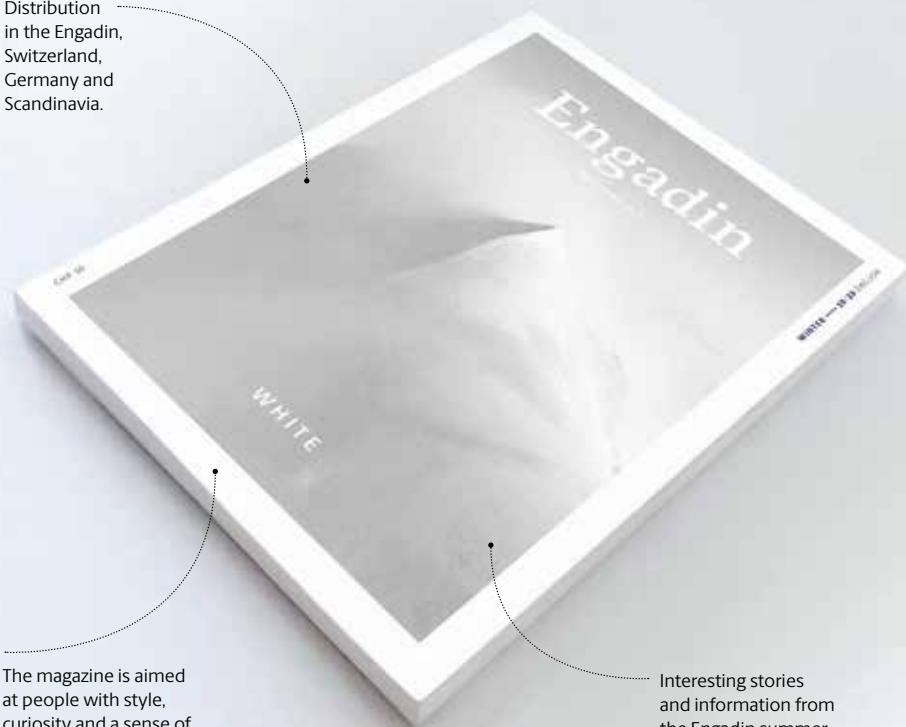
What light!

Visitors to the Engadin should always remember to carry sun cream in winter, too, as the region enjoys an exceptionally high number of sunny days. At higher altitudes, the sunshine is stronger still!

Advertising in the Engadin

Tell guests in the valley about your products and services with an advertisement in the new 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



A valley deep under snow

We cannot complain of a lack of snow in the Engadin: snow depths of more than two metres on the valley floor are not unusual. On such occasions, a thick white blanket covers tree branches and rooftops, and high, white walls line the roads and railway lines. For the Rhaetian Railway, such quantities of snow are not a problem. Thanks to modern rotary snowploughs, even the route over the Bernina Pass remains open all winter; the ride between the sparkling white walls is a unique and thrilling experience. rhb.ch



The world in the Engadin

St. Moritz – Alfred Hitchcock, Friedrich Nietzsche, Farah Diba (the last empress of Persia) and various British royals have all visited the Engadin. Some came for the peace and quiet, others for the glamour and of course the skiing. These included John Lennon (pictured), who spent a 10-day holiday in St. Moritz in the winter of 1965 with his first wife, Cynthia Powell Lennon, along with the Beatles' music producer, George Martin, and his wife, Judy.

Everything is white

Albula, Piz Alv, Lago Bianco, Chiesa Bianca: all these places have two things in common. All are located in the Engadin and each one has the word "white" in its name. Albula means white mountain, Piz Alv signifies white peak, the Lago Bianco refers to the white lake and the Chiesa Bianca in Maloja is the white church.

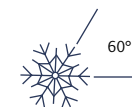
Snow flurry

Surprising facts about the white flakes.

4 km/h
is the typical speed of a falling snowflake.

1879

was the year of the first successful photograph of a snowflake.



The angle between two neighbouring points of a snowflake is always 60°.

10¹⁸

A snowflake is formed of about a trillion molecules of water.



There have probably never been two snowflakes that looked exactly alike.



Ice

**The lake has grown a kind of skin:
Just walk across, you won't fall in.
No fish can stick his big head out:
He'll only bash his poor old snout.**

CHRISTIAN MORGENSTERN (1871–1914)
TRANSLATION BY JAMES BEDDING



Rendezvous on the ice



Picnic on St. Moritz's frozen lake in the late 19th Century.

Ice: Winter tourism without snow: unthinkable!

Just as important for a successful season is ice, in the form of frozen lakes, rivers and waterfalls.

The ice is alive: The Engadin lakes lie still and silent under a thick layer of ice. Or so it seems – but the appearance is deceptive. Listen carefully, and you can

hear the ice creaking and groaning as it expands and contracts: “The lake is singing,” say locals.

Teeming activity on the lake: On some days, nothing can be heard of the lake’s song because of all the activity on the ice – such as during the glamorous White Turf horse races on Lake St. Moritz. About 200 tons of equipment are brought onto the frozen lake for the event; snow-grooming machines create a race track out of snow and ice. This supports the thundering hooves of the horses, either with a jockey in the saddle or a skier in tow. For the ice to be able to support this spectacle, it must be at least 30 centimetres thick. Only twice in more than 100 years of the history of the White Turf races has the lake failed to freeze to this extent.

From the lake into the sky: Frozen Lake St. Moritz has also played a starring role in the history of Swiss aviation: it served as the runway for Switzerland’s first motorised flight. The German aviator Paul Engelhard spent about seven minutes airborne on 25 February 1910 in front of a large crowd. Five days later, he took to the air once again in his Wright biplane, this time for no less than 31 minutes and 40 seconds.

Life under the ice: All is much quieter, by contrast, when ice fishing enthusiasts set out onto frozen Lake Sils. Here, the key factor is what goes on underneath the thick and hard layer of ice.

Chilling out before dinner

Around Plaun da Lej, two very different hunters are at home. Both love fish, both love Lake Sils. But only one regularly turns from hunter to hunted – in winter, when ice fishing enthusiasts head out onto the frozen lake.

Text MICHÈLE FRÖHLICH
Photographs FILIP ZUAN



A scraping sound, as if from a giant kitchen grater, is echoing up the mountainsides above Lake Sils. Antonio Walther is busy boring a small hole by hand through the 60 centimetres of ice that cover the lake. He makes one last turn – and the auger is through. Water laps over the edges of the hole onto the surface of the ice.

Antonio is a fisherman. Not any fisherman, but one known well in the valley – either as president of the local angling club, or because he serves king crabs from Alaska in his restaurant, or because he can be something of a rebel.

Normally, the colourful jackets of the ice fishing enthusiasts on Lake Sils can be spotted from far away, but today there is no one else to be seen. A good day for the angler, a bad day for the fish. Last night, a snowstorm – possibly the last of the season – swept through the valley and covered the frozen lake with sparkling white snowflakes. It is March and the ice fishing season, which began in mid-January, is approaching its end.

Successful pilot project

The day on the frozen lake begins as the first rays of sunshine climb over the mountain ridge. Antonio Walther sets off from his restaurant, the Murtaröl in the hamlet of Plaun da Lej, straight out onto the lake. He is pulling a sledge, which he has harnessed around his waist. Once, his three children would ride in it when he went cross-country skiing; today it carries a fishing rod,

manual ice auger, slotted spoon, shovel, camping stool and bait. “Only thing that’s missing is schnapps,” he says with a broad grin, adding that he did not bring it today as it does not always go down well with the media.

What is going well, however, is the ice fishing. For a period of two years, anglers were allowed to fish on the frozen lake as part of a pilot project. The goal was to curb the population of an invasive species of fish while protecting native stocks. The scheme proved so successful that in 2019, the authorities permitted ice fishing on the lake for the next five years: a success for local tourism and for Antonio, too. After all, the idea of opening up Lake Sils to ice fishing is one that came to him more than 10 years ago. In those days, however, the cantonal and local authorities had other fish to fry – so he had to take a step back and wait.

After about 50 metres, in the middle of the ice, Antonio stops. The sun is blazing in the blue sky, turning the surface of the lake into a dazzling expanse of glittering whiteness.

Above: On his sledge, Antonio Walther has all he needs for ice fishing.

Right: After clearing away some snow, he bores a hole through the thick ice with an auger.





Antonio's bronzed face glows in the sun's rays, his silver hair sparkles. He takes the shovel from the sledge, clears away a patch of last night's snow, and starts boring a hole in the ice with the auger. Once through, he takes his slotted spoon from the sledge and scoops lumps of ice out of the hole. A personal idiosyncrasy?

No, others do the same, he says, "if you did it by hand your fingers would freeze off." By others, he means the ice fishing enthusiasts – young and old, experienced and novice – who buy a permit from him, maybe hire equipment, bore a hole in the ice, drop the bait to the depths and wait. Antonio, too, will soon begin waiting. But he still needs one thing before he can do that, he says, and unpacks his camping stool.

From hunter to hunted

The bait needs to sink all the way down to the bottom of the lake, which is about 20 metres deep here. That is the home of the namaycush, also known as Canadian lake trout. These were introduced in the 1960s to help regulate the populations of the different fish

Now it is just a question of waiting: ice fishing requires plenty of patience.

species, in particular the numerous Arctic char. However, the Arctic char appeared rather too often on the menu of the arrival from Canada, so the former have now almost completely disappeared. Meanwhile the popu-

Ice fishing is about the experience, the tranquillity, nature ...

lation of namaycush, which have no natural predators in Lake Sils, has exploded. This had to stop. And as Antonio Walther popped up again with his ice fishing idea just at this moment, angling for approval, the authorities went for it.

Antonio lets his gaze wander across the lake, and tugs at the line now and again to stop the hole freezing over. Although it is not particularly cold today, a thin layer of ice has already formed after 10 minutes. "You can't be too hopeful about making a catch," he says. Ice fishing may have a lot to do with skill and knowledge, but luck is also important. Just recently, he says, a novice pulled out a fish after just one hour – but the size of it! Meanwhile even experienced anglers occasionally toddle off after a day's fishing with an empty bucket.

But for many enthusiasts, the priority is not the size of the catch. Ice fishing is more about the experience, the tran-

quillity, nature and the sweet pleasure of doing nothing for hours on end – although the latter is not quite accurate. Just boring a hole, sitting down and lowering the bait is not going to get you very far. “If you sit by the same hole all day, nothing’s going to go for the bait,” says Antonio. “Fish aren’t stupid, they learn fast.” So an ice fishing enthusiast may make up to 12 holes in a single day. To stop the lake looking like a cheese full of holes by the evening, the fishing club issues only 30 permits a day.

Waiting

Cars glide by at regular intervals along the main road, the sound dampened by the fresh snow. Antonio’s mobile phone rings. He speaks in a charming Italian, pulls a notebook from a pocket and jots down: name, time, number of people. A reservation for his restaurant, which he has been running for 36 years. He always keeps his notebook to hand: “you never know.” His restaurant is clearly highly popular, to judge by the number of phone calls he takes today.

That, too, was an idea that worked: a fish restaurant in the mountains, which serves not just local fish but seafood as well. A bit crazy, “but I’m like that,” Antonio says. The phone rings again. It is his son Nico, who would also like to come out on the lake today. Previously, they would often go fishing together – in winter and summer alike. Nowadays, Antonio is more restaurateur than angler, and Nico is concentrating on his cross-country skiing career. But

now and again they manage to enjoy a few hours together on the lake, chatting like old friends.

They talk about this and that, and what the next wacky scheme could be. Nico says: “If he came up with the idea of scattering salt in Lake Sils so he could release dolphins, I’d be up for it!” Antonio laughs. He hadn’t thought of that, but how about flying tourists up to Lake Sils in a seaplane from Zurich or Lake Maggiore in summer – or even winter – to enjoy a day’s fishing? Just like him now...

And then maybe they, too, would sit in front of a hole, gaze across the dazzling white snow, squint at the sun and dream up ideas that one day could even come true. It just takes patience, to wait for the right moment. And then someone will go for it.



Ice fishing on Lake Sils

For information and regulations concerning ice fishing on Lake Sils, and to order an angling permit online, go to engadin.ch/ice-fishing

A taste of Lake Sils



Oven-baked slice of Canadian lake trout (namaycush)

Recipe for 4 people, from the Murtaröl restaurant in Plaun da Lej

Ingredients Preparation:

1 leek	Cut the leek, carrot, courgette and onion into thin strips and wash well. Boil the mixed vegetables in salted water for 2 minutes.
1 carrot	Allow to dry, then fry for a short time in a pan with olive oil, salt and pepper.
1 courgette	
1 onion	

4 slices namaycush, approx. 200 g each	Brown the fish slices in a frying pan (30 seconds on each side), then place each slice on a piece of aluminium foil. Spread the vegetables, olives and quartered tomatoes on top. Season everything with a little white wine, thyme, olive oil, pepper and a pinch of salt.
120 g small tomatoes, quartered	Wrap the fish slices carefully in the silver foil and bake in the oven at 200 degrees for 10 minutes. Bon appétit!
100 g Taggiasca olives	
white wine	
2 springs of thyme	
olive oil, salt & pepper	

Photo: Fabian Wanner

Frozen valley

Icy experiences



Bewitching black ice

Sub-zero temperatures and no snowfall: when these conditions coincide, the surface of the Engadin lakes freezes to form a transparent sheet of ice, black and mysterious, sparkling in the sunshine. This wonder of nature is rare, however,

occurring only about twice a decade. Locals and visitors venture onto the ice at their own risk. Information about the state of the ice and tips on how to enjoy it safely are available from local tourist information offices. engadin.ch/black-ice

Smooth as glass:
Lago Bianco
becomes an
open-air ice rink.

Photo left: Matthias, stockadobe.com



Up walls of ice

Pontresina – In winter, the waterfall in the gorge at Pontresina turns into a mighty wall of ice festooned with giant icicles. This is the cue for ice climbers to don their crampons, take up their ice axes and scale the sparkling natural sculpture. Each climb on the frozen waterfall is different to the last, as the ice is in constant movement. The Pontresina Mountaineering School offers adventure seekers the opportunity to try their hand at ice climbing under expert guidance. All novices need is some experience of climbing, a good level of fitness – and of course a head for heights. bergsteiger-pontresina.ch, engadin.ch/ice-climbing



More ice climbing on the Corvatsch

By the cable car summit station, the Corvatsch team releases water at the clifftop to create an ice climbing wall – the highest of its kind worldwide. corvatsch.ch

Bernina Glaciers

Pontresina – The Upper Engadin is home to 173 glaciers covering a total of 40 sq. km: no less than 6 per cent of the region's entire surface area! Visitors can discover the secrets of these mighty rivers of ice in the “Bernina Glaciers adventure territory” between the Engadin and the Valposchiavo. bernina-glaciers.ch

On Sabi's trail

Morteratsch – The mighty Morteratsch Glacier is home to a little mountain spirit called Sabi, who has a big dream. Children can have fun trying to figure out what Sabi dreams of on a delightful walk along the Glacier Trail. If they solve the puzzle, they receive a small surprise gift at Pontresina tourist information office. Adults, meanwhile, can follow an audio tour as they walk along: available on the Bernina Glaciers app, it tells them all about the glacier, the mountain railways and cableways, and the legend of the Morteratsch Glacier. bernina-glaciers.ch



Snowkiting across the lakes

In summer, Engadin lakes attract kitesurfers; in winter, snowkiters!

With strong winds and a thick layer of ice, Lake Silvaplana and the Lago Bianco offer ideal conditions for skimming across the snow on a snowboard or skis, pulled by a special kite.

engadin.ch/snowkiting

Skim across the ice

St. Moritz – Speed skaters flash across the surface of frozen Lake St. Moritz, looping a track that is specially reserved for the athletes. Beside it, however, is another track open to all skaters, which is likewise cleared of snow. Anyone venturing on to the ice does so at their own risk. engadin.ch/ice-sports



Cheers!

Drink to happy holidays with “Glacier Beer” from Pontresina, brewed with soft glacier water.
engadinerbier.ch

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 offer a short introduction to the game for novices. engadin.ch/ice-sports

Beauty in white

White space is an element of design. We help bring it beauty and meaning.



Added value

Download our free "EngadinOnline" app and scan this page. Let us surprise you!



Foto/Film: Shutterstock, Engadin St. Moritz

Icy art

Sils-Maria – In winter, the sculptor Reto Grond from Sils-Maria uses hammer and chisel to fashion his ornate creations out of blocks of ice. These transitory works of art decorate the forecourts of shops and hotels in the Engadin, and are best tracked down and admired on leisurely strolls through the resorts – before the spring sunshine melts them all away.

eisfiguren.ch



A gem reborn

St. Moritz – After the Olympic "Eispavillon" (ice pavilion) from 1905 had stood empty for many years, the leading British architect Norman Foster took on the job of giving new life to the historical building and its grandstand by the Kulm Hotel. The beautifully restored pavilion opened on time for the 2017 World Ski Championships, and houses a stylish restaurant as well as a small exhibition on the history of tourism in St. Moritz.

kulm.com



130 km/h over the ice

St. Moritz/Celerina – With a spine-tingling speed of up to 130 km/h, bobsleighs shoot over the smooth, icy surface of the Olympia Bob Run, the world's oldest. Over a history dating back more than 100 years, the natural ice track has twice served as a Winter Olympics venue and has hosted 24 World Championships. Today, adrenalin addicts can book a guest ride and hurtle down the twisting channel of ice at breakneck speed, piloted safely by professionals. After a dose of pure thrills, initiates celebrate over a glass of bubbly and receive a personal certificate.

olympia-bobrun.ch



More adrenalin still on the Cresta Run

Riders rocket down the historical ice track of the Cresta Run on special toboggans, head-first and face-down. Novices can brave the run at dedicated practice sessions.

cresta-run.com

A skate through pristine nature

The "ice path" in Madulain offers enthusiasts an enchanting skating experience in the midst of nature. The trail starts at the works yard and leads across the snow-covered meadows by the river Inn for about a kilometre. Visitors need to bring their own skates.

engadin.ch/ice-sports

Photo left: Kulm Hotel

Tips for when it's cold

It can be very cold in the Engadin. By following a few simple tips, however, you can still keep warm.



The onion principle

Four moderately warm layers keep you warmer than three thick ones. Each layer of air between items of clothing provides extra insulation.



Breathe correctly

Breathe in through the nose so the cold air travels further to the bronchial tubes, warming up along the way.



Drink little alcohol

Alcohol dilates the blood vessels, with the result that the body cools down more quickly.



Appropriate clothing

Down, wool and fleece keep you especially warm; cotton and Gore-Tex are less suitable.



www.gammetermedia.ch Your media company in the Engadin



Ski

“A person should have wings to carry them where their dreams go, but sometimes a pair of skis makes a good substitute.”

HANS Gmoser, AUSTRIAN/CANADIAN MOUNTAIN SPORTS PIONEER, IN *CANADIAN ALPINE JOURNAL* 1961



Snow sports conquer the valley

1864/65 **The birth of winter tourism:** In 1864, the St. Moritz hotelier Johannes Badrutt offered six of his British summer guests an irresistible deal. He invited them to spend the winter at his hotel, and bet them that on sunny days they would be able to sit out on the terrace in their shirtsleeves. If not, he would also pay their travel costs. Badrutt won his bet, and winter tourism was born.

1902 **First British ski club in Switzerland:** British guests not only pioneered winter tourism here in the Engadin; it was also in Graubünden that they founded Switzerland's first British ski club.

1928 **Winter Olympics:** The first Winter Olympic Games staged independently of the summer Olympics took place from 11 to 19 February 1928 in St. Moritz. In all, more than 460 athletes from 25 countries travelled to the Engadin. Unusually warm weather with temperatures of up to 25 degrees got organisers in a sweat, and necessitated many

programme changes; the 10,000-metre speed skating race even had to be cancelled.

1929 **Switzerland's first ski school:** To ensure a gentle start for novices, rapid progression and a more enjoyable experience all round, a ski school was founded in St. Moritz that is now the largest in Switzerland.

1934 **FIS Alpine World Ski Championships:** The 4th Alpine World Ski Championships took place in St. Moritz from 15 to 17 February 1934. The Swiss team won three gold medals in all. Since then, the Alpine World Ski Championships have been held three further times in St. Moritz: in 1974, 2003 and 2017.

1948 **Winter Olympics:** The Winter Olympic Games took place in St. Moritz for the second time in 1948. No Winter Olympics had been staged for the previous 12 years because of the Second World War.

1970 **Founding of "Club 8847":** Discover the story of the club, now called Club 8848, and what it takes to become a member on the following pages.



At the summit of the Piz Lagalb, Club 8848 applicants register their arrival time.

8,848 vertical metres

Members of Club 8848 need stamina: they conquer the height of Mount Everest in just one day.

Text **MARTIN HOCH**
Photographs **FILIP ZUAN**

High up on the majestic Piz Lagalb, colourful flags – blue, white, red, green and yellow – flutter in the wind, bearing enigmatic symbols and mysterious written characters. These are Buddhist prayer flags, which defy the forces of nature here and recall the Himalayas. The breathtaking mountain panorama – with the sparkling summits of the Piz Palü, Bernina and Morteratsch, Piz Tschierva and Boval – evokes the scenic grandeur of the “Roof of the world”.

No wonder this place of special energy has a unique connection to the Himalayas and to the world’s highest mountain, the 8,848-metre Mount Everest. Adventurous snow sports enthusiasts set themselves the challenge of ticking off 8,848 vertical metres here in a single day. To achieve this, they have to climb four times on foot from the upper station of the cable car to the summit of the Piz Lagalb, and ski or snowboard 11 times down the piste to the lower station. Anyone who completes this arduous task successfully becomes a member of Club 8848.

Club history

The story of the club begins in 1970 with Eugenio Rüegger, the former CEO of the Lagalb cable car. His goal was to attract more ski enthusiasts to the Lagalb, and his idea of creating a link to the world-famous Mount Everest worked. Soon, the club counted celebrities among its members, including the Canadian prime minister of the day and the Shah of Persia. The latter even had all 19 bodyguards in tow, who also qualified to become club members.

By the 1980s, the club had clocked up 1,000 members – and yet was a number short. Back then it was not yet called Club 8848, but Club 8847. A British expedition in 1952 had established the height of Mount Everest as precisely 8,847.842 metres. When the club was created, its founders chose to round the figure down; for the relaunch, the club decided to round the figure up, thinking that a new name would usher in a new era. Because despite early press coverage worldwide and an international membership, from about 30 years ago the club steadily fell into oblivion.

Setting sights higher for the future

In 2015, news emerged that the Lagalb cable car, after running at a loss for years, was to be shut down. Martina Walther, current president of Club 8848, remembers the occasion well. That cannot be, she thought. “The Lagalb has held a grip on skiers’ imagination for more than 50 years, almost unlike any other mountain,” she says. As she rode the cable car up the Lagalb for the last time that season and began her last descent, “I felt really sad,” she says.

But that was not to be the end. The Lagalb had too many fans – including the shipowning Niarchos family. In 2016 the brothers Philip and Spyros Niarchos resolved to save the Lagalb cable car. They took over the lifts on the Lagalb and Diavolezza from the “Engadin St. Moritz Mountains AG” company, which in return acquired the profitable lifts in the Corviglia-Piz Nair ski area from the Niarchos family.

The challenge now was to ensure a prosperous future for the ski area – which required inspiration. “That is how the idea came about to resurrect Club 8847,” says Martina Walther. She took up the cause as club president. “I had already been a member of the original Club 8847, and wanted to make my own personal contribution to a successful future for the Lagalb cable car,” she says. The committee announced the relaunch of the freshly renamed Club 8848 for the winter season 2018/19; few guessed how popular the idea would be.

Right: Club applicants must tick off 11 times 784 vertical metres of piste down to the base station.

Below right: Four summit ascents – from 2,892 to 2,958 m above sea level – demand tenacity.





Save money on the slopes with the Family Pass



Extra discounts on lift
passes for families.

snow-deal.ch

Snow-Deal
BOOK EARLY AND BENEFIT.
ATTRACTIVE DISCOUNTS FOR FAMILIES.

“I grew up here; the natural landscapes of the Engadin are my playground.”

NIK MEULI *club applicant*

A thrilling challenge

At 8.30 am sharp, Nik Meuli from La Punt is standing with his skis in the cable car that will bring him up the Lagalb. He is curious: “I’m interested to see what it takes to do the distance,” he says. He does not worry, however, that the task might be too much for him. As a ski tourer and solo climber, he scales a good dozen mountain summits every year. He has travelled in the Himalayas, too. He is also tackling today’s challenge on his own.

He is not the only one bidding for membership of Club 8848 today. Karin Thalmann from Zurich is also riding up in the first cable car. For her, the Lagalb is full of childhood memories; she has been coming here in winter for as long as she can remember, to her favourite mountain. “You can really go for it on these pistes, but they are never crowded,” she says. Joining Club 8848 is a chance for her to cement her connection with the Lagalb. Her strategy is to be first on the piste: she succeeds, and she’s off right away.

Nik Meuli, meanwhile, heads over to the clearly marked Club 8848 stand by the Lagalb summit station. For 10 francs he receives his Club 8848 kit; this consists of an armband, which identifies him as a candidate club member, and a card that gets punched each time he arrives at the Piz Lagalb and at the cable car base station. While Karin Thalmann is already tackling her first run, Nik Meuli is climbing up to the summit, in line with the motto “Work before play”.

From the upper station of the cable car, the summit seems just a stroll away. But the 66 vertical metres pack a punch. The air may not be as thin as on Mount Everest, but the oxygen levels are definitely lower than down in the lowlands. Many a club member will say that the 11 descents certainly made for stiff muscles in their upper thighs,

but it was the climbs to the summit on foot that really got them in a sweat. Nik Meuli walks nimbly up as if it did not involve a climb at all. “Growing up in the Engadin, you are used to exploring a lot from a young age,” he says. Sports are part of his daily life. “The natural landscapes of the Engadin are my playground.”

At the summit we also meet 11-year-old Cécile from the Valposchiavo. Claudio Menghini, the young adventure-seeker’s uncle, is happy that there is still skiing up on the Lagalb. “For us in the Valposchiavo, the Lagalb is our local mountain. By joining Club 8848, we want to support the ski business here,” he says. They have picked a magnificent day for the challenge. The sun is shining, the wind is manageable and the pistes are a delight to ski. The run down is a thrill: after all, the black piste is the steepest in Graubünden. The alternative is the rather tamer red piste.

Around noon, Karin Thalmann emerges from the Lagalb mountain restaurant, beaming. She has treated herself to a break and a plate of delicious Pizzoccheri. Her strategy has gone well so far: she has only one run left to do, but she still has to hike up to the summit three more times. “That’ll be my constitutional walk,” she laughs.

We also meet the family from the Valposchiavo in good spirits in front of the summit station. They have already climbed up to the summit four times, and are looking forward to their last four runs. All seem to be on track to becoming club members and so joining an ever-larger circle of enthusiasts.

Club president Martina Walther takes stock: “We welcomed 629 new members in the first year,” she says. They were counting on about 200. “We even ran short of pins.” These are the pride of members: they show the club logo, and prove that the bearer has mastered as many vertical metres as Mount Everest in a single day. The club has already made provision for the coming season: the pins are ready.



Become a member of Club 8848

Visitors can tackle the 8848 challenge any day of the winter season.

No reservation required.

lagalb.ch



The panoramic views from the Lagalb evoke the great mountain ranges of Asia.

Skiing for all

Fun in the snow

Ski tour to the Piz Boval during the first youth ski camp run by the Swiss Ski Federation (Swiss-Ski) in Pontresina in January 1941.



Photo left: Keystone, Photopress archive, Fred Eberhard/Photo right: (piste-grooming machine) Aestivation, Engadin St. Moritz Mountains



4.2 km

of fun: Switzerland's longest floodlit night piste, in the Corvatsch ski area.

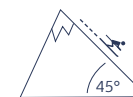


10 km

from top to bottom: the Diavolezza glacier run is the longest run in the upper Engadin.



88 different runs cover all levels of difficulty, with about 80 per cent intermediate or advanced.



140 km/h

on skis: top skiers virtually free-fall the race start on the Piz Nair.

Ski tours with superb views

Skins on your skis, poles in your hands, and a steady ascent, step by step, all the way to the summit... On a ski tour, the focus is not so much on the number of runs as on the overall experience. Ski touring is therefore ideal for all winter sports enthusiasts for whom the ascent is as important as the descent, and who wish to enjoy pristine nature to the full at the same time. Alongside a thrilling physical challenge, a ski tour also promises incomparable views: the Engadin, surrounded by mountains, offers countless scenic routes, such as to the Piz Palù or Piz Lunghin. All the tours have one feature in common: a glorious descent in virgin snow to crown an unforgettable experience. When planning tours, it is essential to take account of snow and weather conditions, avalanche warnings and wildlife and forest protection zones.

engadin.ch/ski-tours



Guided tours

In good conditions, the Pontresina Mountaineering School offers guided ski tours of different levels of difficulty every day. Equipment can be hired from the school.

bergsteiger-pontresina.ch

Good preparation is vital

Find information about snow conditions and avalanche dangers at

engadin.ch/snow

Yoga on Snow

Corviglia – Sun salutations and warrior poses are not just for the yoga studio. Enthusiasts can practise them on the piste, too – notably on the world's first yoga piste! Four locations along the ski run each have two information panels that help visitors to breathe deeply, focus the mind and relax – finishing of course with a Savasana corpse pose. The one difference: here, yogis practise not on a mat but on the snow. engadin.ch/yoga-snow



Ride a piste-basher

Corviglia – Thanks to the snow-grooming machines, the pistes of the Engadin are always in immaculate condition. Anyone who has always wanted to sit at the controls of one of these caterpillar-tracked giants can do so in the Engadin as part of a three-hour event that also reveals the secrets of all it takes to run a ski area – from making artificial snow to operating gondolas and chair lifts. engadin.ch/piste-basher

Snow-Deal

Book early for the best deals! Thanks to the Engadin lift company's dynamic pricing system, visitors who book early can enjoy a discount of up to 30 per cent off their ski pass.

snow-deal.ch

Ski warm-up

Always warm up properly before starting snow sports: a good routine reduces the risk of falling and lowers the danger of injury.



Swing arms back and forth.



Flex knees, keep back straight.



Circle hips.



Walk on the spot.



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 is no better way to start the day!

engadin.ch/enjoy-white-carpet



Night skiing

Silvaplana – Every Friday evening, skiers and snowboarders can enjoy the surreal sensation of carving and cruising down Switzerland's longest floodlit piste until late at night. The Murtèl restaurant at the cable car middle station ensures energy levels are topped up with the help of tasty pizzas from a wood-fired oven; after the last run, the après-ski is unlike any other!

engadin.ch/snow-night-corvatsch

Action-packed snowpark

Corvatsch – Flips, grabs, jumps and drops: anyone whose heart races at the mention of these words will enjoy the Corvatsch Park, a giant playground for skiers and snowboarders who wish to hone their freestyle skills. The park includes the Fun Ride with rollers and banked turns, the new Flowline, and the Easy Line and Medium Line for beginners and experienced riders respectively. Everyone, meanwhile, is welcome to get support, pick up tips and learn tricks from the pros at one of the many freestyle courses. corvatsch.ch



Other snowparks

Freestyle fun at the Corviglia snowpark

Large and imaginative snowpark with several lines and Funslope. engadin.ch/crowland-park

Freeski World Cup on the Corvatsch

Slopestyle heaven: the spectacular FIS Freeski World Cup in March. engadin.ch/freeski-world-cup-corvatsch

Sleep + Ski

Stay at least one night in the Engadin and enjoy even better value! With the "Sleep + Ski" deal, simply book a break at any participating accommodation and you can buy a ski pass covering cable cars, chair lifts, funiculars and public transport for CHF 45 per person, per day, for your whole stay. engadin.ch/sleep-and-ski

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 – 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 numerous pistes and freeride runs, attractions include one of the largest snowparks in the Alps. corvatsch.ch

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



Nature

**High in a bare old hazelnut tree
Sit three small sparrows: one, two, three.
On the right, Eric, on the left, Franz
And in between, cheeky young Hans.
Their eyes are shut, to feel much cosier,
Lots of snow is falling – brrr!
They squeeze up close, nice and tight,
Hans is warmest – yes, he’s bright!
Each can hear their little hearts beat,
Try and spot them – they look so sweet!**

**CHRISTIAN MORGENSTERN (1871–1914)
TRANSLATION BY JAMES BEDDING**



On is the fastest growing running shoe brand on the planet. With its unique Cloud technology, the Swiss company has taken the running scene by storm.

The Swiss Alps play a pivotal role for On, specifically the Engadin valley as one of the most beautiful and rewarding natural landscapes on this planet. For On, the mountains are a source of energy, ideas and innovation. In fact, the first ever On business plan was put together by our three co-founders while hiking in the Engadin. You might say that if it wasn't for these mountains, On wouldn't exist.

Literally, they are its source.

This summer, On went back to the mountains with a Mountain Hut close to the Piz Lunghin. It is a symbol of On's love for the Alps and its commitment to innovative design. On is also the official running and hiking partner of Engadin Tourism and supports several other projects in the region as a tribute to the remarkable terrain and On's origins. The best way to explore the Engadin is by foot and by wearing Ons on your feet of course, preferably the new speed hiking shoe called Cloudrock.

on-running.com



On softest snow

The snow brings tranquility: A white carpet covers the landscape, swallowing the sounds all around. Nothing moves, all life appears to be asleep. Yet tracks across the snow tell a very different story.

The forest is alive: Birds sit on the snow-covered branches, a fox prowls between the tree trunks and squirrels draw on the stocks of food that they buried in the autumn. Some of the seeds and nuts that they hid away remain forgotten – and germinate in the spring, bringing new life to the forest floor.

Sheltering snow: The thick layer of snow protects plants on the ground from the icy cold, while providing a steady source of life-giving moisture. As a result, the snowdrops are ready to stretch out their shoots and buds at the first sign of spring. Visitors can experience all the magic of the winter forests on a leisurely walk or on a ride in a horse-drawn sleigh.

The 2 h.p. shuttle service

In winter, two horses bring guests into the Val Roseg on a sleigh following a timetable service. At the reins: Werner Wohlwend from the Engadin.

Text **KARL GRAUHANS**
Photographs **LORENZ RICHARD**

Gentle neighs and the muffled sound of hooves on compact snow hang in the winter air. A large sleigh pulled by two sturdy horses glides along almost silently. The man holding the reins is Werner “Wohli” Wohlwend: coachman, businessman and horse lover. He has more than 50 horses on his farm, and he knows them all by name. The impressive stable offers a wide variety of adventures to guests in the valley, and ensures that the horse omnibus into the Val Roseg runs punctually to timetable, in summer and winter alike.

At home in the Engadin

Werner grew up in Pontresina – just a few hundred metres from his horse farm today. Here, the horses are galloping on the white meadows, whinnying and scattering the snow with their hooves. The sun’s first rays are emerging from behind the Piz Albris, illuminating the flurries of snow and the horses’ breath, bathing the scene in a magical light.

This is how winter days begin on Werner’s farm. Today he has already been up and about for quite a while. His day starts and ends with a tour of the horses,

Snug and warm: a winter’s ride in a horse-drawn sleigh is a special treat.



Werner Wohlwend and his 50 horses ensure the horse omnibus runs to timetable.

checking that all is well. He stops here and there to give an affectionate pat or stroke: he has a very special connection to his animals. “I love the horses’ honesty,” he says. “I just have the feeling we understand one another.” Werner always liked animals, but it is thanks to his wife, Gina, that he developed such a passion for them. So much so that both of them now work with horses professionally – he as coachman, she as riding instructor.

Living traditions

Pure horse-drawn sleighs – without any wheels, that is – hardly exist in the Engadin any more. “For me, it’s a question of history and tradition,” says Werner. “And I definitely want to maintain them.” At the same time he admits to a personal penchant: “I love driving the sleigh in winter,” he says, “but I actually prefer driving a coach-and-six in summer.” Managing a team of six horses, negotiating climbs and tight corners, is no easy business: and it is precisely this challenge that appeals. “I’ve researched in books how the old stagecoaches used to do it,” Werner says. As for his rides with guests, he appreciates the convivial time spent together, and enjoys cracking the odd joke, too.

With 2 h.p. into the valley

The sleigh stands ready. Werner spreads out the soft furs and woollen blankets: guests should feel nice and cosy on the ride, he says. “On request, we also offer punch.” In winter, the thermometer can sink as low as -20°C , but this in no way

detracts from the experience; if anything, it makes the atmosphere all the more magical. “That’s why it’s worth doing a sleigh ride even when it’s bitterly cold,” Werner says.

Today, Napoleon and Nero are the horses – two sturdy creatures used to the cold – pulling the sleigh into the Val Roseg. With its snow-blanketed forests of larch and Swiss stone pine trees and its spectacular mountain backdrop, this alpine valley fully deserves its reputation as one of the finest in Switzerland. The starting point for this ride is immediately beside Pontresina railway station; from here, a lane twists up the valley, following the Ova da Roseg river.

The horses maintain a lively pace through the snow-covered landscape. Passengers with a sharp eye – and a little luck – may even spot chamois or red deer along the ride. And when Werner stops his sleigh, guests realise for the first time just how peaceful it is in the valley: “Winter here in the Val Roseg is idyllic,” he says: “pure tranquillity.”



Sleigh rides into the Val Roseg

Wohli’s sleigh rides: engadin-kutschen.ch

Helene Riedberger’s sleigh rides:

kutschenbetrieb-riedberger.ch

Stalla Engiadina: stalla-engiadina.ch

Other sleigh rides in winter

Options include: into the Val Bever, into the Val Fex, to the Lej da Staz, along Lake St. Moritz or into the Val Trupchun. engadin.ch/sleigh-rides

On the trail of winter wildlife

By no means all animals hibernate through the winter. Many are out and about, leaving their characteristic tracks in the snow.

Text ANNA HERBST



Photo left: Albert Mächler / Photo right: stock.adobe.com

Chamois AGILE ARTIST

Order: Artiodactyla
(even-toed ungulates)
Length: 70–85 cm
Weight: 35–50 kg
Population in Switzerland:
approx. 95,000
Status: not endangered

During the breeding season, male chamois defend their territory and females in the herd against rivals. The bucks barely feed during this period, although they will need sufficient fat reserves to survive the winter.



← **Red deer** COOL CHARACTER

Order: Artiodactyla
(even-toed ungulates)
Length: 120–150 cm
Weight: 90–220 kg
Population in Switzerland:
approx. 30,000
Status: not endangered

Red deer do not hibernate, but during the winter they go into “energy-saving mode” for a long period. At this time, the temperature of their extremities can sink to as low as 7°C.



Snow hare
FURRY JUMPER

Order: Lagomorpha
(lagomorphs)

Length: 48–60 cm

Weight: 1.8–3.5 kg

Population in Switzerland:
approx. 14,000

Status: not endangered

The mostly nocturnal snow hare has thick fur on its hind legs and exceptionally spreadable toes. This makes moving around on deep snow easier – as if the hare were wearing snowshoes.



Photo: stockadobe.com



Ptarmigan
FEATHERED FASHIONISTA

Order: Galliformes
(gallinaceous birds)
Length: 35 cm
Weight: 400–600 g
Population in Switzerland:
12,000–15,000 pairs
Status: near threatened

The ptarmigan, or rock ptarmigan, is the only species of bird that changes its brown feathers for white in winter. Its toes are also feathered in winter, as protection against the cold and to enable it to move around more easily on the snow.



Ibex
STYLISH CLIMBER

Order: Artiodactyla
(even-toed ungulates)
Length: 80–90 cm
Weight: 40–120 kg
Population in Switzerland:
16,000
Status: not endangered

Ibex' hooves function like suckers, as the animals can move each of their two toes individually. As a result, the ibex can move around nimbly in steep terrain, despite their considerable size.



Photo left: Elias Vetter / Photo right: Flurin Leugger

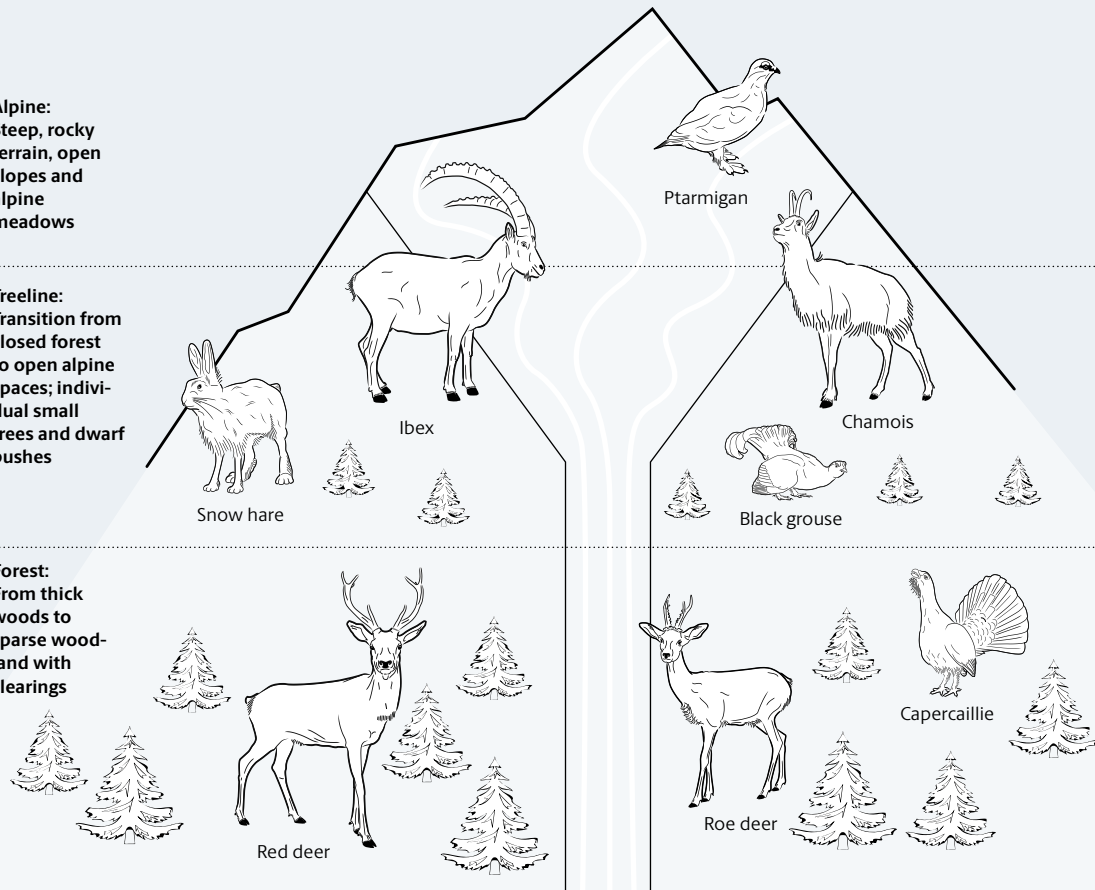
Under open skies

Pristine nature

Alpine:
Steep, rocky terrain, open slopes and alpine meadows

Treeline:
Transition from closed forest to open alpine spaces; individual small trees and dwarf bushes

Forest:
From thick woods to sparse woodland with clearings



Wildlife in energy-saving mode

In winter, when temperatures are low and food is in short supply, wild animals have to adapt their behaviour: they move around only as much as necessary, lower their heart rate and reduce their body temperature. It is therefore especially important in winter that the animals are not disturbed, as stress and flight across deep

snow require a great deal of energy. Walkers and winter sports enthusiasts of all kinds should stay on marked trails and pistes. Visitors should not feed the animals, either, as this would reactivate their entire metabolism and thereby increase their energy consumption.

[respect-to-protect.ch](https://www.respect-to-protect.ch)

Illustration: Verein «Natur & Freizeit», Fabian Leuenberger



Starry skies

Because of the high altitude of the Engadin valley, the great distance from cities and the intelligent street-lighting system, the star-filled skies here are spectacular, and the Milky Way exceptionally clear. "Engadin Friends of Astronomy" is a local association that welcomes enthusiasts and newcomers to public tours and talks that reveal the secrets of the night sky. A telescope at the observatory in Samedan offers visitors the chance to admire the heavenly bodies in all their glory. engadiner-astrofreunde.ch

Magical winter walks

Snow-blanketed forests, frozen lakes and the clear, cold winter air make any winter walk in the Engadin a delightful experience. Countless paths and trails lead through this winter wonderland: options range from challenging snowshoe hikes to leisurely walks and romantic strolls. Families with young children love the flat trails between Maloja, Silvaplana and St. Moritz; in good snow conditions, these are also pushchair-accessible. The four-kilometre trail through the Val Bever is also ideal for a gentle walk: starting at Bever railway station, the route leads along the Beverin river, across snow-covered meadows and through enchanting forests.

engadin.ch/winter-hiking



Panoramic walk

Up on the Diavolezza, with distant views as far as alpine summits in Austria and Italy.

Into a side valley

Three-hour circular walk from Sils into the enchanting Val Fex.

Across the ice

Easy walk across frozen Lake St. Moritz or Lake Silvaplana.

Further information:

engadin.ch/winter-hiking

Feeding wild birds in the Tais forest

Pontresina – While many species of wild birds migrate south for the winter, several defy the cold and overwinter in the Engadin, for example in the Tais forest near Pontresina. Braver birds will even eat from visitors' hands. On a guided walk to the feeding site, experts share intriguing insights into the lives of local bird species. [pontresina.ch/winter/winter-bucket-list](https://www.pontresina.ch/winter/winter-bucket-list)



Swiss National Park visitor centre

Zernez – In order to protect resident wildlife, the Swiss National Park is closed to visitors in winter, but the visitor centre remains open all year. The permanent exhibition provides fascinating information on the park, its history, and the remarkable wealth and variety of flora and fauna. The current temporary exhibition explores the return of the wolf to Switzerland. [nationalpark.ch](https://www.nationalpark.ch)

150 km of winter walking trails...

...lead throughout the Upper Engadin. Long or short, challenging or leisurely, the choice is vast. Walkers, snowshoeing enthusiasts and tobogganists can find endless inspiration for snowy adventures on the new winter walking map, available from tourist information offices or online. engadin.ch/winter-hiking

Iconic wildlife

Switzerland's largest colony of ibex – about 1,800 animals – lives in the Val Languard above Pontresina. Visitors have a particularly good chance of spotting them towards the end of winter: in search of food, the ibex even reach the village edge, where the spring grass is already sprouting.

Culinaria

**“No pleasure is transient, because
the impression it leaves is lasting.”**

JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE,
IN “WILHELM MEISTER’S APPRENTICESHIP”, 1795/6



Hot flavours in cool venues



Perfect after a day on the pistes: hot, nourishing Graubünden barley soup.

Photo: slowgoods.ch

Gastronomic tradition: Sweet Engadin walnut cake, tasty Salsiz sausage, hearty Graubünden barley soup, rich Capuns (chard-wrapped dumplings baked with alpine cheese) – the list of traditional Engadin and Graubünden specialities is long and mouth-watering. Some have gradually disappeared from menus over the decades and are all but forgotten.

Star-filled gastro scene: Meanwhile, the Engadin has gained a reputation worldwide as a gourmet destination. Every year, foodies make the pilgrimage to the upper Inn valley to enjoy winter holidays that include moments of pure gastronomic delight. The Engadin, with its 8 Michelin stars, has helped Switzerland achieve the greatest concentration of Michelin-starred restaurants in Europe. At times, the region could happily claim the legendary Hollywood epithet “More stars than there are in heaven” – for example, during the lavish St. Moritz Gourmet Festival, with top-flight guest chefs from across the globe.

Fresh approach: The many world-class chefs have been joined in recent years by several young restaurateurs who are drawing on the region’s rich gastronomic heritage to reinvent old, traditional recipes. These champions of the Slow Food movement believe in a return to gastronomic roots, pure flavours and regional products, and also in the rediscovery of the original Engadin as we know and love it: small, special, authentic and easy-going.

Pasta party reinvented

Take an engineering draughtsman, a facility manager and a gastronomic scientist, and what do you get? Three innovators on the Engadin's gastro scene – and a real success story!

Text BARBARA THOMA
Photographs FILIP ZUAN

Something's cooking in the valley's gastronomic scene: in a remarkably short time, a band of unconventional young restaurateurs has turned the Engadin into a versatile showcase for innovative culinary concepts. Among the group are Dimitrios Kefalas (30), a former facility manager; Fabian Roth (31), an engineering draughtsman; and Luca Höfer (23), a gastronomy student.

The three young newcomers talked to us about their shared history, their dreams and the valley's gastronomic highlights as they cooked pasta together at their restaurant, La Scarpetta.

Your two restaurants are anything other than typical for the Engadin. How did you get into gastronomy?

Professionally we come from very different places, but we got together through a shared love of cooking. We are all from the Engadin, but study and jobs took us in completely different directions. Dimitrios studied in Zurich and also worked there for two years in IT; Fabian worked as a civil engineering draughtsman before joining his parents' sports shop in St. Moritz; and Luca is studying gastronomic sciences at the Università di Scienze Gastronomiche in the Italian town of Bra, cradle of the

Equipped for all eventualities: the young entrepreneurs Dimitrios Kefalas, Fabian Roth and Luca Höfer (left to right).





Real handiwork (left): flour, eggs, salt and olive oil become pasta dough.

A tribute to the past (right): “La Scarpetta” (“The Small Shoe”) recalls the former shoemaker’s at Via Veglia 11.



Slow Food movement. Back in the Engadin, we would meet regularly to cook together, for friends or just for ourselves, and we would dream up plans for our own restaurant over pasta and wine – until one day we finally went for it!

And when did it finally happen? When did your first restaurant open its doors?

In winter 2017 we opened a pop-up restaurant in the QN bar at the Hotel Schweizerhof in St. Moritz: it was a kind of “chef’s table”. We had the use of a really old-fashioned, wood-panelled room with a kitchen that was barely half the size of the table we’re sitting at. That was more than enough for us at the time, as we were able to gain plenty of experience cooking our 4-course dinners for just 14 guests each time. Above all we wanted to find out if our idea would work: one table, one small and cosy dining room, freshly prepared food made with what the market has to offer. And it worked: we were fully booked, week after week!

GaultMillau has called you trendsetters. What trends are you setting, then?

Quite simply “Back to the roots”: simple cuisine with high quality, fair prices, very informal. Here at “La Scarpetta”, our guests sit together at two big tables. The evening may begin with five couples or pairs of guests, but by the end all of them are talking together and sharing their wine. It makes us enormously happy to see how our place becomes their place, too.

By contrast the Giardin, our new garden restaurant in Pontresina, is larger and a lovely place to sit out in the sunshine in fine weather. The atmosphere and style are similar though, as they carry our mark. And since we enjoy thinking unconventionally and coming up with new ideas, we want Giardin to keep offering guests fresh and original experiences. So this winter we’re starting with a new concept: “Giardin vo Godin”, which is Romansh for “The garden goes into the forest”. A cosy wooden hut, full of the



Concentration and loving attention to detail: the dough emerges as fresh pasta.

“The evening may begin with five couples or pairs of guests, but by the end all of them are talking together and sharing their wine.”

scent of Swiss stone pine wood and fresh pine needles, has space for up to 50 guests. In addition to the Giardin cuisine, we are offering a versatile Raclette buffet with a do-it-yourself flavour. We will have candied fruit, nuts and berries, caramelised cep mushrooms, different vegetables, a large selection of cheese – and, to crown it all, a mouth-watering platter of meat. In our “hut forest”, guests should feel like hunters on a cold winter’s day who are tracking down a good dinner. At our restaurant – like in the forest – they’ll find a wonderful selection of game that they can choose from to make up their plate.

Luca is studying at the Slow Food university. Would you like to bring this movement to the Engadin?

It’s already here and gaining ground steadily! The young gastro scene – and by that we mean hosts as well as guests – is totally committed to the concept. “Back to the roots” actually also means “back to the original flavours”. After

all, Slow Food stands for good, clean and fair ingredients – in other words, tasty, seasonal and uncontaminated goods direct from the producer. Luca’s studies in Piedmont are helping us to expand steadily our network of regional suppliers.

Imagine I’m planning a food tour through the Engadin’s gastronomic scene. Can you give me a few ideas and tips?

Sure! Hmm, let’s think for a moment... Breakfast will definitely be at the alpine cheese dairy in Morteratsch. The setting is gorgeous, and visitors can watch the cheese being made. For our morning snack, we’ll have some of the superb goat’s cheese from the Famiglia Cadurisch in Isola near Sils; they’ve been making delicious local produce on their farm for generations.

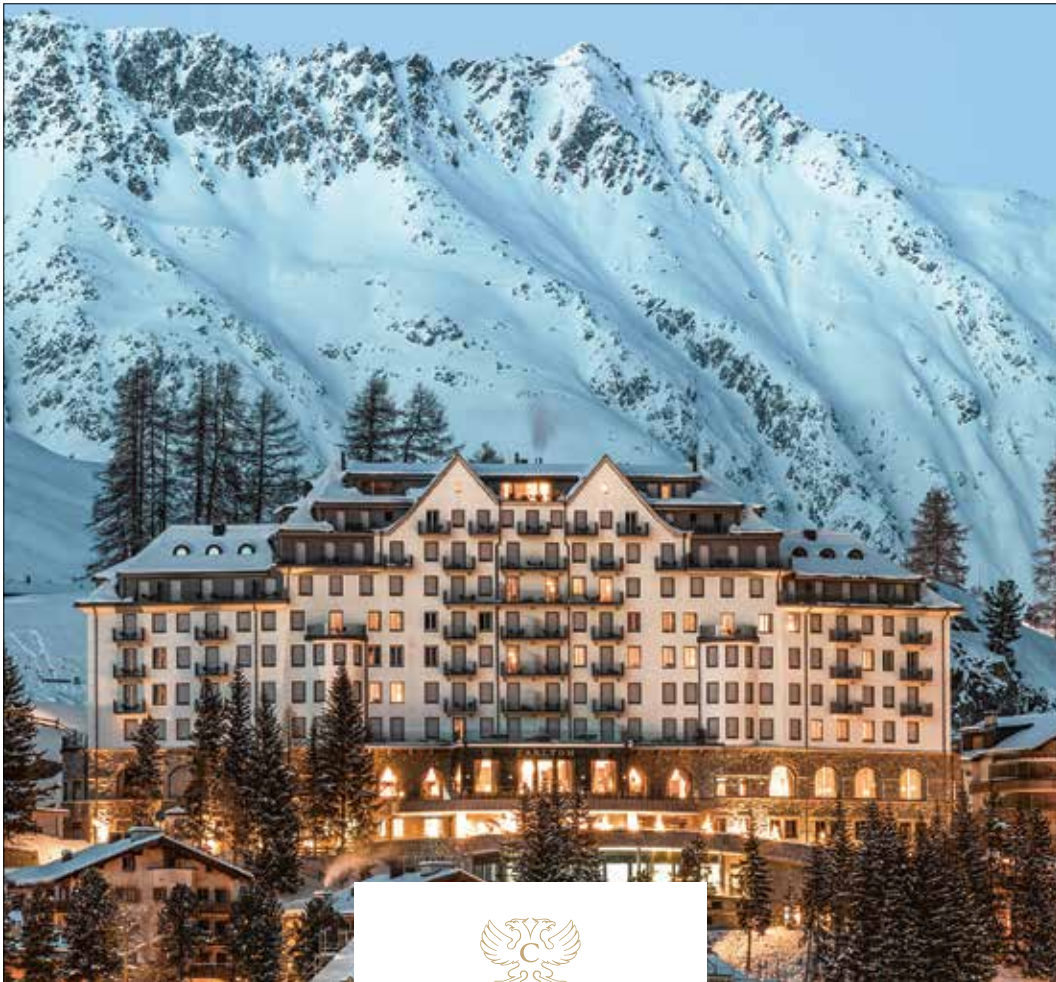
Lunch... well, here we’re spoilt for choice... PappaLoù on Lake Silvaplana is definitely always an option, but



Before: Tagliatelle
– couldn't be fresher ...



... and after: all'arrabiata –
couldn't be better.



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Mouth-watering: the pasta is hung up neatly to dry.

really it's time for a meal at a mountain hut: simple cuisine, no frills, top quality. At Georgy's mountain hut on the Piz Languard, for example, or the Segantini mountain hut up on the Schafberg. You sit in the sunshine, you're in a good mood and you've been enjoying a fabulous hike – what more could you want?

For a drink, we'll stop at Gianottis wine bar in Pontresina, before heading to dinner in St. Moritz: the young people who run Dal Mulin offer wonderful, authentic cuisine and a fantastic wine list. If you'd prefer somewhere lively – and loud! – then La Baracca is the place to go. And perhaps one tip you might not expect, because the name sounds rather conventional: the Country Club

at the Kulm Hotel. A laid-back atmosphere, superb value, and the local cook is a great “back to the roots” enthusiast. The only conventional thing about the place is the name!



Taste the goodness

At the restaurant “Giardin vo Godin”, Via Maistra 62, Pontresina, and at “La Scarpetta”, Via Veglia 11, St. Moritz. engadin.ch/culinary-scene

Bon appétit!

Gourmet treats



Bever – The Lataria Engiadinaisa, one of the highest dairies in Europe, takes fresh mountain milk to make “Engadin Grottino”, a mild, semi-hard cheese that is matured in a cave for one to three months. lesa.ch

Photo left: Sarina Strebler / Photo right: Sarina Strebler / Hotel Walther



Sweet specialities

Sils-Maria – During the autumn, golden larch needles fall on the surface of Lake Sils. When a strong Maloja wind blows, the needles form bobbing balls that grow steadily over time, reaching a diameter of up to 20 centimetres. According to legend, these balls once saved the lives of the residents of Sils-Maria. At the time, the village was completely cut off by floods, so other inhabitants of the valley sent provisions across the lake to the people of Sils with the help of the floating balls. You can find these natural curiosities on the shores of the lake only in autumn, but you can buy “Sils balls” throughout the year at the Furnaria Grond, a confectioner’s in Sils-Maria – and they are absolutely delicious. These versions are made of marzipan and meringue with a heart of fine chocolate: a sweet treat that also makes an ideal gift to bring home. grond-engadin.ch



Other Engadin delights

Classic cake

The Engadin walnut cake, made with shortcrust pastry and caramelised walnuts, is known well beyond the borders of Switzerland.

Secret delicacy

Less well-known than the Engadin walnut cake is the “Engadiner Torte”, filled with a tasty hazelnut crème patissière.

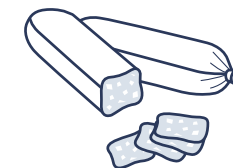
Nourishing snack

Delicious “Birnenbrot” (pear bread) is full of dried pears and other dried fruit.

Further information: engadin.ch/culinary

Too good to go

Every day, tons of food that is perfectly edible ends up being thrown away. “Too good to go” is an app that aims to put an end to this wastage: shops, restaurants and bakeries can sell surplus food cheaply via the app just before closing instead of discarding it. The scheme is proving popular in the Engadin, too: participants include the Hauser bakery/confectioner’s in St. Moritz and the Pizzeria Margun in Silvaplana. toogoodtogo.ch



Salsiz sausage is pressed in a wooden mould before drying, thereby acquiring its typical distinctive shape.

Available from delicatessens including **Laudenbacher in La Punt**. laudenbacher.ch

It’s teatime!

It is not surprising that several hotels in the Engadin offer afternoon tea, considering that about 150 years ago the travellers who pioneered the tradition of holidaymaking in the valley were primarily from England. Thanks to them, guests can still enjoy delicious scones, fine sandwiches and other tasty bites served in style – of course with a choice of exquisite teas. The perfect treat for a leisurely winter afternoon! engadin.ch/teatime

Fondue in a cable car

Pontresina – The cable car in front of the Hotel Walther no longer carries visitors up to the Diavolezza, but instead takes cheese lovers to seventh heaven. The cosy Gondolezza serves Raclettes and fondues made with delicious glacier cheese from the region, along with a variety of tasty side servings. Adventurous diners can brave the spicy “Devil’s fondue”. hotelwalther.ch



A speciality to take home

Nothing beats a rich cheese fondue on a cold winter evening. Guests can enjoy the same delicacy at home, too: the dairy in Pontresina, for example, sells a choice of delicious fondue mixtures.

sennerei-pontresina.ch



Cross-country ski

“I love the sound of snow. It is not even a real sound: more like a breath, a non-sound.”

CLAUDIO ABBADO, CONDUCTOR, *NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW (FAZ)*, 2011



A sport for all



Tireless: 82-year-old Françoise Stahel has taken part in every Engadin Skimarathon since its first edition.

Photo: Samuel Trümpy / Book: Der lange Lauf von Madame Engadin Skimarathon, madame-engadin-skimarathon.ch

Skimarathon pioneer: When the starting gun for the 51st Engadin Skimarathon was fired on 10 March 2019, the line-up included ten racers who had competed every year since the first edition in 1969. Among them was one woman: Françoise Stahel, now 82 years old. Originally from France, she came to Klosters in 1959 for a linguistic stay and immediately fell in love with the Graubünden mountains. Ever since, she has clocked up several hundred kilometres every winter on her cross-country skis. In the early days of the Engadin Skimarathon, the few female racers were still viewed critically, as cross-country skiing was seen as a man's world.

A new style: Like all enthusiasts in those days, Françoise Stahel initially adopted the classic style of cross-country skiing. The skating style only established itself in the 1980s, but as far back as 1975 the Swiss racer August Broger left his classic-style rivals behind in their prepared tracks as he set a new course record with his dynamic skating technique – and without wax.

The biggest open race: Over time, cross-country skiing has evolved into a popular sport for men and women of all ages, and the Engadin Skimarathon has become Switzerland's biggest cross-country ski race. In 2019, no fewer than 14,200 competitors tackled the 42 kilometres from Maloja to S-chanf. The 52nd edition of the race will take place in March 2020. Only once in the history of the race was the event cancelled: a sudden spell of warm weather in 1991 thwarted the plans of organisers and competitors alike.

The Engadin's favourite race

Far from the excitement of the Engadin Skimarathon, cross-country skiers enjoy an even longer race that rewrites the rules: for once, the winner is not the fastest.

Text MARTIN HOCH
Photographs FILIP ZUAN

Klack, klack. Klack, klack. Strange sounds are echoing through the alleys of the Engadin village of La Punt Chamues-ch. Klack, klack. High heels? But so many? Klack, klack. The village of 700 souls seems deserted; all is still between the patrician houses and the wooden barns, between the Piz Blaisun high above and the Piz Mezzaun. Just this one sound breaks the morning silence. Klack, klack. And then suddenly a surprise sight: a group of men in tight outfits, carrying skis in their hands and dashing through the village as if on the run. Klack, klack. Silence. And then the sound returns: another group hurries through the village.

Altogether, 284 competitors race through this sleepy settlement at the southern foot of the Albula Pass on this Saturday morning in February. They started 35 kilometres up the Inn valley in Maloja. In fact they are doing the whole route on cross-country skis – except in La Punt Chamues-ch, where they have to unclip their skis because the itinerary leads right through the village along roads cleared of snow. On the far side, the course follows cross-country ski trails once again to the final destination: the village of Zernez and its Center da Sport.



Crossing La Punt Chamues-ch: a short stretch (still) on foot.

“Here it’s not about prestige, but about sport and the breathtaking scenery and pure nature.”

RETO CURTI *competitor*

The Maloja-Zernez cross-country ski race is the longest of its kind in the Engadin, at 58 kilometres. Its motto: The hour of truth. Guolf Denoth, race director and president of the Sarsura Zernez ski club since 2003, says: “Here, you are pitting yourself not so much against other competitors as perhaps the toughest opponent of all: yourself.”

PostBus to the race start

The Maloja-Zernez cross-country ski race is more than just a competition. It is a gathering of like-minded people, of Engadin enthusiasts, of friends of cross-country skiing – and of many of the volunteers who help out with the far bigger and much better-known Engadin Skimarathon. They cannot take part in the famous event themselves, but they still want to enjoy the challenge of a major race.

Today’s contest begins long before the starting gun is fired, early in the morning as the sun first lights up the valley’s highest peaks. Smoke rises from the chimneys of the Engadin houses, their walls adorned with traditional sgraffiti decorations. A few birds sing with gusto, as if trying cheekily to call up spring. Too soon. You can see your breath hanging in the ice-cold air; the thermometer reads -10°C . The streets are empty.

Nearly empty: three PostBuses do the rounds of the villages from Zernez to Maloja, picking up a total of about 150 cross-country skiers. Each racer is welcomed by a volunteer from the Sarsura Zernez ski club and given a race bib. The rows of seats fill steadily, the atmosphere is relaxed.

Reto Curti is one of the participants. The vet from central Switzerland travelled early to Zernez, where he boarded the bus for Maloja. He has already been up for several hours, you can tell: he is wide awake and raring to go. This is not his first time here, he explains, he has already entered the competition on five occasions. “For me, this is the finest cross-country ski race of all,” he says. “Here it’s not about prestige, but about sport and the breathtaking scenery and pure nature.” During one race, he even spotted a chamois between S-chanf and Zernez.

For today’s contest, he prepared his skis carefully with the finest wax. “Every self-respecting cross-country skier waxes their own skis,” he says. Whether he has done it all correctly remains to be seen. His goal: “I’d like to finish in under 2 hours 50 minutes,” he says. Will he manage?

More participants than bib numbers

In Maloja, the multipurpose hall is filling steadily. All the participants are gathering here. The race will start just a few hundred metres away, on the shore of Lake Sils, in an hour. The atmosphere is still relaxed. Racers are standing around in the hall in small groups. A few are getting changed, checking their equipment one more time or sipping hot tea.

In the entrance area, Guolf Denoth is distributing the last bibs. They clearly do not all match. Denoth explains that the club had just 250 bibs, and that this year a record number of people registered: there will be 284 racers at the start, 34 more than the club had bibs for. The extra bibs that they had to order at short notice look rather different – but that does not bother anyone at this easy-going event.

As the sun rises over the Piz da la Margna, sentinel of the Upper Engadin, racers finish off their hot drinks, put on the last bibs and make for the start. It is certainly not going to be warm: this morning, a sharp north wind is blowing across the frozen lakes of the Upper Engadin. For racers, this means they will be battling a nasty, biting headwind. Meanwhile the race director has climbed on the platform of a snow-grooming machine. In his hand, Denoth – whose main job is game warden – is holding a gun.

Calmly but firmly, he makes his voice heard above the conversations at the starting line: “Two minutes to go!” The racers are now all lined up. The sky is cloudless and the mood among the competitors



On the Maloja-Zernez cross-country ski race, competitors have room for wide skating strides.



Enjoy the whole valley with the Guest pass Nordic



The new Guest pass Nordic gives cross-country skiers freedom of the whole valley: one single pass provides access to ski trails as well as public transport.

engadin.ch/deals



The most demanding section of the course begins after S-chanf.

is light-hearted. People are laughing and chatting; no outsider would imagine that the cheerful men and women were about to embark on a major sporting challenge.

Always the last

“One more minute!” The conversations fall silent. The mood among participants becomes quiet but tense. Denoth points his gun skywards and: “Bang!” A shot shatters the stillness. The show begins. The racers in the front row speed off like Arab thoroughbreds bursting out of the starting gate at a horse race. Behind them come those tackling the race rather more gently. And right at the back skis Stefan Triebs.

He was the last to reach the finish line a year ago, just like the year before – and this year will be no different. Triebs is tail-end Charlie, trailing the field and sweeping up stragglers. He is responsible for ensuring that everyone reaches the finish line within the set time; you can recognise him by the broom sticking out of his rucksack. “Actually, no one wants to see me,” he says, laughing. “Last year a young racer spotted me coming up, and she immediately burst into tears.” Anyone who sees him realises that they are last. “The woman



Left: Guolf Denoth, race director and president of the Sarsura ZerneZ ski club.

Right: Stefan Triebs, "tail-end Charlie", sweeps up stragglers.



told me she had never been last in life before." She was at her wits' end. Stefan Triebs did what he is there to do and encouraged her to keep going – and put a smile back on her face.

If ever a skier decides to give up the race altogether, "I take their bib and show them the best way to get to ZerneZ," he says. Sometimes he virtually has to talk exhausted racers into giving up. Once, Triebs used to compete in the race himself; now he acts as a volunteer for the club.

The marathon route and the tricky section

As far as S-chanf, the course follows the route of the Engadin Skimarathon. But Guolf Denoth does not want to make any comparison with today's contest. "Maloja-ZerneZ is a simple race to organise," he says, a total contrast to the big event, "and we don't get many celebrity competitors turning up." He has had several phone conversations with pro racers, but when they find out the prize money – a voucher of 150 francs for a dinner – any talk of taking part usually dries up. From S-chanf, the finish point for the Engadin Skimarathon, to ZerneZ, skiers face the most challenging section of all, with a few tough climbs in store.

Born at the regulars' table

A search for the origins of this cross-country ski race leads to the regulars' table in the restaurant of the Hotel Crusch Alba in ZerneZ and to Reto Rauch and Riet Schorta, two of the race's founders. For the first few years, the two of them, along with other members of the Sarsura ZerneZ ski club, completed the route in sections. The emphasis was on fun and pleasure; along the way they stopped for lunch, and even treated themselves to a beer now and again. "The winner was the first to order a drink at the Hotel Crusch Alba in ZerneZ." The time on the receipt counted as the official finish time.

Today there is a timing machine at the finish line, operated by Luzi Pinggera. He is sitting in a small container, where he hears the starting signal via his mobile phone. Together with Felix Riet, he records the times of the athletes as they arrive. The first to reach the finish line is 22-year-old Livio Matossi from St.Moritz: 2 hours and 15 minutes after the starting signal in Maloja. He is overjoyed, talks about the superb conditions and says: "Now I'm going to try to be in the first 50 in the Engadin Skimarathon." He then gets his reward for the day's exertions: a bowl of barley soup and a piece of bread. The fastest woman is Anja Eichholzer from ZerneZ, with a time of 2 hours 38 minutes. Yet neither of the two is classed as winner of the race.

"Here, the winner is whoever comes closest to the average time of all the participants," says Denoth. He adds, with a laugh, that the winner is usually pretty surprised to learn of their victory. This year, it will be Matteo Rocco Pastore; the average time will prove to be 3 hours 8 minutes. The organisers do not publish rankings, however, as "we don't want the race to be all about performance." As Denoth speaks, Reto Curti, the vet from central Switzerland, reaches the finish line. He achieves the goal he set himself – 2 hours 50 minutes – with Swiss precision: the display shows a time of 2 hours 49 minutes and 33 seconds. He beams and promises: "I'll be here again next year."



Maloja-ZerneZ cross-country ski race

The next race takes place on Saturday 22 February 2020. Registration opens mid-December, entry fee: CHF 60.

cdssarsura.ch

Gliding in style

Classic and contemporary



Ski lessons

Every cross-country skier, from beginner to expert, can benefit from a couple of hours with a qualified instructor: technique is everything, and practice makes perfect. All along the valley, schools offer group classes and private lessons for enthusiasts of all levels of ability. engadin.ch/deals

“Firm” skating in spring

Thanks to the high altitude of trails in the Engadin, enthusiasts can enjoy cross-country skiing well into the spring: the winter season only officially finishes here at the end of May. As temperatures climb steadily and the sunshine becomes stronger, skiers enjoy the special experience of skating on “firm” snow, when the upper layer softens and the skis glide softly and smoothly through the cold whiteness. With conditions like these, devotees wish the winter would last forever! engadin.ch/spring-skating

True classic: La Diagonela

Zuoz – The cross-country ski race La Diagonela is a key fixture in the calendar for all devotees of the classic style of Nordic skiing. The 65-kilometre route leads along prepared trails from Zuoz to St. Moritz, Pontresina and back to Zuoz. The constantly undulating course requires competitors to conquer several hundred vertical metres. Skiers who prefer a shorter race can opt for La Pachifica (27 km) or La Cuorta (11 km), held on the same day. ladiagonela.ch



Passes and races

Guest pass Nordic

Enjoy total mobility: an all-in-one pass for public transport & ski trails. engadin.ch/deals

Ladies first

The 17-kilometre Engadin Women’s Race launches the Engadin Marathon Week. engadin-skimarathon.ch

By moonlight

During the Engadin Night Race, only head torches and moonlight show the way. engadin-skimarathon.ch



Cross Skills Park

Samedan – You do not need a snowboard for cool jumps: you can glide through the air on cross-country skis, too, with the help of well-crafted kickers. The Cross Skills Park, for example, helps Nordic skiers boost fitness and technique with a range of specific exercises. engadin.ch/cross-skills-park

95

 per cent

of the body’s muscles are activated in cross-country skiing, even at moderate speed.

Easy access by public transport

The access points for the Engadin’s cross-country ski trails are easy to reach by bus; if you get tired en route, you know that the next bus stop is never far away. engadin.ch/deals

Cross-country ski heaven

Ski at night, ski with your dog, ski across frozen lakes: the Engadin offers enthusiasts a bewitching variety of experiences. About 230 km of trails ensure that experts and beginners alike are spoiled for choice.

1 Into the side valleys

Several side valleys branch off the main valley, known for their pristine natural landscapes. In winter, visitors can explore by horse-drawn sleigh, on snowshoes or on cross-country skis: for example the Val Bever with the hamlet of Spinax, the picturesque Val Fex, or the Val Roseg, where it is worth stopping at the Hotel Roseg Gletscher. engadin.ch/cross-country-ski/side-valleys



2 With a four-legged friend

The three “dog trails” around Zuoz and La Punt allow cross-country skiers to enjoy their sport with a canine companion. While owners glide along the prepared trails, their faithful friends scamper across the snow alongside, burning off endless energy. Exercise was never such fun! engadin.ch/cross-country-ski/dog-trails

3 After dark

Cross-country skiers for whom the day is simply not long enough can continue to enjoy their sport after dark on one of the night trails. The illuminated tracks in St. Moritz and Pontresina welcome skiers daily from 5 to 9 pm; enthusiasts can light up the night trail in Zernez for an hour each time they press a button until 10 pm. engadin.ch/cross-country-night-skiing

4 Across the lakes

A thick layer of ice and a soft blanket of snow cover each of the large Engadin lakes in winter: perfect conditions for doing a couple of rounds of the wide, flat expanses on cross-country skis! The 12-kilometre trail that runs straight across Lake Sils, Lake Silvaplana and Lake Champfèr is also a section of the famous Engadin Skimarathon. engadin.ch/cross-country-skiing



Further information

A detailed map of cross-country ski trails is available from tourist information offices and online. engadin.ch/cross-country-skiing



Cultura

The story of the Graubünden patissiers is more than just a sweet-sounding adventure. It offers a kaleidoscopic portrait of their times, illuminating social and economic history as it tells of home and of distant lands.





The search for happiness

From the Engadin to Venice: In the 17th Century, the Engadin was a tough place to live, whose inhabitants struggled to make a living from the bare soil. The situation appeared very different 350 kilometres away in Venice, which was at the height of its power, trading worldwide and amassing great wealth. But in 1630 a traveller arrived in the lagoon, bringing the plague. The subsequent epidemic killed nearly 50,000 residents, more than one third of the entire population of the city, and devastated the economy. When the outbreak finally died down, workers were in short supply – and in great demand. This situation led several fortune-seekers from Graubünden to set off for the Veneto to work as patissiers. They enjoyed considerable success. Soon, other compatriots joined them, and a good century later, nearly all patisseries in Venice were in Graubünden hands; only four of 42 businesses belonged to owners from elsewhere.

Coffee and cakes: The trade of the patissier included much more than creating cakes and confectionery:

the industrious bakers also brewed beer, produced wine and lemonade, and made chocolate. And they roasted coffee!

In Venice, they were the first to serve coffee, and so provided an important contribution to the city's social life. Artists and intellectuals from countries far and wide came to their coffee houses to meet, chat, debate and talk politics.

But this success led to resentment among the local guilds, who feared foreign influence. In 1766 they succeeded in having all Graubünden people expelled from the republic, whereupon the talented patissiers took their skills to the four corners of the earth: to Berlin and America, to Russia and even as far as the Cape of Good Hope. In the mid-19th Century, about 10,000 Graubünden patissiers were said to be living and working in more than 1,000 towns and cities.

Sweet happiness: All this sounds like it could be a fairy tale: about people who emigrate to find happiness and make others happy through their sweet creations. Such as Esaias Caflisch in Naples, whose sublime “Sfogliatelle” were so famous that they found new life in a chat-up line: “You are as heavenly as a pastry from Caflisch.”

Homesickness of the swallows: But there was another side to the coin. The success was based on unhealthy work conditions and exploited employees. The bakeries were far from the protection of family, and dreams

Source: Kaiser Dolf: Fast ein Volk von Zudeibäcker/Peter Michael-Caffisch: "Wer leben kann wie ein Hund, erspart"; zur Geschichte der Bündner Zudeibäcker in der Fremde.

that seemed sweet turned out in reality to be hard to swallow. A working day in a windowless bakery, full of smoke from the ovens, typically lasted 14 hours, and employees often received their wages only at the end of a multi-year contract. A few emigrants, certainly, returned home as prosperous gentry, using their wealth to enrich the culture and architecture of the valley. But official records, letters and church registers also tell of the arduous life of many emigrants, and how some came to a tragic end.

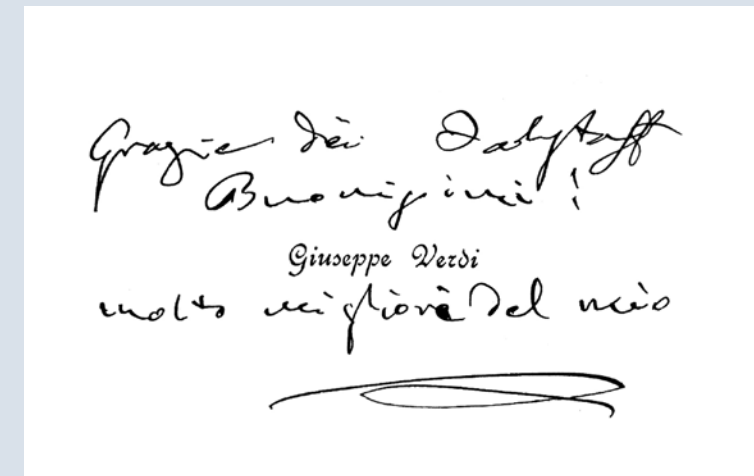
All along, “inreschantüna” – homesickness – was a constant companion of the patissiers, and led many an emigrant to return home to the Engadin like a “randulin”, a swallow. The two words encapsulate all the emotions and longing that people of the Engadin experienced abroad. To get the better of their melancholy, some exiled Engadin folk took unusual steps. One patissier from Celerina working in Berlin, for example, is said to have instructed his staff to attach a cowbell around their waist to serve coffee on March 1, when Chalandamarz was being celebrated back home.

Legacy of the patissiers: The return of successful and wealthy patissiers to their homeland gave the Engadin magnificent residences that still dominate the valley. Johannes Josty, for example, who made a fortune in Berlin, built what is now the Hotel Margna in Sils-Baselgia in 1917, while his brother Daniel owned the Palazzo Josty in Madulain. The foundation

Photo: By kind permission

of the Lyceum Alpinum in 1904 and the construction of several large hotels from the pioneering early days of tourism, along with many other buildings, would not have been possible without the money of the returning patissiers.

But the “randulins” left their mark not only on the Engadin but also on the places where they worked throughout the world. Such as at the Café Klainguti in Genova, where since 1893 guests have been enjoying a delicacy called the “Falstaff”, a sweet brioche by Hans Klainguti from Samedan. He named his creation after the opera by his customer Giuseppe Verdi, whose thank-you note is framed above the counter: “Grazie dei Falstaff. Buonissimi! Molto migliori del mio.” Which translates as: “Thank you for the Falstaffs. Delicious! Much better than mine.”



Icing sugar and printer's ink

Giovannes Mathis left home to become a pâtissier, and thanks to his love of the language became chronicler of Engadin “inreschantüna”.



Bakery of the
Pasticceria
Klainguti,
Genova, 1912

Photo: Archivio storico di Bregaglia

Text KARL GRAUHANS

Giovannes Mathis (1824–1912) was born at a time when many local boys hoped to escape the mountains of the Engadin with their bitterly cold and snowy winters. Throughout his youth he saw how the winters emptied the laboriously stocked larders all too quickly, and he dreamed instead of spending the cold season in a warm and fragrant bakery – like those that had attracted many other youngsters from the region.

Patissier of many talents

His path to patisserie began on 15 June 1839, as he describes in his memoirs: “Pochs dis zieva avair cumplieu 15 ans (ils 15 Gün 1839) partit la prüma vouta da chesa per Brüxelles. Da Schlarigna partit cun duonna Barbla Buosch da S-chanf (...) Il prüm di da nos viedi avettans plövgia continua ed arivettans a Launtsch la saira, bletschs tres e tres.”

A few days after his 15th birthday (on 15 June 1839) he left “Schlarigna” (Celerina) for Brussels. The lad spent the first day of his journey travelling with one Mrs Buosch from S-chanf on an uncovered wagon; thanks to the steady rain, he arrived in Lantsch that evening “bletschs tres e tres” – soaked through.

He only reached Chur the following evening; seven days later he arrived in Brussels, where he spent three years learning the trade of patissier. But his horizons were much wider. Already as a child, Giovannes enjoyed borrowing

Throughout his youth he saw how the winters emptied the laboriously stocked larders all too quickly, and he dreamed instead of spending the cold season in a warm and fragrant bakery.

books from the “Signur Reverend” (the vicar). In Brussels he discovered French theatre in the form of plays that his boss’s son lent him. And so he developed a passion for French literature, which he explored further when he moved to Toulon after completing his apprenticeship to run a shop selling sweets and groceries. He stayed from 1845 to 1864 – and as a shop owner, he could buy himself as much French literature as he liked.

After 19 years in Toulon, he returned to Celerina for a while, where he became a hotelier and mayor of the municipality – and also became familiar with the German-language authors Schiller and Goethe.

But his travels, shaped by sugar and literature, were not yet over. In 1877 he once again took over a business, this time in Genova, and only returned home for good at the age of 66. During this final spell abroad he also began to write himself. He did this in Romansh – for compatriots living in the region, for the colonies of Engadin people in other countries, and also for literate folk back home. He mainly penned shorter, entertaining texts: stories, plays, anecdotes and poems. He also wrote two longer books: his memoirs (“Algords”) and a 300-page novel, with autobiographical touches, called “Amicizia ed Amur” – Friendship and Love.

Two books – one void

In all Mathis’ works, it is striking that life abroad, which he knew so well, hardly features. Instead he focuses on events in the Engadin, which are portrayed in great detail. The novel “Amicizia ed Amur”, for example, deals with Gian, a young emigrant from Celerina, whose apprenticeship abroad is barely described. Only briefly, in the first pages of the book, does Mathis write about the sorrow of the mothers who wait months for the first news of their children, and of the sad fate of one lad who is so badly treated by his boss that he dies. Soon afterwards, the entire story of Gian’s childhood and youth, including six years abroad, is already over. Gian travels home and the tale can devote itself to events in the Engadin: friendships, love, outings and celebrations. When Gian later on sets off once again to work



Giovannes Mathis made things that melt on the mouth: patisserie, liqueurs and chocolate, along with prose in Romansh distilled from homesickness.

“Mia sour Deta, in Frauntscha, a Toulon.
Mia sour Anna, in Svizra, a Schlarigna.
Mieu frer Cristian, in Austria, a Triest.
Mieu frer Peter, in Prussia, a Berlin,
ed eau nel Belgio, a Brùxelles.”

(Algords, 1924, p.70)

Giovannes and his siblings were scattered across five countries: “My sister Deta is in France, in Toulon. My sister Anna in Switzerland, in Celerina. My brother Cristian in Austria, in Trieste. My brother Peter in Prussia, in Berlin, and I in Belgium, in Brussels.”

Photo: Barbara Graf

abroad, the novel relates not his experiences but those of the people who stayed back home.

Consolation in printer's ink

The greater part of Mathis' writing, then, relates to the Engadin. Not only in the novels, but also in the shorter texts that he penned for various periodicals of the Graubünden diaspora. Presumably, as a member of the well-connected community of emigrants, he did not dare cast too much light on the darker side of their life abroad or point the finger. Instead he focused on home – which only added to the emotional “incheschantüna”, the great homesickness, that bound the emigrants together.

So while his compatriots, with their Protestant work ethic, diligently produced “pastizeria, liquors e tschiculatta” – patisserie, liqueurs and chocolate – Giovannes Mathis' words about life at home provided consolation and entertainment. Mathis had an exceptional gift for observing and describing people and their manner of speech. He made use of these observations in his stories, which often portray encounters between people of different backgrounds – leading to amusing dialogues full of linguistic peculiarities, faux pas and misunderstandings.

The language of his writing is not pure Puter – the Romansh of the Upper Engadin with which he grew up – but rather the language of a “randulin” who has settled in different countries.

As he loved not only his homeland but also its language, he made use of the beauty of foreign words to create something colourful and original. And he did so not only for himself but for all his fellow sufferers who had emigrated from one of Switzerland's most beautiful regions. As they worked in their fragrant bakeries, they, too, like Giovannes Mathis, would long for those distant landscapes that look, on some days, as if someone has scattered icing sugar over them.



Further reading

More than 100 years have passed since the death of Giovannes Mathis. His work was never translated, just adapted to current Romansh. Today his writing can be found almost only in libraries, such as the Biblioteca Engiadinaisa in Sils or in the Chesa Planta in Samedan. bibliotecasegl.ch, chesaplanta.ch

“E da que temp, üna mamma podaiva bain cun radschun crider e suspirer, cur cha partiva ün infaunt. Suvenz, povrins, partivan a dudesch, tredesch ans, fand squasi adüna il lung viedi a pè, cun lur sachet sün döss, viedis chi düraivan fin trais, quatter eivnas. Mais inters passaivan, sainza cha'ls genituors avessan novas da lur infaunts. Quaunts, gnivan da que temp meltrattos da patruns e lavuraints e causa meltrattamaints, nosch e s-chars de manger, ma surtuot causa incheschantüna, sun morts sainz' udir ün pled da cumpaschiun e da cuffüert, dalöntschi da lur chers e da lur ameda patria!”

(*Amicizia ed Amur*, 1926, p.3)

“And in those days a mother had good reason to weep and sigh when a child went away. Often these poor young things left home at the age of 12 or 13, almost always making the long journey on foot with their little bag on their back, journeys that lasted three to four weeks. Months would pass without the parents receiving any news of their children. How many in those days were treated badly by their employers and colleagues and died – as a result of maltreatment, poor and meagre nourishment, but especially homesickness – without hearing a word of sympathy or consolation, far from their loved ones and their beloved homeland!”

Language of the Engadin people

Romansh is one of Switzerland's four national languages, but is spoken by only a minority. It lives on in the Engadin and other Graubünden valleys.

hei hei hei hei hei hei hei hei **On 20 February**
 hei na hei hei hei hei hei hei **1938 Swiss citizens**
 hei hei hei hei hei na hei hei **voted by 91.6 % to**
 hei hei na hei hei hei hei hei **recognise Romansh**
 hei hei hei hei hei na hei **as the fourth national**
 hei hei hei hei hei hei hei hei **language.**



K a u d e r
 w e l s c h

Kauderwelsch

German-speakers use the word “Kauderwelsch” to refer to a language they find unintelligible and which sounds funny to them. The etymology of the word is uncertain, but one theory claims that it originated in the Middle Ages. Back then, German-speakers called the Romansh dialect spoken in the city of Chur “Churwalsch”. And in the 16th Century, Martin Luther is said to have used the word “Kauderwelsch” explicitly to refer to the “Welsch” of Chur.

Learn Romansh

At the “language and culture weeks” in Samedan. engadin.ch/learn-romansh

5 dialects

Altogether, about 60,000 people speak Romansh.

There are five dialects, which vary from region to region:

- 1 Puter (Upper Engadin, language of schooling in Bergün)
- 2 Vallader (Lower Engadin, language of schooling in the Val Müstair)
- 3 Surmiran (Surses and Albula valley)
- 4 Sutsilvan (Hinterrhein regions)
- 5 Sursilvan (Vorderrhein valley and its side valleys)

Grazcha!*

*Thanks!

A revair!*

*Goodbye!

Bun di!*

*Hello!



“A Bell for Ursli”

One of Switzerland's best-loved children's books was originally written in the Puter dialect under the name of “Uorsin”. Its author, Selina Chönz, was from Samedan, but the story is set in Guarda in the Lower Engadin. The book was published in 1945 in German as “Schellen-Ursli”, with illustrations by Alois Carigiet.

The book is also available in English.



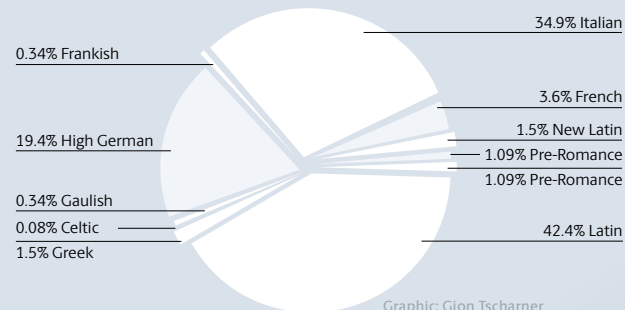
Hear the language

Old songs – Children sing traditional songs at the “Chalandamarz” festivity. engadin.ch/hear-the-language

New songs – The Engadin rock band Prefix, founded in 1999, sings in Puter. prefix-rock.ch

Origin and composition

The ancient Romans ruled over much of Europe until the 5th Century. Their language, Vulgar Latin, mixed with existing languages, including that of the Raetians who lived in Alpine regions. Over time, Romansh evolved out of this blend. The vocabulary of the Puter dialect derives from the following languages:



First printed book of Romansh literature

The “Nouv Testamaint” by Giachem Bifrun of Samedan from the year 1560, on display in the Chesa Planta. chesaplanta.ch



Widely spoken

Romansh was also spoken in the cantons of Glarus and St. Gallen until the High Middle Ages.

In the 11th Century, however, the German language gained the upper hand, and the era of German-Romansh bilingualism, which had lasted about 500 years, came to an end.



The “Lia Rumantscha”, the umbrella organisation for all Romansh language societies, was founded 100 years ago.

Illustration from the children's book "A Bell for Ursli" by Alois Carigiet and Selina Chönz, published by Orell Füssli Verlag. ISBN 978-3-280-01483-7 © Orell Füssli Sicherheitsdruck AG Zürich. All rights reserved. By courtesy of Orell Füssli Verlag.

Pinboard

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

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The Engadin in Europe.

The resorts



The lakes region.



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.



Heart of the Upper Engadin: the church of San Gian in Celerina.



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.



Refreshing sight: Gasthaus Spinass in the Val Bever.



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.

Photo left: Daniel Martinek



Picturesque village heart of Zuoz.



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



Photo 3: By kind permission / 4: Paragliding Engadin / 5: Helibernina AG

Even more winter activities

1 **Snowboarding**

Snowboarders find endless pistes, wild funparks and ultramodern facilities in the Engadin: nothing stands in the way of superlative riding action, day after day.

engadin.ch/snowboarding

Ice hockey

Another good reason to get your skates on! A game of ice hockey with friends promises a great deal of fun while boosting fitness and skill levels. The ice rinks scattered throughout the Engadin are ideal for anything from a gentle knockabout to a full-on match.

engadin.ch/ice-sports

Winter riding

A ride on horseback across the snowy winter landscape is a very special experience, open in the Engadin not only to experienced equestrians. Novices, too, can enjoy an accompanied ride across the snow for an enchanting encounter with nature.

engadin.ch/winter-riding

2 **Augmented reality experience**

St. Moritz – For 60 years, an ibex has stood immobile high on the Piz Nair. Now, however, the statue is coming to life. This has been made possible through digitalisation and the two magic words “augmented reality”. If visitors to the peak scan the wild mountain goat using the dedicated app, he leaps from his pedestal to tell intriguing tales – including the fascinating story of how he found his way to his home high above St. Moritz. mountains.ch

3 **Fatbiking**

Fatbikes are nothing more than mountain bikes with extra-wide tyres. Thanks to the large contact surface, riding on snow is child’s play: an attractive form of training for summer bikers and all sports enthusiasts. engadin.ch/fatbikes

4 **Paragliding**

Pontresina – The views during a paragliding flight are similar to those from a helicopter, except that in this case all is quiet up in the air, and a bitterly cold breeze blows. But that matters little to passengers, warmly clothed and safely harnessed. paragliding-engadin.ch

5 **Helicopter sightseeing flight**

Samedan – The rotor spins, snow swirls and the helicopter climbs through the mountain air – and passengers enjoy a bird’s-eye view of the Engadin. They glide past sparkling summits, look down on frozen lakes and gaze out over the wide valley: a mesmerising sight. engadin.ch

6 **Curling**

Stones, brooms and special shoes are the only requirements for curling, an engrossing pursuit ideal for all who would like to try an ice sport other than skating. No special skills are required and the basics of the game are easy to learn, so even beginners can enjoy the fun.

engadin.ch/ice-sports

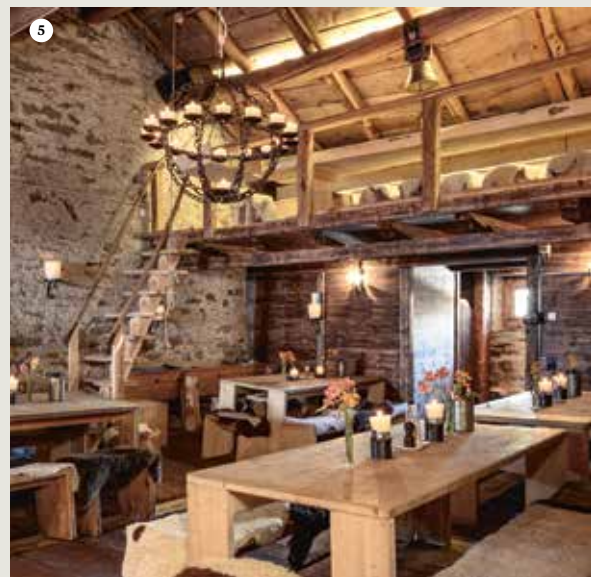
More info?
Online at engadin.ch



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Photo 1: Bever Lodge/ 2: Cresta Run AG/ 3: Muottas Muragl panoramic restaurant/ 4+5: By kind permission/ 6: Maloja Kulm

Selected restaurants

Schweizerhaus

Maloja – The restaurant serves Graubünden specialities in the “Engadiner Stübli”, grilled dishes on the sun terrace and fine wines from the extensive cellar. schweizerhaus.swiss

1 Bever Lodge

Bever – A modern but relaxed and welcoming venue invites winter sports enthusiasts to enjoy hearty, freshly prepared local and exotic dishes. beverlodge.ch

2 Cresta Run

Celerina – At the foot of the legendary Cresta Run, highlights include local specialities, fresh pasta and pizzas baked in a wood-fired oven. crestarun.ch

Mulets

Silvaplana – Guests enjoy views of the Corvatsch along with colourful salads, pizzas and Graubünden specialities. Youngsters appreciate the comprehensive children’s menu. mulets.ch

Mangiabain

Val Fex – Simple, welcoming and hearty – that is the essence of Mangiabain in the beautiful Val Fex. Alongside a few classic dishes that are always on offer, the menu changes daily. fexer.ch

Berghaus Diavolezza

Pontresina – The terrace of this mountain hotel invites winter sports enthusiasts to take a break, savour delicious cuisine and soak up the glorious views of the surrounding peaks. diavolezza.ch

3 Muottas Muragl panoramic restaurant

Pontresina – Guests at the panoramic restaurant enjoy not only delicious, freshly prepared cuisine, but also the finest views of the Upper Engadin. engadin.ch/muottas-muragl

4 Gasthaus Krone

La Punt Chamues-ch – The “Swiss stone pine” cook Andreas Martin conjures a delicious 4-course menu of savoury and sweet dishes featuring wood, needles and nuts from the iconic local pine tree. krone-la-punt.ch

5 Kuhstall

Sils-Maria – The “Cowshed” really is home to cows in summer, but in winter it houses a restaurant. Creative cuisine (13 GaultMillau points) and select wines delight diners. corvatsch.ch

6 Restaurant Maloja Kulm

Maloja – For many years, the Hotel Maloja Kulm stood empty, but the historical building at the top of the Maloja Pass reopened in summer 2019 and now offers a mouth-watering choice of cuisine. malojakulm.ch

More info?
Online at engadin.ch/culinary



Photo 1: Pontresina Tourismus / 2; Engadin St. Moritz Mountains AG / 3; Bregaglia Engadin Turismo / 4; By kind permission / 6; Engadin St. Moritz Mountains AG

Selected family activities

Swimming pools

1 Bellavita Pool and Spa

Pontresina – Indoor pool with slide, water playground and paddling pool for youngsters, as well as saunas and steam bath for the grown-ups.

pontresina-bellavita.ch

2 Ovaverva indoor pool, spa & sports centre

St. Moritz – Large indoor pool with water slides, children's pool and diving boards. Adults enjoy the saunas and relaxation pools with bubble jets.

ovaverva.ch

3 Playground in the snow

Muottas Muragl – Slides, swings and sensational views: in winter, too, the playground on the panoramic summit promises endless fun and games for younger guests.

mountains.ch

Family Pass

Ski passes for the whole family

With the Family Pass, families enjoy discounted rates on cable cars, funiculars and ski lifts.

Children under the age of 6 who are accompanied by an adult ski free of charge at many locations.

snow-deal.ch

Tobogganing

3 Snowtubing

Maloja – Giant inflatable snowtubing rings offer an original take on tobogganing: riders spin down the dedicated run, with thrills, spills and laughter guaranteed.

engadin.ch/tobogganing

6 Sledge runs in the Engadin

As soon as the first snow has settled, pass roads and footpaths turn to white ribbons of snow that offer endless tobogganing fun. Alongside short descents and leisurely routes, the region boasts six runs that promise high thrills. Switzerland's most famous sledge ride is also close by: the toboggan run from Preda to Bergün.

engadin.ch/tobogganing

Indoors

4 Climbing

S-chanf – Visitors of all ages enjoy indoor climbing and bouldering at this stylish venue with sweeping views of the surrounding mountains for inspiration. All necessary equipment can be rented on site.

serlas.ch

Bowling

All it takes is a bowling alley, bowls and pins, a steady eye and a sure hand: bowling may sound straightforward, but winning can prove surprisingly tricky! An evening at one of the valley's three bowling venues promises fun and excitement for the whole family. engadin.ch/bowling

5 Ice rinks

The Engadin boasts a long tradition of ice sports, so every village has an ice rink in winter for curling, hockey, Bavarian curling (pictured) and skating. engadin.ch/ice-sports

Further info?

Online at engadin.ch/family-activities



1

Photo: Faoro KaDeA

Selected shopping tips

Butia gift shop

Sils-Maria – The shelves of this small but charming shop display all kinds of gifts, special souvenirs, gastronomic specialities from the region, and hand-made pottery and ceramics. sils.ch

Kerstin's sewing studio and café

Silvaplana – Visitors to this lovingly appointed sewing workshop find a variety of hand-made items: beautiful cards, handbags and accessories as well as children's clothing and small gift ideas. Afterwards, shoppers can enjoy a coffee, tea or hot chocolate with a slice of home-made cake in the café. lotzis.ch

1 Faoro KaDeA

St. Moritz – At first, Faoro clothed Italian railway construction workers during completion of the Rhaetian Railway line; later, it made its name as a fashion shop, eventually becoming the smallest department store in the Alps. Alongside high-quality fashion, Faoro sells a range of other selected products; a bar and a pop-up restaurant serve drinks and delicious dishes. faoro.ch

Schubladeria

Zuoz – Beautiful stones of all colours fill the countless small drawers of the Schubladeria, waiting to be made into unique and individual pieces of jewellery. kinemass.ch

Rominger joiner's workshop

Pontresina – For generations, this joinery and wood-carving workshop in Pontresina has tailor-made furniture and fittings: everything from cupboards, beds and doors to complete interiors

for kitchens, living rooms and bathrooms. Each item is carefully designed and crafted, guaranteeing the finest quality and a long life. rominger.ch

Engadiner Goldschmiede

Sils-Maria – The “Engadin Goldsmiths” in Sils-Maria hand-craft individual items of jewellery from gold, quartz, granite and other stones, which mostly originate in the region. The goldsmiths also rework old gold supplied by customers, and so breathe new life into cherished pieces of jewellery. engadingold.ch

Boutique Masche

Zuoz – Hand-knitted wrist warmers, scarves, woollen hats and jackets fill the colourful shelves of the little Boutique Masche. Knitting enthusiasts also find a large selection of wool, instructions and patterns, and also buttons in all sizes and colours. maschezuoz.ch

Wohnwerkstatt

S-chanf – The “Living Workshop” sells furniture with character, from carefully restored vintage pieces to tailor-made new items. Its event room, which hosts music, film screenings and other gatherings, also sells smaller decorative objects and gastronomic gifts to take home: worth browsing at any time. wohnwerkstattengadin.ch

More info?

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



1

Photo: Kaspar Thalmann

Selected cultural attractions

Chesa Futura

St. Moritz – Clad in larch timber, this UFO-like building makes a dramatic architectural statement high above St. Moritz. stmoritz.com/arts-culture

Forum Paracelsus

St. Moritz – A wooden pool built in about 1400 BC to contain the curative spring water was discovered here in 1907. The Forum Paracelsus brings the history of the springs and St. Moritz's spa tradition to life. stmoritz.com/arts-culture

Biblioteca Engadinaisa

Sils-Maria – The library's collection comprises more than 20,000 items in various formats in six different languages for adults and children. bibliotecasegl.ch

Chesa Planta

Samedan – This stately patrician house built in 1595 is now a multifaceted cultural centre including a museum with beautifully preserved interiors, the leading Romansh library and the Upper Engadin cultural archives. chesaplanta.ch

Stalla Madulain

Madulain – A barn preserved in its original state offers a unique setting in which contemporary art meets local tradition. stallamadulain.ch

1 Julier tower

Julier Pass – The red ten-sided tower of the Origen cultural organisation serves as a theatre in the hauntingly beautiful setting of the Julier Pass. origen.ch

Leaning tower of St. Moritz

St. Moritz – The 33-metre-high tower of the former church of St. Mauritius, built in the 12th Century, leans more steeply than the Tower of Pisa, dominating the town centre. stmoritz.com/arts-culture

Church of San Gian

Celerina – A stroke of lightning in 1682 badly damaged the church of San Gian's tower, which has remained roofless ever since: first through lack of funds for restoration, later as a deliberate choice. engadin.ch/sightseeing

Mili Weber House Museum

St. Moritz – The home of the late artist Mili Weber is a complete work of art in which she created her own magical world. Visitors can explore the delightful house with its many small rooms and countless exquisite details on a guided tour. miliweber.ch

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



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Selected accommodation

1 **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

2 **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

Hotel Bellavista

Silvaplana-Surlej – Located by the lake, surrounded by nature, this cosy hotel offers an ideal base for skiing, snowshoeing and winter walks. bellavista.ch

Cresta Palace Hotel

Celerina – Outside the doors of this palatial hotel, built in art nouveau style, lies a vast natural adventure playground; inside, guests find peace and relaxation. crestapalace.ch

Hotel Donatz

Samedan – The scent of Swiss stone pine fills the 25 rooms of this 3-star hotel, while 500 bottles adorn the wine bar: a feast for eyes and taste buds. hoteldonatz.ch

3 **Hotel Randolins**

St. Moritz – Blessed with the ultimate luxury, pure nature, this mountain hotel is actually a small village consisting of five buildings, located near the Suvretta ski slopes. randolins.ch

4 **Hotel Fex**

Val Fex – Originally built in St. Moritz, this simple hotel was dismantled and rebuilt in the car-free Val Fex, surrounded by nature; it is now a fitting member of Swiss Historic Hotels. hotelfex.ch

5 **Capanna Forno SAC hut**

Maloja – Located 2,574 metres above sea level, this Swiss Alpine Club (SAC) hut offers glorious views of the Forno Glacier and makes an ideal base for ski touring. fornohuette.ch

6 **Chesa Staila Hotel**

La Punt Chamues-ch – Highlights at this charming, small 4-star hotel include the cosy wood decor and delicious breakfasts with home-made crunchy muesli or plaited bread. chesa-staila.ch

7 **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

Photo: Aqua Spa Resorts

Spas & wellness

1 **Mineral Baths & Spa**

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

Kronenhof Spa

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

Vita Pura

Celerina – Active relaxation and incomparable moments of tranquillity thanks to a wide variety of spa facilities and services. crestapalace.ch

Palace Wellness

St. Moritz – Wellness paradise with sweeping views of Lake St. Moritz and the Swiss Alps. badruttpalace.com

Waldhaus Spa

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

Hamam at the Hotel Castell

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

Saratz Day Spa

Pontresina – Reinterpretation of the hamam and rebirth of the classical bathing room. saratz.ch

Diavolezza hot tub

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

More info?
Online at engadin.ch/wellness



Photo 2: Ivano Buar / 3: Curlingclub Silvaplana / 4: Engadinsnow, Marc Weller / 6: PPR, Witwinkel, David Hubacher / 7: White Turf St. Moritz

Events Winter — 19/20

More info? engadin.ch/en/events

December

14–15 December

1 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

28–30 December

2 Sinfonia Engiadina

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

January

12–15 January

3 Coppa Romana

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

17–20 January

Youth Olympic Games

Young athletes compete in St. Moritz in the disciplines of bobsleigh, skeleton, luge and speed skating as part of the 2020 Winter Youth Olympics. olympia-bobrun.ch

18 January

La Diagonela

This shorter cross-country ski race from Zuoz to St. Moritz offers a fine contrast to the big Engadin Skimarathon. ladiagonela.ch → Page 96

24–26 January

36th Snow Polo World Cup, St. Moritz

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

25–26 January

Engadin Art Talks

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

30 January to 2 February

4 Engadinsnow by Dakine

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

31 January to 2 February

5 BMW IBSF Bobsleigh & Skeleton World Cup

Athletes hurtle down the world's oldest and only remaining natural ice track to Celerina. olympia-bobrun.ch

31 January to 8 February

6 St. Moritz Gourmet Festival

Top international chefs and colleagues from the Engadin perform culinary magic. stmoritz-gourmetfestival.ch

February

2, 9 and 16 February

7 White Turf St. Moritz

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

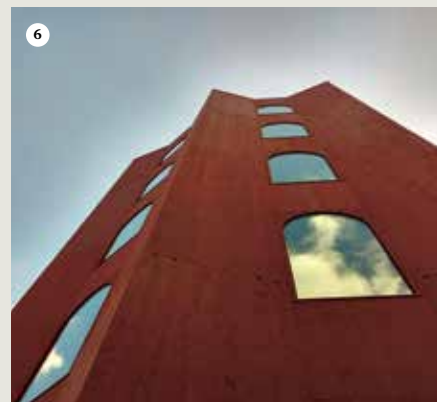


Photo 1: Nomad, Filippo Bambergini / 4: Ruedi Flück / 5: Nick Soland / 6: Fabian Wanner

Calendar highlights: culture, sport and cuisine.

6–9 February

1 Nomad St. Moritz

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

13–15 February

2 Cricket on Ice

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

15 February

3 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

15–16 February

Swiss Bobsleigh Championships

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

28–29 February

The ICE

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

March

1 March

21st Engadin Women's Race

Female cross-country skiers compete on the scenic trail from Samedan to S-chanf. engadin-skimarathon.ch

8 March

52nd Engadin Skimarathon and 13th Half Marathon

Switzerland's biggest cross-country ski race, from Maloja to S-chanf, electrifies the whole valley. engadin-skimarathon.ch → Page 84

20–21 March

Freeski World Cup Corvatsch

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

April

14–19 April

4 Swiss Freestyle Championships

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

25 April

5 Spring Festival, Corvatsch

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

Mid-December to late-March

6 Origen

The dramatic tower at the Julier Pass serves as a theatre in summer, and mainly as a concert venue in winter. origen.ch



A study in colour and whiteness: flowers defy the snow up at the Julier Pass.

Photo: Keystone, Laif, Frieder, Blicke

Preview Summer—20

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

Summer comes to the Engadin

As days become longer in spring and temperatures slowly but steadily climb above the minus zone, the first flowers stretch their heads above the snow, animals emerge from hibernation and migrating birds return from their winter home.

Snow turns to water

With the increasing warmth, the snow melts steadily, the whiteness disappears and turns into water – which splashes, cascades and flows through the valley, creating endless new possibilities along the way. Find out more in the summer edition.

While the snow lingers on the upper mountain slopes, down in the valley spring has already arrived.



Photo: stock.adobe.com

The melting snow feeds the rivers for their long journey to the sea.

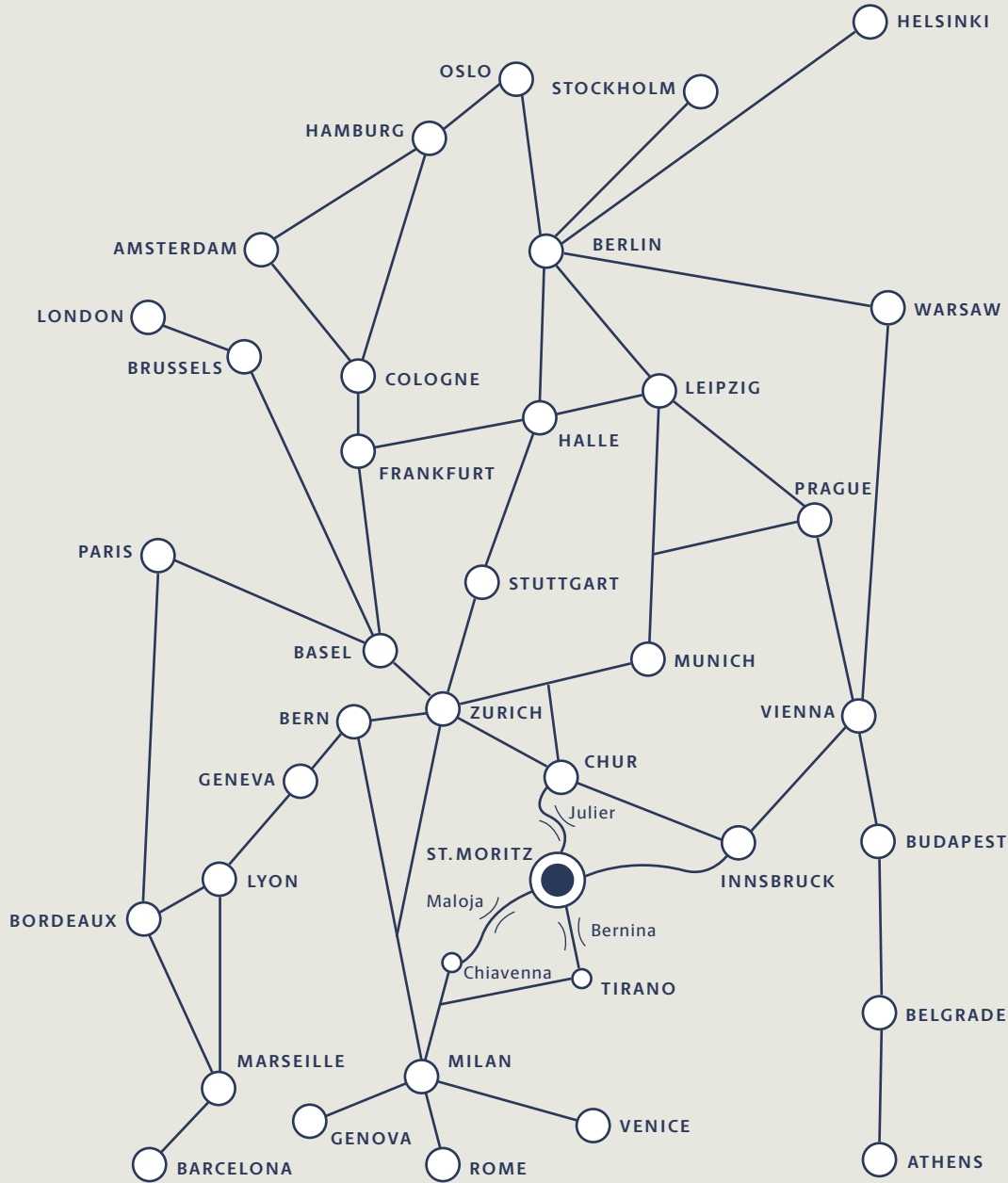


Photo: Theresia Keck



The many lakes and rivers in the Engadin offer a vast outdoor playground for water sports enthusiasts.

This illustration is inspired by an old travel guide from 1931. St. Moritz is about 200 km from Zurich Airport. The journey by train or car is an adventure in itself: along twisting alpine pass roads or via one of the world's most beautiful railway lines.



Publisher: Engadin St. Moritz Tourismus AG — **Concept/text/editing/copy-editing & proofreading:** Transhelvetica/Passaport AG, passaport.ch, Jon Bollmann, Pia Bollmann, Anna Herbst, Martin Hoch, Michèle Fröhlich, Stephanie Elmer, Claudia Walder — **Layout:** Transhelvetica/Passaport AG, Sarina Strebler — **Visual guiding concept & lead agency:** jäger & jäger, Agency for Brand Identity & Branded Content — **Photographs:** Robert Bösch, robertboesch.com; 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; printed in the Engadin — **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.

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