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Saas-Fee contains close to 7,000 beds in its hotels, chalets and apartments. The two indoor swimming pools, one of Olympic size, offer relaxation after a day of ski-ing, curling, ice-skating, tobogganing (from the restaurant Hannig down to the village), cross-country ski-ing or ski-touring.

A new aerial cableway will operate this winter to Spielboden (8,036 ft.). Its second section to Laengfluh (9,414 ft.) will be constructed next year.

SCUOL-TARASP-VULPERA Grisons

This popular spa resort in the Lower Engadine, in winter called the "Ski Dorado Scuol/Ftan2", now offers a total of 11 mountain transport installations, opening up 44 miles of ski runs. The Champatsch ski-lift will this winter be extended to the north-western edge of Piz Champatsch to connect with the superb "Traumpiste" ski run down to Scuol. A fourth mountain restaurant with self-service and 350 seats has been constructed. There is a free local bus service for skiers. The sports area has several ice-rinks. Last winter saw the opening of a 30-mile Langlauf course, leading along the river Inn through romantic forests from Scuol to Martina. A delight for non-skiers are 19 miles of tended walking paths. Scuol can boast the world's first alpine Delta kite-flying school which has become extremely popular in the last few years.

Being a world-renowned spa (Glauber's salt springs, earthy-alkaline sparkling mineral water, natural carbonic acid

mineral baths), Scuol-Tarasp-Vulpera offers a unique combination of winter sports and cures.

VALS Grisons

Vals is situated in a romantic alpine valley amidst an impressive mountain panorama. It is an ideal health resort, offering a thermal-mineral curative indoor swimming-pool and thermal-mineral open-air pool open all the year round. In recent years it has developed into a winter sports resort in its own right. Last winter saw the opening of the chair-lift Vals-Vale-Gadenstatt (carrying capacity 720 persons per hour), as well as two ski-lifts from Gadenstatt to Hohgaedemli and on to Faltschona (capacity 1,000 persons per hour each). Access is by rail via Chur-Ilanz, thence by postal motor coach.

VERBIER Valais

Besides the aerial cableway linking Le Châble with Verbier, which has been operating since last winter, the following new transport facilities are available this season: The aerial cableway La Tzoumaz-Savoleyres with a capacity of 600 persons per hour; the Fontanays chair-lift, linking Les Ruinettes with the Col de Médran, has a capacity of 720 persons per hour.

The Téléverbier abonnements will enable skiers to use uphill transport between Thyon and Veysonnaz.

WANGS-PIZOL Eastern Switzerland

A new fully automatic aerial cableway is now in operation from Wangs



to Pizol (7,315 ft.). This cableway replaces the old one which has been in service for 20 years. The carrying capacity has been doubled to 720 persons per hour, and the travelling time has been reduced from 22 to 16 minutes.

WENGEN Bernese Oberland

The mountain restaurant Maennlichen-Itramen (7,314 ft.) has been modernised and converted into a self-service restaurant seating 300 persons, thus making it possible to serve 700 diners at the top of the popular Maennlichen ski-ing area.

ZWEISIMMEN Bernese Oberland

Zweisimmen, famous for its combined ski-ing and tennis weeks, is also making a name as a cross-country ski-ing centre. The different Langlauf courses in the Neuenberg-Schwarzensee-Sparenmoos area, with a total length of 11 miles, are at an average altitude of 5,250 feet. A new toboggan run will be available this winter.

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LUCERNE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL 1977

The 1977 Lucerne International Festival of Music will be held from 17th August to 9th September and will be specially marked by "Music from Scandinavia" (to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the death of Sibelius and the 70th anniversary of the death of Grieg). Among orchestras to be heard will be the Swiss Festival Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra of the South

German Radio Stuttgart, Orchestre de Paris, Philharmonica Hungarica (Marl) and accompanied by well-known soloists in eleven symphony concerts under the batons of Lorin Maazel, Leif Segerstam, Paavo Berglund, Kazuhiro Koizumi, Herbert von Karajan, Daniel Barenboim and others.

Choral performances will be given by the Lucerne Festival Choir and Die

Luzerner Vokalsolisten. The "Serenades", "Musica antiqua", "Musica nova", "Young Artists" and "Perspectives" are also to be continued.

The Lucerne Municipal Theatre is to present a play by Strindberg. The traditional Master Courses at the Lucerne Conservatoire will be under the direction of Mieczyslaw Horszowski (piano), Wolfgang Schneiderhan (violin), Paul Tortelier (cello) and Elisabeth Grümmer/Hugo Diez (vocal). The printed preliminary programme will be available in February 1977. Orders for tickets, however, can only be accepted on the basis of the General Programme (to appear in May 1977).

HOTEL FOR SENIOR CITIZENS IN LUCERNE

Since last autumn part of the "Waldstätterhof" has been arranged as a hotel for elderly people. Spacious rooms are provided, with central heating and running water, some with shower or bath with toilet. The premises can be furnished with personal articles and there is the possibility of renting one or two adjoining rooms.

SION OPENS AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

An archaeological museum which has been opened in Sion bears witness to the rich past of Canton Valais. On show are Roman finds, mostly from Martigny (Octodurus) and mysterious stone slabs discovered at the "Petit-Chasseur" site

and harking back to a two-thousand year neolithic history.

There is also a particularly rich collection of glassware that is almost unique in the world which comprises 3,500 items and was formed by Edouard Guigoz, a native of the canton of Valais. It includes Egyptian, Mycenaean, Hellenistic and Roman statues, jugs and lamps.

The new museum is housed in the former barns of the Prince-Bishops of Sion (Grange-à-l'Evêque) at Majoria Castle. Opening times are from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Mondays.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI-ING IN SWITZERLAND

Cross-country ski-ing continues its triumphal progress through the Swiss winter landscape. Two hundred resorts

already provide marked and cleared trails and ski-roaming routes for their guests. A Swiss première is the new trail in Zuoz - it's for cross-country skiers who are accompanied by their dogs. More and more cross-country enthusiasts are demanding group ski-roaming facilities. Over 50 winter sports resorts ranging from Arosa to Champéry and Hasliberg and from Les Pléiades to Zermatt are organising all-inclusive cross-country weeks.

In the Jura, there's a one-week cross-country ski-ing tour through the Franches-Montagnes region, with the baggage being transported from one destination to the next. Participants in the great Engadine Ski Marathon on 13th March can prepare for this major event in a special training week at St. Moritz (6th-13th March).

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"TURNER IN SWITZERLAND" -BOOK REVIEW

This is a title of a book by John Russell, former art critic of the *Sunday Times* and now art critic of the *New York Times*, and Andrew Wilton, until recently Assistant Keeper in the Print Room of the British Museum and now Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Yale Center for British Art; he was responsible for drawings and prints in the Turner exhibitions in London in 1975 and 1976.

Turner visited Switzerland six times between 1802 and 1844. He was greatly attracted by the country's natural beauties and they inspired him to produce some of his greatest masterpieces.

The illustrations in this book are a representative selection of Turner's best Swiss and Alpine drawings. There are 90 reproductions of all regions. The selection is all the more valuable because many of the originals are not easily accessible. There are 60 colour reproductions, 22 of them on double-page spreads, and most of them in five colours. "The Avalanche in the Grisons" appears on the cover of the book. There are Turner portraits, five old and modern maps, marked in some cases with the artist's itineraries, informative annotations and new identification of many drawings; and thus the book may be considered one of the most valuable in the extensive list of Turner literature.

The book, edited by Walter Amstutz, may be ordered from DeClivo Press, P.O. Box 8600 Duebendorf, Switzerland. The price is Sw.Fr. 140, plus postage.

The Swiss National Tourist Office published its 1977 calendar by way of presenting the "Turner in Switzerland" book. It contains 13 reproductions, all of them from the book. It also contains a map and many quotations "In Praise of Switzerland", amongst them from Byron, Tennyson and Dickens.

MM

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 10th March, 1892: Birthday of the composer Arthur Honegger.
 17th March, 1867: The composer of "Oh mein Heimatland", W. Baumgartner died.
 21st March, 1487: Niklaus von Flüe died.
 23rd March, 1697: Beat Fischer, founder of the organisation of postal services in Switzerland, died.
 25th March, 1962: Anniversary of the death of Prof. August Piccard.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday, 24th March, Nouvelle Société Helvétique, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & DINNER.
 Friday, 22nd April, Swiss Industries Fair, Basle, special day for the Swiss abroad. Apply to Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne, Switzerland.
 Saturday, 23rd July, Jass Competition for Swiss Abroad within the Swiss Jass Championships. Please apply to OK SJM, Post Box 860, 8401 Winterthur.
 Saturday, 13th August, Fête des Vignerons Vevey, Special Day for the Swiss Abroad.
 19th - 21st August, Assembly of the Swiss Abroad, Lausanne.

SWISS HOLIDAY GUIDE FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The Swiss Society for Aid to the Disabled has issued a holiday guide to Switzerland for the handicapped. It contains information about more than 200 hotels, guest houses, holiday homes, spa hotels and holiday apartments suitable for disabled people. Special points dealt with are suitability for wheelchairs, width of room and lift doors, diet facilities and indoor swimming pools. The brochure is obtainable from the office of Pro Infirmis, Postfach 129, 8032 Zürich and costs Sw.Fr. 3.20.

Switzerland in Britain's cultural life

FRIDAY, 11th March - Wigmore Hall, 7.30 p.m. - Recital by *Jan Dobrzewski* (violin) and *June Pantillon* (piano), who play sonatas by Schumann, Brahms, Hindemith and Ravel.

WEDNESDAY, 20th April - St. John's Smith Square - Concert by the *Berne String Quartet*.

LATE APRIL - Scotland - Monday, 25th April - University of Manchester Theatre, 7.30 p.m. - Wednesday, 27th April, 3 p.m. and Thursday, 28th April, 7.30 p.m. - Institut français, Queensberry Place, South Kensington - Friday, 29th April - Maison française, Oxford, 8.30 p.m. - *Michel Poletti* presents *Opus 24*, a puppet show for adults (evenings), and *L'Extraordinaire Voyage*, a matinée performance for children aged 7 to 12, from his *Teatro Antonin Artaud - Piccolo Teatro di Lugano*.

WEDNESDAY, 27th April - Royal Festival Hall, 8 p.m. - *Tamas Vasary* plays Mozart's Piano Concerto in E flat with the London Mozart Players, conducted by Harry Blech.

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Applications, giving a brief summary of technical qualification and experience, should be addressed to Mr. R. Burki, Muller & Company (England) Ltd., Clebury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY14 8DT.

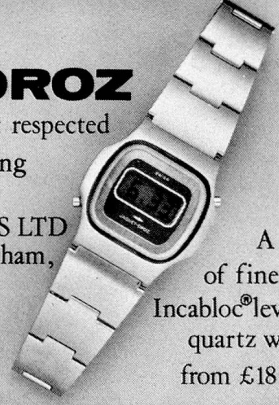


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