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Autor: Morrey, Rob
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Photo: Tony Bagwell.

I am a great believer in making the most of the daylight hours to see the many delights of Switzerland, therefore I often set out quite early. The concept of 'elevenses' appeals greatly, given that my breakfast has by then become a distant memory, so where better to have a break than at one of the numerous catering establishments with a view? A cup of coffee with cream and mountains.

I am no expert on coffee, but I know an Alpine panorama when I see one! So I have written my top 10 venues for the 'Scenic Coffee' in the hope that it may stir (pun intended) members into visiting the cream (another pun intended) of Swiss cafés etc.

Here they are on a plate - oh dear!

1 The top of the Hammetschwand lift, above Burgenstock, Lake Lucerne as described in Swiss Express, Sept 2006.

2 Bussalp – high above Grindelwald and accessible only by bus (Table 312.15).

3 Grosse Scheidegg – another Bernese Oberland spot accessible only by bus from Grindelwald or Schwarzwaldalp (Table 312.20). Compare the peace and quite with the bustle of Klein Scheidegg!

4 Spiez station, overlooking the lake from either the station buffet or the Migros café.

5 Männlichen – stunning all around views and easily reached by chairlift from Grindelwald (Table 2445), cable car from Wengen (Table 2455), or on foot from Kleine Scheidegg.

6 Hotel Edelweiss, Mürren - a self service café with terrace right above the drop into the valley. Mountains everywhere. Reach it via the new cable-car from Lauterbrunnen to Grüschalp and then the train along the ridge.

7 Riffelalp – halfway-ish up the Gornergrat Bahnen, and a short walk along the footpath by the old/new tramway brings you to a choice of café, all with breathtaking views of the Matterthorn.

8 Nätschen – at the top of the one spectacular climb out of Andermatt, on what I still think of as the Furka Oberalp (now the MGB).

9 Rheinfall, Schaffhausen - a seriously spectacular view of the waterfall and just a trolley bus ride from the main station (Route 1).

10 Any SBB Intercity double-deck first-class coach - upstairs, of course, where the trolley will pass.

So, sit back, relax and enjoy!

Editor's note: I nearly re-titled this piece "Puns with your pastries". If anyone else wishes to add their own choices to Rob's list we would be happy to receive your menu – punning is catching!



I got there before opening time, but there already was a queue. There even was a family with a small child in a stroller! For reasons of personal privacy, the faces of the customers have been blurred.

Then the car was thoroughly checked inside and out. Every bump and scratch is deducted from the basic value. Then the motor is checked, together with the lights, brakes, etc.



After everything is checked, an offer is made by Mobility's MD Karl Heusi (in the red anorak).



If accepted, the paperwork is drawn up and signed, the season ticket(s) are issued and the ex-owners make their way on foot to the bus. Even the relevant timetable of this bus was available at the garage: 8 times an hour on Saturdays!