

Engadin

MAGAZINE NO. 7

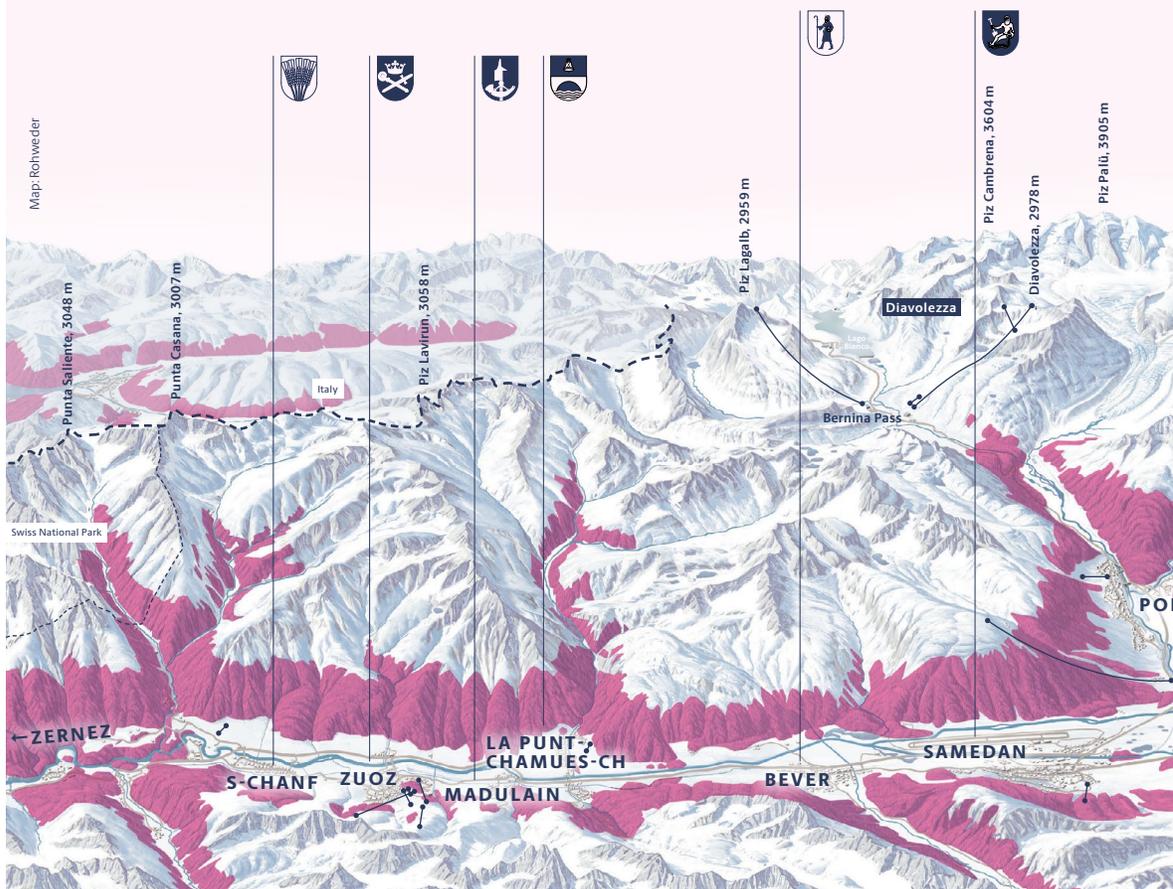
VISIONARY

WINTER ENGLISH



Engadin Winter

— 22/23

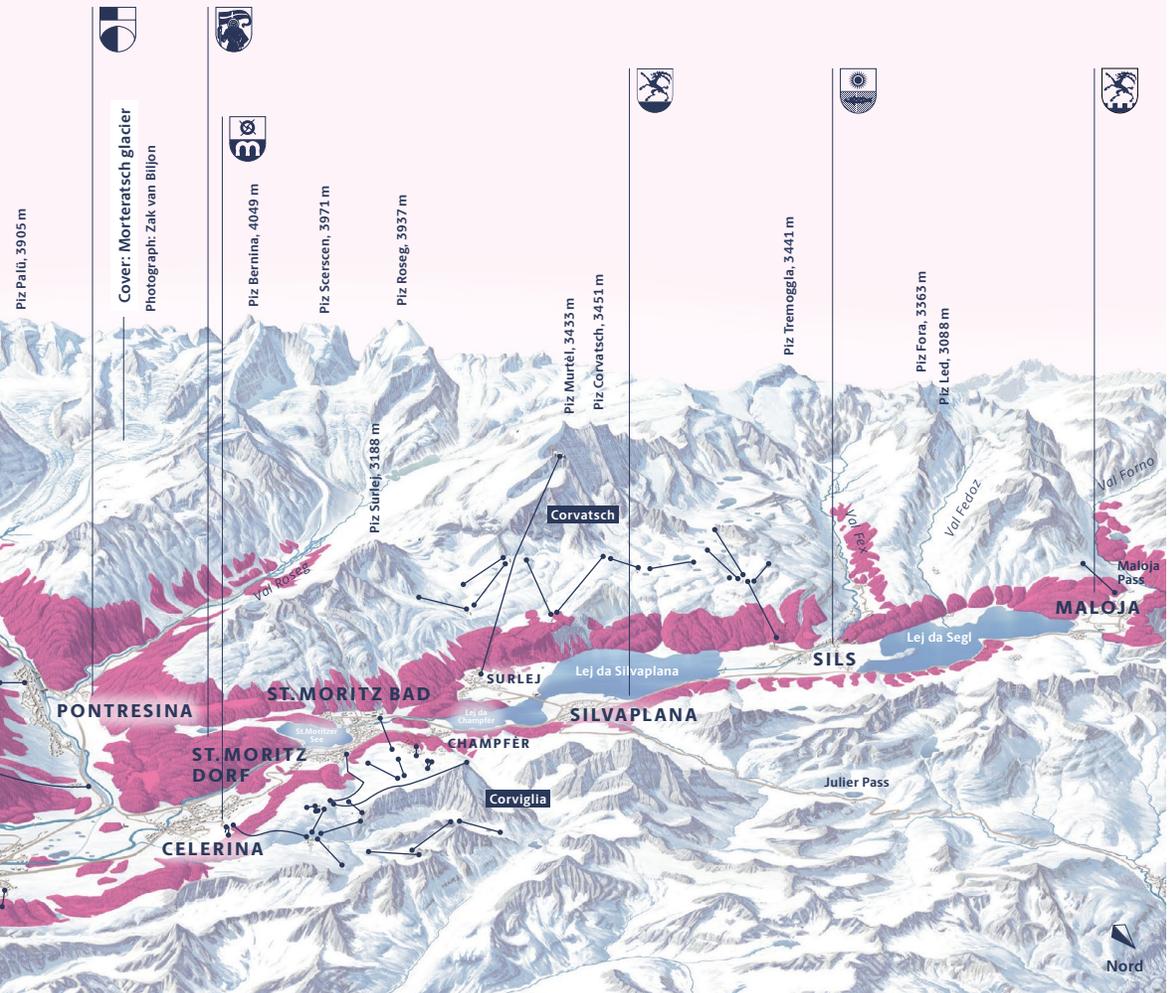


Map: Rohweder

Dear guests,

Perhaps it's down to the special air in the Engadin: the list of people who have thought up new ideas and found their source of inspiration in the valley is impressive. Winter tourism was dreamed up here more than 150 years ago, for example, and soon after, new adventure sports on ice and snow were born. Winter's latest surprises include twelve world-class athletes from different disciplines who perform their magic on the mountain at the same time – along with a glaciologist who uses music to fight the shrinking of the glaciers. To ensure that ideas continue to flow in future, too, a new centre of innovation is coming to light. We invite you to join the exciting developments: let yourself be inspired by the power of our valley on a visit of your own.

The people of the Engadin





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Photographs: P. 18: Olympia Bob Run – Girts Kehnis / P. 50: Marc Weller Photography / P. 66: Filip Zuan / P. 82: InnHub La Punt AG / Foster & Partners / P. 98: Switzerland Tourism / Lorenz Richard

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114 A gallery of ideas for captivating holidays in the Engadin, with more activities, restaurants, accommodation and cultural attractions.



Every few years, the Morteratsch glacier offers a blue natural phenomenon that can be visited. Venturing into the eternal ice on your own is dangerous. If you want to visit the grotto, it is best to book a guide at the Pontresina mountaineering school.



Perfect happiness is blue,
white and yellow – and
the Engadin has plenty of
it: 350 kilometres of
slopes and over 300 days
of sunshine.





Since there is no artificial ice rink measuring 400 meters in Switzerland, the 2019 Swiss Speed Skating Championships were held on natural ice in St. Moritz – adding a magnificent panorama to the sporting competition.



For our photographer, Filip Zuan, the Engadin is one big outdoor playground in which he can live his love of skating, skateboarding and photography. This photograph earned him a place as finalist in the Whalebone Photo Contest 2022.





Inspiraziun

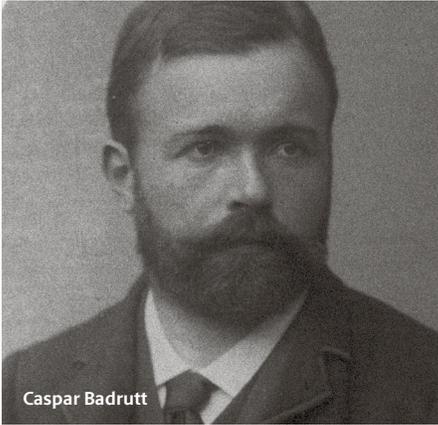
The Engadin as a fount of new ideas



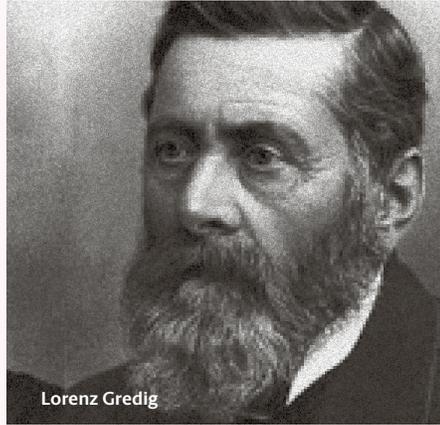
Johannes Badrutt



Camille de Renesse



Caspar Badrutt



Lorenz Gredig

People who transformed the valley

The book “Engadin St. Moritz: A Valley with Stories to Tell” by Cordula Seger and Bettina Plattner-Gerber places the spotlight on people. Readers discover the lives of major personalities whose destinies are all intertwined with the alpine valley. Some have deep roots here, others travelled to the Engadin, but all left their distinct mark on the valley. These

characters include the men pictured above, who were behind the early growth of tourism in the Engadin. In the “Hospitality” chapter of this magazine (page 34) you can find out more about what they achieved; if you would like to discover other inspiring life stories, the whole book is highly recommended.



Seeing the world with new eyes

Bathed in infrared

The photographer Zak van Biljon used a special technique for his cover picture of the Val Morteratsch with the Piz Bernina and the Morteratsch Glacier: a method originally developed for surveying crops and military surveillance. He takes the photos soon after sunset, capturing not only normal light but also infrared radiation, which shows the heat radiated by objects. As a result, the photographs in his series “Modernising nature” depict in red objects warmed by the sun: an invitation to see the power of the sun in colour and to read the landscape anew. zakvanbiljon.com



The world upside down

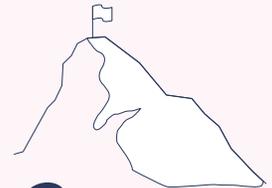
Bernina Pass – The camera obscura at the Bernina road maintenance depot invites visitors to experience the magnificent mountain scenery upside down. The building is also well worth seeing for its striking modern architecture: vehicles, machinery, road chippings and grit rarely have such a beautiful home.

How to become a visionary in three steps:



Think laterally

Focus attention outwards and observe your surroundings: perception is trained through sustained observation. Question what seems obvious to others and get to the bottom of things.



Think big

Have the courage to set big goals. This requires independence.



Think flexibly

Big goals can rarely be reached directly. Obstacles and stumbling blocks are the reality.



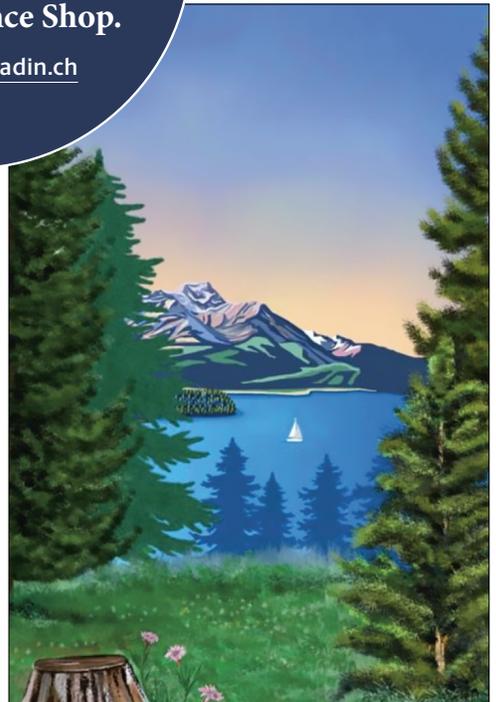
Focus on architecture

With the Engadin Culture Guide No. 2, we invite you to visit the different villages of the Engadin and discover some of the many architectural gems there – while also feasting your eyes on the surrounding landscapes.



Bring the Engadin
into your home with
these colourful A2-size
posters, available from
the Experience Shop.

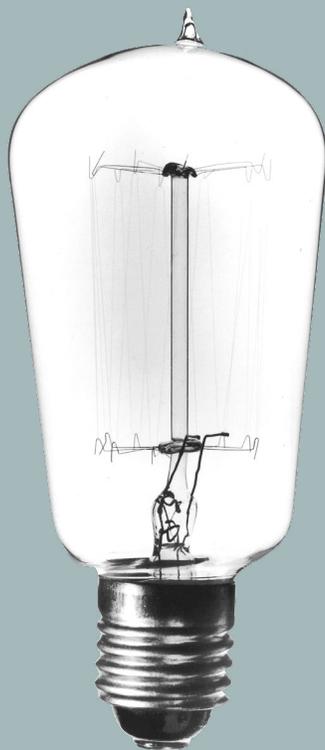
booking.engadin.ch



Top 5: winter bucket list

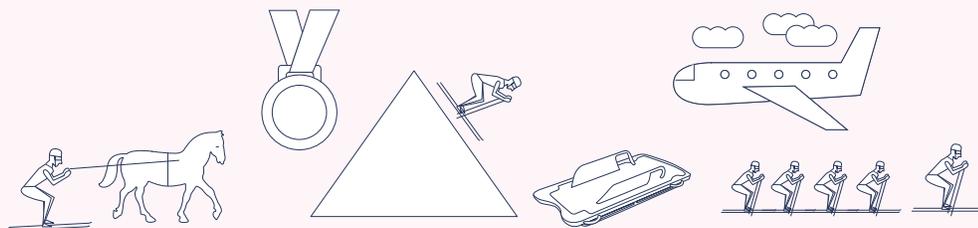
Five things you simply have to experience in the Engadin winter:

- Watch the bobsleigh athletes hurtle down the twisting channel of ice.*
Page 18
- Spend a night in one of the valley's hotels and experience the region's legendary hospitality.*
Page 34
- Feel the thrill of the X-project freeriders as they glide through the air and over the snow.*
Page 50
- Discover the secrets of the Morteratsch Glacier along the fascinating Glacier Trail.*
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- Support a sustainable ski area and ride up to Muottas Muragl on the eco-friendly funicular.*
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Bright ideas

Each one usually begins with a small spark, a fleeting moment in someone's flow of thoughts. Many of these vague ideas burn up like shooting stars, perhaps even stay unnoticed, and never gain purchase in the material world. But a few manage to become sharp and clear and grow into a vision. Such visionary thinking led, for example, to an electric light being used for the first time in Switzerland in 1879 – in St Moritz's Kulm Hotel. Over the years, there have been many other developments in which the Engadin has played a pioneering role. We have gathered a few together for you here:





Bob & Co.

**“A sport that demands two
major qualities: courage and
presence of mind.”**

HARRY GIBSON, CRESTA RIDER AND JOURNALIST



A bobsleigh ride through time



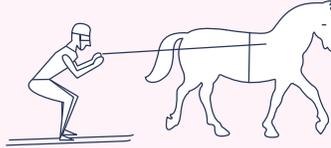
Female toboggan rider on the Cresta Run, 1908.

1885

The Cresta Run is built for tobogganing, on the initiative of the Kulm Hotel.

1889/90

English visitors introduce the first bobsleigh, made of two toboggans fastened together.



The first “snörekjöring” (towed skiing) race took place in 1906 in St. Moritz.

1897

The bobsleigh enthusiasts split from the St. Moritz Tobogganing Club and found the St. Moritz Bobsleigh Club (SMBC), the world’s first. According to the statutes, two board members must be women.

1904

The world’s first bobsleigh run is created. Ever since, this unique natural ice track has been remade every year by hand from scratch, using snow and water.

1920

Women are banned from bobsleigh racing.

1928

The first official Winter Olympic Games take place in St. Moritz. Bobsleigh is one of the disciplines.

1948

The Winter Olympics take place for a second time in Switzerland – once again in St. Moritz.

1992

Switzerland’s bobsleigh association allows female teams – 20 years after Swiss women won the right to vote.

2023

The Bobsleigh World Championships take place in St. Moritz – Celerina.



Photograph: Olympia Bob Run



Fast track to the future

The story of bobsleigh racing in the Engadin is full of twists and turns, setbacks and victories. Now the athlete Melanie Hasler is set to rewrite history.

Text MAX WILD
Photographs FILIP ZUAN



Melanie Hasler works towards her sporting goals with discipline and focus.

“I hope to bag an Olympic diploma,” Melanie Hasler said before travelling to the Beijing Winter Olympics. Soon after, she managed to come seventh in the monobob competition and so received an Olympic diploma. She could well have gained a better result, but during her run she touched the barrier and lost precious hundredths of a second. A typical slip in bobsleigh racing, when athletes hurtle down the ice track at speeds of up to 150km/h in vehicles that are tricky to manoeuvre. But Melanie Hasler’s real achievement was being the first woman to represent Switzerland when the 2022 Winter Olympics premiered women’s monobob as a discipline. She embodies the modern face of bobsleigh, then, and as a Swiss woman, symbolises the mountains in which the history of bobsleigh racing began.

The sport’s origins are closely linked to winter tourism, and specifically winter tourism in the Engadin. And they

stretch far back, all the way to the 1890s, when holidaymakers from England brought the sport of tobogganing to St. Moritz. The first prototype of their new vehicle consisted of two American-style toboggans fastened together. Initially these racing sledges served primarily as sporting kit for wealthy guests, but interest in them quickly spread. According to the annals of the St. Moritz Tobogganing Club (SMTC), “A new sport, which had previously only been practised here and there, started to gain in popularity from 1890 – tobogganing with a bobsleigh. It is made of two luge frames joined together with a long board. The front part is moved using a steering mechanism, while the back is fixed to a long seat board and has a heavy clamping device. Several people have to sit on the sled at the same time, fostering a team spirit. The man in front is in charge of steering and the one at the back takes care of the brakes.”

A monobob rockets
past the renovated
Olympic stadium
towards the future.

At the crossroads

Before the arrival of the bobsleigh, daredevil racers would ride toboggans or skeletons (special sledges ridden head-first, stomach-down) along the winding curves of the Cresta Run, the ice track from St. Moritz down to Celerina Crasta. But the bulky bobsleigh was not really suitable for the narrow run and so posed a problem for the members of the St. Moritz Tobogganing Club. Which, then, was the true, correct and altogether better form of the sport? The tobogganers and bobsleigh enthusiasts agreed to differ and go their separate ways. The many photographs on the walls of St. Moritz's Sunny Bar, a kind of clubhouse for the SMTC, continue to this day to tell of the sports' bumpy start.

Bobsleigh gains speed

On 21 December 1897 the separation of the two camps was sealed with the founding of the St. Moritz Bobsleigh Club (SMBC), the world's first, and

became definitive in 1904 with the opening of the world's first bobsleigh run, which follows its own serpentine course down the mountainside. The club's goals were strategic as well as operational: it should not only promote the interests of bobsleigh racing in St. Moritz and improve the sport's reputation, but also boost safety – for example, with checkpoints overseeing dangerous corners during competitions. The SMBC attracted a great deal of interest, also because women, too, were welcome from the beginning. According to the club's statutes, two members of the five-person committee had to be women. In addition, three-person bobsleigh crews had to include a woman, while four-person crews had to have two.

This system worked wonderfully for nearly 30 years until the 1920s, when women were forced out of the sport for questionable reasons – with dubious medical and moral arguments cited, as





Melanie Hasler pushes her bobsleigh powerfully at the start of the St. Moritz bobsleigh run ...



... and hurtles towards
the banked turns.

You can't predict the future – but you can be well-prepared for it.

in the case of other sports. It was claimed, for example, that the high speeds and sharp jolts would increase the risk of breast cancer. The close physical contact in the cramped bobsleigh was also said to be unbecoming for a woman. As a result, bobsleigh racing moved into reverse in terms of progressive gender roles, while it continued to develop in terms of technique and technology. The bobsleighs were steadily improved, and competitors realised the importance of a good start – which is why powerful athletes from other sports including handball and gymnastics were recruited, in place of women, to push the bobsleigh as fast as possible at the start of the race.

For female bobsleigh enthusiasts, a long period of exclusion began, which only came to an end in 1992 when Switzerland's bobsleigh association admitted female teams. Since then, women racers have picked up speed once again and

now rocket down the twisting tracks of ice with impressive skill and daring – like the Olympic athlete Melanie Hasler, whose story is closely linked to St. Moritz. Her original sport was volleyball, but her talent and suitability for bobsleigh were spotted – and the St. Moritz Bobsleigh Club helped her with a monobob to enable her switch from sand to ice. Today she is a member of and ambassador for the world's longest-running bobsleigh club, which is looking forward to a promising year. In 2023, the Bobsleigh World Championships are taking place on the Olympia Bob Run from St. Moritz to Celerina: for Melanie Hasler, an ideal opportunity to write her own chapter in the history of bobsleigh racing at her home track.



Moment of truth

The Bobsleigh World Championships take place in St. Moritz from 23 January to 5 February 2023. Don't miss Melanie Hasler's fight for medals!

wm2023.ch



Ice-cool action

The Engadin has a long tradition of racing on runners



Cresta Run

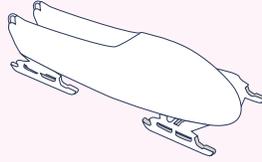
If you come across someone in the Engadin who is proudly walking with crutches, there is a strong chance the accident occurred while tobogganing. The St. Moritz Tobogganing Club's ice track from St. Moritz to Celerina has spat out many a rider at its breakneck corners over the years. Thrill-seeking visitors who are not scared of a few bruises can test their nerves on the Cresta Run Extravaganza: a VIP package that includes introductory training and three rides down the notorious run. cresta-run.com

A ride down the Cresta Run promises high speeds and spine-tingling thrills.



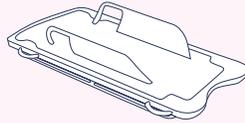
Vintage rides

Celerina – The Olympia Bob Run Museum tells the story of the crazy and heroic deeds of former racers. Exhibits include dramatic black-and-white photos, sparkling trophies and historical equipment – such as the oldest of all sledges, built by the St. Moritz metalworker Christian Mathis. bobmuseum.ch



Bobsleigh

Modern bobsleighs are equipped with a steering mechanism operated by the pilot. Races feature monobob, 2-person or 4-person bobsleighs, with the pilot seated in front.



Skeleton

The minimalist metal sledge known as the skeleton carries a single rider down the ice track head-first at speeds of up to 145 km/h.

15,000

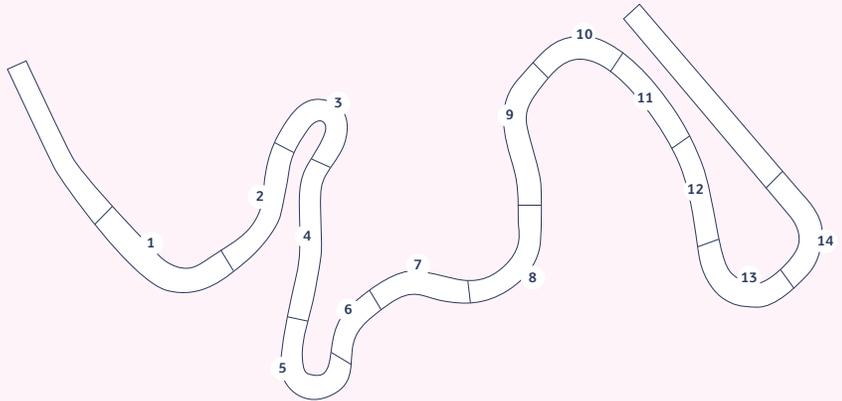
cubic metres of packed snow form the world's only natural bobsleigh track in St. Moritz. This is also regarded as the world's largest snow sculpture.

Olympia Bob Run St. Moritz – Celerina

St. Moritz – Celerina – A second channel of ice twists down the mountain beside the Cresta Run: the Olympia Bob Run from St. Moritz to Celerina, the world's oldest active bobsleigh track. A guest ride down the run, with its legendary corners such as Horse-Shoe and Sunny, promises high thrills and forces of up to 5G – as much as in Formula 1 racing. bobclub-stmoritz.ch



- 1 Wall
- 2 Snake
- 3 Sunny Corner
- 4 Nash-Dixon
- 5 Horse-Shoe
- 6 Telephone
- 7 Shamrock
- 8 Devils Dyke
- 9 Tree
- 10 Bridge
- 11 Leap
- 12 Gunter Sachs
- 13 Martineau
- 14 Portago



Guest bobsleigh rides

Daredevil visitors with a healthy heart and strong nerves can hurtle down the 1,722-metre natural ice track in expert company. A cool-headed female pilot and a strong brakeman ensure a safe ride, even at speeds of 130 km/h. olympia-bobrun.ch

Hospitality

In autumn 1864, Johannes Badrutt suggested to some English guests that they return in December. If they didn't enjoy their stay, he would reimburse their travel costs. They shook hands on the deal. The guests returned – and stayed until Easter.

JOHANNES BADRUTT'S LEGENDARY WAGER WITH WHICH HE LAUNCHED WINTER TOURISM

The monumental Maloja Palace hotel enjoys an idyllic natural setting.



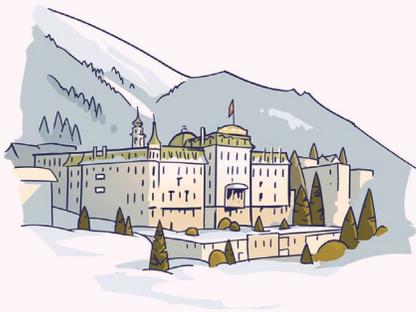


Journey of discovery

At the Engadin's palace hotels, visitors can experience a thrilling combination of architectural styles and local building traditions, with influences from all over Europe. Non-residents are also warmly welcome: how about afternoon tea or dinner?



Hotel Kulm, St. Moritz (1856) Johannes Badrutt junior extended the Pension Faller, a former farmhouse, in several stages of construction to create an elongated hotel complex. The diversity of interiors – from country parlour to Art Nouveau ballroom – reflects this history through a variety of styles.



Grand Hotel Kronenhof, Pontresina (1857) Under the guidance of Lorenz Gredig, the modest Rössli inn grew over the decades into a neo-baroque hotel with three wings. Features showing different architectural and design styles are skilfully linked and make the venue a “Gesamtkunstwerk”: a total work of art.



Maloja Palace (1884) The Belgian count Camille de Renesse dreamed of creating a “Monte Carlo of the Alps” in Maloja with the Maloja Palace at its heart. The monumental structure built in Neo-Renaissance style stands on the lakeshore surrounded by nature, enjoying fine views.



Badrutt's Palace, St. Moritz (1896)

Caspar Badrutt, son of Johannes junior, did not sit on his family's laurels: instead he converted the former Hotel Beau-Rivage into a luxurious citadel complete with tower and indoor tennis court. In so doing, he laid the foundation for the most flamboyant hotel in the Engadin.



Hotel Waldhaus Sils (1908) This was the first hotel in the Engadin to be built in the "Romantic castle" style that had become fashionable. The building's location atop a wooded hill above the village of Sils and its crenellated silhouette underscore the architect's evocation of a medieval fortress.



Suvretta House, St. Moritz (1912) Set idyllically among larch forest, Suvretta House was the most modern hotel in the Alps when completed shortly before the First World War. The architect took inspiration from England and the glamorous cruise ships of the day.



Hotel Castell, Zuoz (1913) Like the Waldhaus, the Castell stands on a rise above the village. The hotel's castle-like appearance is said to recall the Chastlatsch fortress, which stood on a nearby outcrop. Recessed windows and pine-panelled interiors reflect local building tradition.



From the late-19th Century, guests travelled to the Engadin not just for health but also for pure pleasure.

Pioneers who reinvented hotels

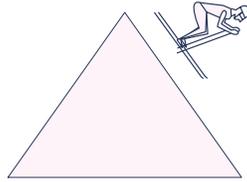
Iconoclastic trailblazers shaped the history of Engadin hospitality. Their visions can be seen and experienced to this day.

Text **CLAUDIUS WIRZ**

The whole story starts with water: the St Maurice springs, to be precise. The water that emerges is rich in minerals including iron; already in the Bronze Age people recognised its valuable properties, capturing it at what is now St. Moritz Bad. In the Middle Ages, Paracelsus, the most famous physician of the day, praised the water's healing power when he tasted it in 1535. The springs subsequently fell into oblivion until Conradin von Flugi, a widely travelled merchant from St. Moritz who returned to the Engadin in 1815 for health reasons, turned his attention to them. He realised that the springs were threatened by the untamed river Inn, and that the river's course would need correcting to save them. The plan fell on deaf ears, however – at least among village elders. So Conradin von Flugi took his application to straighten the river to the local council meeting just when the older members were at the annual cattle market in Tirano – and this time he succeeded. The Inn gained a new course, and Conradin von Flugi renovated the dilapidated bathing hut at the springs. Beside it, in 1832, he built the first spa rooms – and the spa resort of St. Moritz was born. Success proved the visionary right. Soon, the old spa rooms had become too small, and in 1864, a large new spa building in the style of a late-Neoclassical palazzo opened ceremoniously: the original building of today's Grand Hotel des Bains Kempinski St. Moritz.

Resourceful hoteliers now attempted to persuade spa guests, who always came in summer, to visit in winter, too. According to local legend it was Johannes Badrutt junior, owner of the Kulm Hotel, who finally





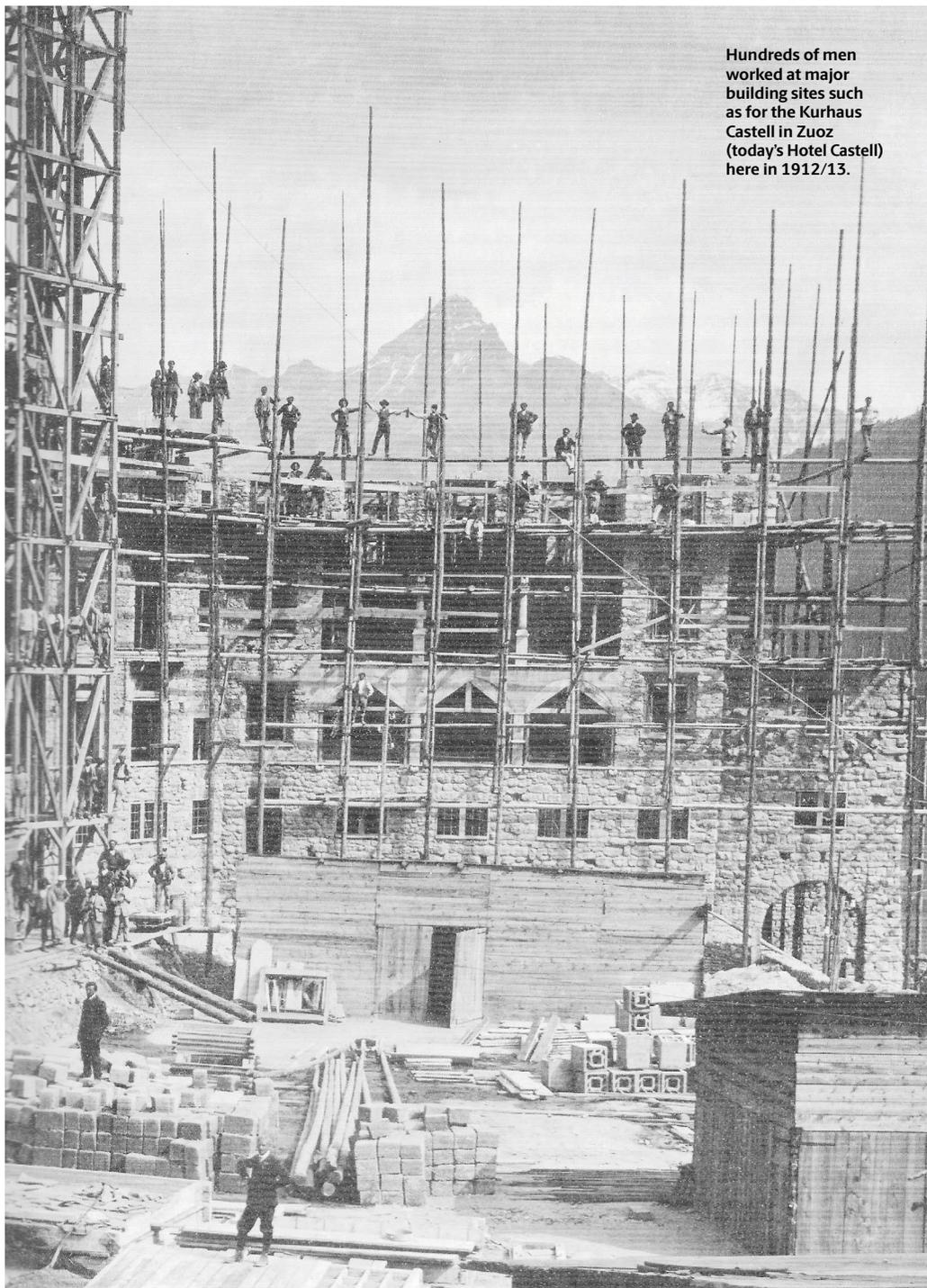
*Winter tourism was
invented in the Engadin.*

succeeded. Badrutt invited some of his English guests to return to the Engadin in winter and stay at his expense. In case of poor weather, he would even pay their return travel costs. They shook hands on the deal, and the holidaymakers returned to an Engadin blanketed in snow. They were delighted by the sunny winter climate and even stayed longer than planned. The inventor of the winter season, for his part, had entrepreneurial spirit in his blood: his father, Johannes Badrutt senior, was a master builder who had constructed many patrician and traditional Engadin houses, helping shape the whole region. He went bankrupt, however, and his son ventured a new start in 1855 by taking over the simple Pension Faller in what was then the insignificant quarter of St. Moritz Dorf. With unrelenting ambition, supported by his wife, he steadily expanded the venue to become the Hotel Kulm, soon the finest hotel in the entire region. Badrutt remained a pioneer all his life. He was fascinated by technology, and in 1878 made the Kulm the first hotel in Europe to be lit entirely by electricity. Once, when the price of fish leapt, Badrutt swiftly acquired much of Lake Sils along with its angling rights – securing the supply of inexpensive trout for his Kulm.

Successful entrepreneurs such as Conradin von Flügel and Johannes Badrutt helped create a new spirit of optimism in the Engadin valley, while from the mid-19th Century tourism grew dramatically in the country as a whole. Activities that were once reserved for the nobility increasingly also came within the reach of the financial aristocracy and the educated middle classes. They, too, wanted to travel and lodge in luxurious style. Guests came no longer solely for health reasons, but simply for pure pleasure. To house them, more and more monumental palace hotels came to life, mostly away from the existing village centres. Facilities were increasingly elaborate and sophisticated, from electric lighting and running water to in-house funiculars and other transport. Hotels laid out gardens with pavilions, and in winter created spacious ice rinks for skaters.

Almost at the same time as Badrutt in St. Moritz, Andreas Gredig and his son Lorenz were working wonders in Pontresina. They steadily extended the simple Rössli inn to create the Grand Hotel Kronenhof: a magnificent three-winged building whose decor and furnishings recall

Hundreds of men worked at major building sites such as for the Kurhaus Castell in Zuoz (today's Hotel Castell) here in 1912/13.

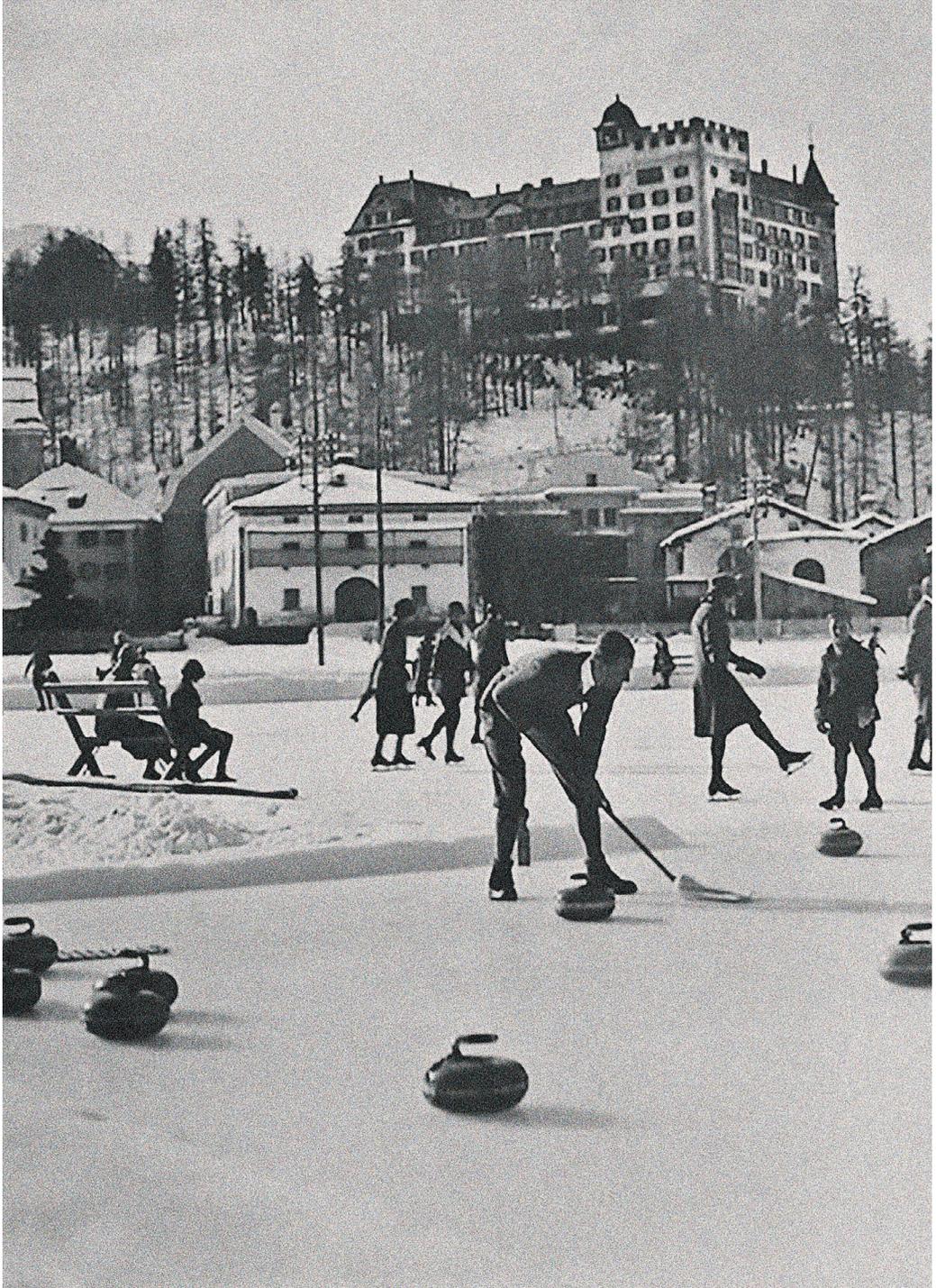




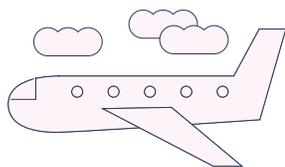
Photograph - Grand Hotel Kronenhof Pontresina



With its three wings and magnificent interior decor, the Grand Hotel Kronenhof is a total work of art.



Photograph - Waldhaus Sils



Frozen Lake St. Moritz was the first airfield in the Alps.

the splendour of opera houses in European capitals. Next door, the long-established local Saratz family also developed their guest accommodation in various stages into a grand hotel.

Another visionary who helped shape the zeitgeist in the Engadin was the Belgian count Camille de Renesse. In 1881, enthralled by the idyllic natural landscapes around Maloja, he started buying the marshy land between the mountain pass and the lake off local farmers. He dreamed of creating a wonderland that would fulfil guests' every wish. The count commissioned the Belgian architect Jules Rau to build a fortress-style castle above the village for his own use as well as a small church, along with a vast palace hotel by the lake. This was Switzerland's third-largest building at the time, after the Federal Palace in Bern and Zurich's Polytechnic. The Maloja Palace had a completely new type of ventilation system, its own boat jetty, an outdoor pool and, in winter, large skating rinks and even a ski jump exclusively for guests. Unfortunately, Count de Renesse ran into financial difficulty with his hotel empire soon after the opening, and he had to declare bankruptcy after two years.

The bar had been set high, however. Guests valued the lavish facilities and services; each magnificent new hotel should upstage earlier rivals. The years following 1900 saw the construction of two remarkable new hotel buildings that made use of a different architectural vocabulary and which suggested medieval castles: the Waldhaus hotel in Sils Maria and the Castell hotel in Zuoz. The Gilli family, owner of the Castell and founder of the Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz boarding school, was Zuoz's answer to the Badrutts of St. Moritz and the Gredig and Saratz families of Pontresina. They focused the Castell entirely on health tourism, offering new kinds of treatments, tailored to individual guests, along with the services of a well-respected house doctor and psychiatrist.

One of the last projects before the outbreak of the First World War, which brought the entire development of tourism in the region to an abrupt standstill, was Suvretta House in St. Moritz. When it opened in 1912, it was the most modern hotel in the Alps, both architecturally and technically. It brought everything together under one roof, from the kitchens, ballrooms and restaurants to the laundry and staff accommodation. The owner, Anton Bon, took inspiration for the hotel from the cruise ships of the day, which had become highly fashionable. Even today, a glimpse at the impressive structure confirms how apt his vision was.

Palace hotels, such as the Waldhaus in Sils, had impressive ice rinks.



Photo – Thomas Buchwalder

Head chef
Fabrizio Zanetti
in the historical
dining room.

A trip in time

A dinner in the sophisticated Grand Restaurant of the Suvretta House hotel invites guests to experience the thrill of travel during the pioneering age of alpine tourism.

The impressive original Dining Hall is the pride and joy of Suvretta House. Ornately carved oak pillars line the walls, fine chandeliers hang from the coffered ceiling: a splendid venue for up to 200 guests. Waitresses and waiters in white jackets flit between tables. The maître d'hôtel prepares a beef tartare expertly at the table in front of a guest, repeatedly offering a taste until flavour and seasoning are just right. Next comes the main course: a Quail Pithivier. The pie of light pastry contains meticulously arranged layers of quail meat, succulent and tender. The mashed potatoes, lightly truffled, provide the perfect match.

The man responsible for this is Fabrizio Zanetti, the 42-year-old Executive Chef of the luxury hotel. He is one of the few native head chefs in the Engadin. He completed his apprenticeship at the legendary Badrutt's Palace and later worked with the finest of his profession. Zanetti knows that the hotel's many regular guests are keen on classic dishes, so his delicacies include Beef Wellington, Saddle of Lamb and Crêpes Suzette – all cooked to absolute perfection. He likes to use local ingredients whenever he can: the lamb comes from Zuoz, for example, and the mountain potatoes from S-chanf. In summer, he gathers wild herbs and berries himself. "I'd like to go even more local, but I can't source so many ingredients up here," he says. "Cooking in a 5-star hotel is always a balancing act."

To have the best people in your team, Zanetti believes, you have to invest in the future. Each year, together with his fellow chef Roland Jöhri, he runs "Young Engadine Talents", a contest open to all the apprentice cooks in the Engadin. The winner is always crowned at the prestigious St. Moritz Gourmet Festival. Zanetti says it is important that apprentices learn the craft of cookery from scratch. He often has to make it clear to his protégés that the profession of chef is not as sparkling as the sight of TV chefs at work would suggest. "Anyone looking for a nine-to-five job is in the wrong place here. It's a wonderful profession, but above all it's a craft – and at times really tough!"



Suvretta House

Via Chasellas 1, 7500 St. Moritz, T. 081 836 36 36

suvrettahouse.ch

Natural goodness

The Engadin's hospitality scene feeds on innovation



Where meat is the supporting act

Pontresina – “Giodi” is short for “giodimaint”, which means “pleasure” or “enjoyment”: a fitting name for the Giodi restaurant at the Hotel Saratz in Pontresina. The region’s “first genuinely almost entirely vegetarian restaurant” welcomes flexitarians as well as vegetarians to enjoy delicious dishes prepared by the expert cook Kari Walker – either in the charming dining room or, in summer, out on the sun terrace. saratz.ch

New projects

The Engadin's hoteliers take advantage of the period between the summer and winter seasons to bring new visions to life.

Grace La Margna, St. Moritz

The relaunch of the landmark St. Moritz hotel is the work of the London-based firm Divercity Architects, with the opening scheduled for the winter season 2022/23. gracestmoritz.ch

Maistra160, Pontresina

The Hotel Maistra160 is an original new project in the heart of Pontresina, on the site of the former Hotel Post. The alpine-inspired design and pure, clean lines bear the signature of the Graubünden architect Gion A. Caminada.

Collina Sunstar, Pontresina

The total renovation of the historical Sunstar Hotel in Pontresina, a listed building, showcases craftsmanship with the finest materials, stylish modern architecture and a contemporary ambience. pontresina.sunstar.ch

Furtschellas, Sils

An innovative hotel for a stylish urban clientele is due to open in Sils Maria by the base station of the Furtschellas cable car. As well as a restaurant, bar and spa facilities, the venue will feature individually tailored sports.

Hotel Scaletta, S-chanf

The historical Hotel Scaletta in the heart of S-chanf has stood unused for eight years, but a foundation has formed to renovate it fully and give it new life for summer 2024. stiftung-scaletta.ch



Art and gastronomy

Samedan – Ciao Chao is the new hotspot for culture and cuisine in the Engadin. Temporary art exhibitions, local street art, Asian street food, Neapolitan pizzas and imaginative cocktails all come together under one roof, embodying a variety of influences and providing a thrilling combination and contrast. Customers at the Ciao Chao bar can linger from morning to evening, stimulated by a wealth of art and culture: a place of special inspiration, unlike any other! ciao-chao.ch

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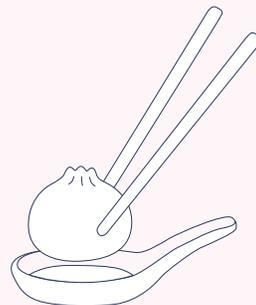
More Engadin

gastronomic treats:

engadin.ch/en/culinary-delights/

Dumplings in the mountains

St. Moritz – At “Dumpling in Altitude”, works of art from the Galerie Haas in Zurich promise seductive visual delicacies while guests enjoy light, imaginative and exquisite dumplings from the gastronomic atelier. Dinner with Madame Sum in St. Moritz is truly an experience for all the senses. dumplinginaltitude.ch



Spicy pleasures

St. Moritz – The GourmIndia pop-up restaurant treats diners to thrilling new flavours from South Asian cuisine. The resident Indian cooks create authentic specialities inspired by the traditional cuisine of the sub-continent's widely contrasting regions, while also conjuring sublime dishes using closely guarded family recipes. The mouth-watering menu reflects India's exceptional cultural wealth and gastronomic variety, which have won hearts and enchanted palates worldwide. laudinella.ch

High-altitude grills at the Kuhstall

The thick stone walls and solid wooden beams reflect the Kuhstall's former use: the name means “cowshed”. In good weather, cooks grill specialities on the sun terrace. The restaurant offers a handy stop on the Furtschellas run down to Sils-Maria.



Photograph: Marc Vellier



Freeride

“A pair of skis are the ultimate transportation to freedom.”

WARREN MILLER, US SKI & SNOWBOARD FILM PRODUCER



Taking adventure to new heights



Christian Mueller's X-project is the fulfilment of a dream.

By the time alpine skiing had become accessible to all, a few enthusiasts were already looking beyond the edge of the pistes: since about 1970, “freeriding” has become ever more popular. Devotees seek out pure powder fields for a blast of adrenalin and a sense of boundless freedom: Christian Mueller is one of them.

Sitting still is not one of his strengths. He speaks quickly, as if he were about to leap into his next adventure. Already as a boy, he was bursting with curiosity and energy: at the age of ten, he fitted a windsurf sail to his snowboard and

skimmed across the snow-covered slopes around his home town of Zug. People who saw him shook their heads: he must be a bit crazy, they thought.

The idea for his “X-project” films was a little crazy, too. No one had previously managed to gather so many different sports – some of them completely atypical of winter – in one place, and with the world’s top athletes. As well as windsurfers, the project brings together speedriders, snowboarders, backcountry freestyle enthusiasts, snowkiters and wingsuit pilots – all gliding across or over the powder snow on the Corvatsch.

“X-project – A Dream of Christian Mueller” became reality and thrilled viewers worldwide. Version 1.0 was watched more than 900 million times and broadcast on Japanese and Chinese TV channels as well as on CNN and RTL. Even as the film 2.0 was flickering on screens across the globe, preparations for X-project 3.0 were underway. The team filmed in summer for a change – in the Engadin, naturally, once again featuring spectacular outdoor sports.

Christian got to know and love the Engadin already as a child, windsurfing with his family. He launched the snow-park up on the Corvatsch and organises the “Engadinsnow” and “Engadinwind” events. Here he meets up with people who share his passion for crazy projects and set new standards with him in the activities they love.



High thrills

Watch the “X-project 1.0”
short film here!

x-project.com





A dream comes to life

The “X-project” film project evokes high thrills in the mountains and embodies a vision that found perfect expression in the Engadin. Twelve world-class athletes tackled pristine snowy slopes far from the pistes in the Engadin, each in his or her own way. Here’s a glimpse of three of the seven disciplines.

Text MICHELE FRÖHLICH





***Speedriding* WITH UELI KESTENHOLZ ON THE PIZ PALÜ**

Equipped with a pair of skis and a small, high-performance paraglider wing, speedriders explore a new dimension in freeriding. Enthusiasts descend the steep mountain slopes at great speed, taking to the air to overcome obstacles in style. When Ueli Kestenholz – professional snowboarder, World Cup winner and Olympic athlete from Bern – heard about the X-project, he did not hesitate for a second. As he says, life is too short for just one sport.





***Snow windsurfing* WITH THOMAS TRAVERSA AND BALZ MÜLLER**

The mountain as one giant wave waiting to be ridden... Thomas Traversa from Marseille is one of the world's top big-wave windsurfers and the first to conquer the "monster wave" of Nazaré in Portugal. The steep slopes and deep snow by the Roseg Glacier on the Corvatsch were a world apart, yet after a couple of practice runs he managed to coast down the mountain with the windsurf foil pioneer Balz Müller for the X-project – as if he had done nothing but all his life.





***Wingsuit flying* WITH GÉRALDINE AND SIMON FASNACHT**

Géraldine Fasnacht from Verbier skims above the snow rather than over it as she glides along the white mountainsides and plunges to the depths. The base jumper and snowboarder – triple winner of the Xtreme Verbier – was inspired to reach new heights with the X-project. After leaping from a helicopter, she hurtled just above the famous Bianco ridge by the Piz Bernina like a falcon, carried aloft by her high-tech wingsuit.

Pure freedom

A journey to freeride heaven



Mountains of bliss

Surlej – Freeriding is like surfing on powder snow: a euphoric feeling of floating effortlessly, in which endorphins course through the body and time seems suspended. Freeriders find perfect conditions up on the Corvatsch and

Diavolezza/Lagalb: powder, cliffs and endless slopes as far as the eye can see. No wonder the world's top freeriders meet in the Engadin every year to showcase their skills on the north face of the Corvatsch. engadin.ch

In good conditions, freeriding is like surfing on powder snow.



The Engadin mountains as a film set

The Engadin has served as a filming location for countless movies and adverts. “Eine Fuchsjagd auf Skiern” (“A fox chase on skis”) and “Das weisse Stadion” (“The White Stadium”, about the 1928 Winter Olympics) were both filmed in the Engadin, for example. “Fire and Ice”, by the director Willy Bogner, featured many spectacular ski scenes in its stylish evocation of winter sports; filming locations included St. Moritz.

Snow acrobatics

St. Moritz – Daring tricks and jumps, just like the freestyle pros: the best way to try them out is with the Fresk Freestyle Academy. On a variety of courses, expert instructors share their top tips to help ambitious winter sports enthusiasts learn cool tricks on skis or a snowboard. fresk.ch

Freeride slang to go

- Pow (powder)** – Fabulous powder snow
- Ripper** – The best skier on the mountain
- Dump** – A large snowfall of fresh powder
- Kicker** – Take-off ramp for jumps
- Liftie** – Someone who works on a ski lift
- Line** – The choice of off-piste descent
- Backcountry** – Terrain away from the pistes
- Gnarly** – Anything extreme, cool or dangerous

Better than new

Has your trusted snow sports jacket emerged the worse for wear from your latest adventure? No problem: minor damage is no reason to throw away cherished items of clothing. The team at the “2nd Peak” workshop can repair (almost) anything. 2ndpeak.ch

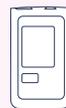
Pack list for a freeride day

For maximum safety, freeriders should always carry the following equipment:



Avalanche airbag rucksack

In an emergency, a trigger inflates the airbag; the extra volume helps the skier to remain at the surface of the avalanche.



Avalanche transceiver

Transceivers are set to transmit at the start of the outing; in the event of an avalanche, survivors use the units to search for victims.



Probe

Used to pinpoint a person buried in an avalanche, after the transceiver has helped establish the approximate location.



Avalanche shovel

Light but sturdy, a specialist avalanche shovel helps shift snow fast: a lifesaver.



YOUR RIDE. OUR MISSION.

SNOW | SURF | SKATE
online & in >70 shops in six countries

#bluetomatoteam approved: Corvatsch Park

Pic: Filip Juan | Blue Tomato Team Rider: Mathias Weissenbacher & Julius Forer | Location: Corvatsch Park

For ski tourers

The Engadin could have been made for ski touring. From the valley floor, 1,715 to 1,822 metres above sea level, ascents lead to the surrounding summits, mostly above 3,000 metres. Up here, views are sublime: the whole valley lies at your feet.

engadin.ch/en/ski-tours/

1 On the doorstep

Zuoz – The village of Zuoz enjoys a peaceful and idyllic location by the river Inn, with gentle ski tours on either side. Zuoz also has a ski area with lifts that shorten considerably the ascent up the Piz Belvair or Piz Griatschouls. Across the valley, the Piz Arpiglia is a popular destination for tours.

2 Alpine prize game

Bernina Pass – The landscape here, with the peaks of the Bernina massif, is particularly dramatic. The Diavolezza car park is the starting point for wonderful ski tours up the Piz Alv and Piz Minor as well as the “Diavolezza Challenge”: a marked ascent, secured from alpine hazards, with timekeeping and prize game.

3 Glacier adventure

Diavolezza – The Berghaus Diavolezza hotel is the starting point for high tours in the Bernina massif, including one over the Gemsfreiheit to Morteratsch. This leads over the Pers Glacier, below the Piz Palü, and is not particularly difficult – but unforgettable. Those lacking glacier experience should do this tour with a mountain guide.

4 Sweeping views

Muottas Muragl – A gem of a ski tour region awaits enthusiasts up on Muottas Muragl, easily accessible by funicular. Both the Piz Muragl and Piz Vadret provide superb ski touring destinations, and as the peaks lie in the heart of the valley, they offer sweeping views over the whole of the Engadin.

5 Wild paradise

Corvatsch – The Corvatsch offers an ideal starting point for classic ski tours including spectacular routes up the Piz San Gian and Il Chapütschin. Attractions also include steep couloirs, expansive powder fields and cliff jumps for the more daring: freeride enthusiasts, too, find endless thrills up on the Corvatsch.

6 Spoilt for choice

Julier Pass – The best-known area for ski touring in the Engadin is probably the Julier Pass, popular for its choice and variety. Classics include the Piz Surgonda and the Piz Lagrev, with magnificent views over the Engadin. The Chamanna Jenatsch mountain hut is the starting point for ascents of the Piz d’Err.



Tackling ski tours away from the secured pistes requires experience, the correct equipment and good preparation. Find full information here: whiterisk.ch





Glaciers

Music solves all the riddles
of existence.

LEO TOLSTOY (1828–1910),
RUSSIAN AUTHOR



The ice is wearing thin



Mighty river of ice: the Morteratsch Glacier.

Glaciers are shrinking worldwide. Those in the Alps have lost one sixth of their total volume in 14 years alone: 22 cubic kilometres of ice. This is equivalent to a blanket of ice more than half a metre thick covering the whole of Switzerland.

Fast and faster

Among Switzerland's fastest-melting glaciers, the Morteratsch Glacier holds the inglorious record: in 2003, its snout retreated 76 metres in a single summer. Visitors can clearly see the extent of glacier shrinkage

on hikes up to nearby mountain huts. The Chamanna da Boval, for example, stands on the lateral moraine of the Morteratsch Glacier, which once marked the edge of the mighty river of ice.

Source of life and energy

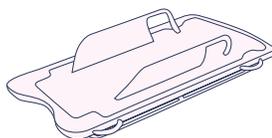
The challenges that arise from the melting of the ice are not limited to the Alps. New ideas are urgently needed, particularly in the fields of water usage and electricity production, if the mountains' precious resources are to remain available to us. Switzerland has the most glaciers of any of Europe's Alpine countries. Rain and melting snow are the most important sources of water for the hydroelectric power plants that cover more than half the country's electricity requirements. The meltwater emerges from the glacier snouts to form streams and rivers that flow down into the valley and feed the reservoirs of the power stations. As the glacier ice is now melting faster, the shrinkage of the glaciers can provide greater amounts of water for electricity production – in the short term. Gradually, however, the supply of water will decline, and it will become harder to cover needs. In long, dry summers, especially, the lack of glacier water will exacerbate shortages.

Experimenting with the ice

It is high time, then, for new ideas. What can we do to slow down the rapid melting of the glaciers? The Engadin glaciologist Felix Keller has been working on this question for decades. On the following pages you can read about his projects and ideas, which he is developing in the Engadin mountains.



Mission in the snow and ice: Felix Keller approaches the measuring station near the Morteratsch Glacier.



The people of the Engadin and their guests developed a new form of toboggan: skeleton.

Music and science to the rescue of the glaciers

Switzerland's glaciers have lost enough ice since 1960 for the meltwater to fill Lake Constance, according to the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL). The Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), meanwhile, calculates that the volume of Swiss glaciers has declined by a good half since the end of the Little Ice Age around 1850. These vast masses of ice are melting away – and with them, one of our most important reserves of water. But not everyone is watching helplessly: the Engadin glaciologist Felix Keller, for one, is fighting back.

Text JÜRIG WIRTH
Photographs FILIP ZUAN

The snow falling by the base station of the Diavolezza cable car is artificial – although perhaps we should call it natural artificial snow. Because this snow requires no electricity: just glacier water and the pressure resulting from the altitude difference between the water source and the nozzle. We are not talking about just a single snow lance or snow cannon, however: instead, a whole string of nozzles along a suspended “snow cable”. And this is just the beginning, or rather a test, for something much bigger: a bid to save the Morteratsch Glacier. The invention is the brainchild of the Engadin glaciologist Felix Keller.

He came up with the idea while fishing in Lake Gravatscha, beside the river Inn further down the valley. At first he dismissed the thought out of hand, only to take it up again and ponder it over as meltwater from the Morteratsch Glacier flowed past. Surely the idea was far too simple?

Complex problem, simple idea

The idea that struck him out of the blue as he waited for a fish to bite and watched the water flowing past was certainly anything but complex: “It should be possible to retain the water on the glacier in summer and let it freeze again – which could help the glacier survive.”

He did not dare tell anyone about it just yet, however, in case his flash of inspiration attracted ridicule. It was music, in the end, that loosened his tongue. Felix Keller is not just a glaciologist but also a keen musician: a fiddler with a particular passion for folk music from northern Europe as well as Argentinian tango. He often performs in a duo with the Dutch professor Hans Oerlemans, likewise a glaciologist – recently also at a New Year’s Eve celebration in the Hotel Morteratsch.

After a tango rehearsal, Keller took his musical and scientific partner into his confidence. The Dutchman requested a week to consider the idea. He then declared that it could work, providing the water was made into snow to cover the glacier – which could protect it 100% from melting.

This is where the “Schneiseil” (“snow cable”) comes in. It was developed by four Universities of Applied Science (Graubünden, Lucerne, North-Western Switzerland and Eastern Switzerland) in collaboration with two companies, Bartholet and Bächler Top Track, and with the support of Innosuisse, the Swiss Innovation Agency. The device consists of a water/air pipe hung from thick supporting cables, with special snow nozzles fitted direct to the pipe. The unit could be scaled up to a much larger facility that could produce 32,000 tons of snow a day over an area of a



Felix Keller, GLACIOLOGIST & VISIONARY

The glaciologist Felix Keller is co-director of the Centre for Applied Geology at the Academia Engiadina in Samedan and lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons. He also holds a lectureship at ETH Zurich, where he is responsible for training tutors in environmental studies.



**The glaciologist's
constant search for
knowledge fuels
his visionary projects.**





The filigree framework of the ice stupa awaits its sparkling covering of ice.

square kilometre. In Keller's scheme, this should be on the Morteratsch Glacier below the Bernina massif. According to Oerlemans' calculations, the plant could slow down the melting of the Morteratsch Glacier dramatically within 10 years.

Music and inspiration

Keller took these findings and went on tour, fuelled by his passion for innovative projects. First he visited the local council in Pontresina: they were enthusiastic about the idea.

That's when the serious work began – for as Keller says, the idea was the simplest thing about the whole project. The glaciologist needed money to make it happen, and became a highly effective campaigner for his idea. For that he turned not only to the usual marketing tools but made use of a universal language: music. Whenever motivation was required for action, he would take his fiddle out of its case and start to play: with Oerlemans, but also at times on his own. His playing opened doors wherever he went – and he went to many places. To different embassies, to a Rotary meeting in Hamburg and even as far as Ladakh in northern India.

Here he met Sonam Wangchuk, inventor of the “ice stupa”. Just like Keller's idea that he had while fishing, Wangchuk's invention serves as a way of saving water. This region in the Himalayas is known for being exceptionally dry and so requires additional water in summer. The stupas store this water in the form of mighty domes of ice, up to 40 metres tall, reminiscent of the local Buddhist places of prayer known as stupas. From spring to autumn, the ice domes gradually melt, and locals use this water to irrigate their fields. Since 2016, Keller and his team have been building one of these ice stupas every winter at different locations, in collaboration with the Chur architect Conradin Clavuot. This year, there is an ice stupa by the base station of the Diavolezza cable car. Here it is not only snowing artificially/naturally thanks to the snow cable, it is also raining ice from a nozzle above the ice stupa: as the water emerges, falls and lands, it freezes, adding another coating to the structure.



On the trail of the glacier

The Morteratsch Glacier Trail invites visitors to explore the secrets of this mighty river of ice: the third-longest in the Eastern Alps. Starting point is by the Restaurant Morteratsch near Pontresina.

A sparkling world of ice

Frozen water reveals countless facets



Natural beauty of the ice stupas

Felix Keller, initiator of the ice stupas near Pontresina, believes that these are among the most beautiful of all ice structures. These artificial and temporary water reservoirs are created with meltwater from the glaciers. The glaciologist was inspired by his journeys to Ladakh in northern India: despite challenging water shortages, farmers here are able to irrigate their fields in summer using this water storage technique. Keller aims to use the ice stupas in Switzerland to show that access to water should not be taken for granted. Here, too, people with an awareness of their own environment and the challenges it faces can achieve positive results – even with simple means. glacierexperience.com/testanlage

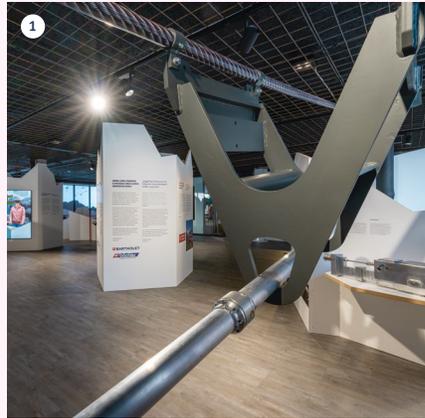
A walk-in work of art: an ice stupa takes shape in the Engadin.

Glacier experiences

Ice inspires. The Engadin offers many different experiences in, on and around the ice.

1 VR Glacier Experience

At this exhibition by the base station of the Diavolezza cable car, visitors don a virtual reality headset to embark on a virtual trip in time. The lifelike experience reveals how the Morteratsch Glacier has changed from 1875 to this day and shows what shape the glacier will be in by the year 2100. glacierexperience.com



2 Glacier fondue

Nothing beats enjoying a tasty cheese fondue somewhere cosy on a cold winter's evening. Enthusiasts are spoilt for choice at the Pontresina dairy. The home-made Glacier Fondue mixture leaves no one cold! sennerei-pontresina.ch

3 Stay the night at the foot of the glacier

Either at the winter campsite or at the "Glacier" Hotel Morteratsch: you could hardly sleep closer to the mighty river of ice. camping-morteratsch.ch

4 Swiss Ice Fiddlers

The sweet sound of strings in a world of glittering ice: the "Swiss Ice Fiddlers" create an original, exquisite soundscape as they perform on the glacier. swissicefiddlers.ch

Ice concerts

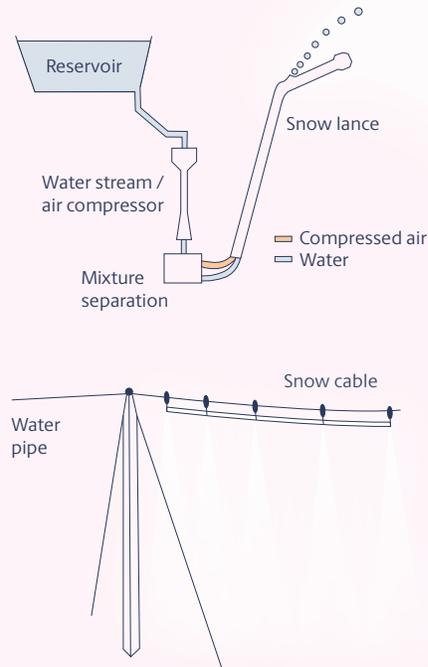
Pontresina – The chamber orchestra warms hearts with filigree melodies as figure skaters glide and pirouette across the sparkling ice, to the delight of audiences. The show takes place on a variety of ice rinks in the region including in St. Moritz, Pontresina and Silvaplana.

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More information:
pontresina.ch/events

Nessy Zero E – Snowmaking without electricity

Morteratsch – Thanks to the new "Nessy Zero E" technology, it is possible to make snow without any electricity whatsoever. Just 200 vertical metres between the water source and the snow lance are enough to create sufficient pressure.



Snow cable

Morteratsch – With traditional methods of creating ice stupas, the water pipe or nozzles risk freezing up, so technicians developed the snow cable. This automatically turns off in low temperatures to prevent the nozzles freezing over.

Questions about questions

The "Engadin Children's University" at the Academia Engiadina offers children full of curiosity answers to the trickiest questions. The events covering a wide range of subjects take the form of entertaining illustrated talks. academia-engiadina.ch



Sporty elegance

Comfortable, practical and always stylish: welcome to Rukka. rukka.ch

1 Soft on the skin

The sporty and stylish Kaya knitted pullover is made with pure natural fibres.

2 Active fit

The Motion trousers are comfortable, light and robust. The stretch fabric offers optimal freedom of movement.

3 Hot and cold

Rukka's attractive bottles keep drinks hot for up to 12 hours – or cold for up to 24 hours.

4 Perfect shape

The Bernina woolly hat is Swiss made and provides a perfect fit – promising warm ears.

5 Warm elegance

The warm Ronja winter coat is sure to keep you snug with its high-quality certified down filling.

6 Adaptable

The Outlast shirt keeps body temperature steady, even with big swings in air temperature.

7 Not too cold, not too hot

Like the matching shirt, the Outlast trousers keep you as warm or as cool as you need, in any weather.

Ephemeral ice

The vanishing ice of Switzerland's shrinking glaciers shows how we are changing nature around us. Here's a snapshot of six of them.



1 RHÔNE

The Rhône Glacier was a popular tourist attraction especially in the 19th and early-20th Centuries thanks to its mighty snout, which in those days still reached far down into the valley. The glacier has been melting steadily since the mid-19th Century; it will probably have disappeared almost completely by around 2100.



2 MORTERATSCH

Together with the Pers, this was once the biggest glacier in the Eastern Alps in volume, totalling 1.2 cubic kilometres; however, as of 2015, the tongue of the Pers no longer reaches the Morteratsch. The Morteratsch has retreated by 2.5 km since 1878; in 2013 it still measured 6.2 km together with the Pers Glacier.



3 GREAT ALETSCHE

At its apogee, in the mid-19th Century, the Great Aletsch Glacier stretched roughly an additional 2.5 km further down the valley. Thanks to increasing climate change since about 1870, the overall volume of the glacier has also shrunk massively: in places, the ice thickness has fallen by more than 100 m.



4 GORNER

In 2017, the Gorner Glacier system was still the second-largest connected glacier system in the Alps, with an area of about 41 sq. km. Since 2019, however, the Gorner Glacier has no longer connected directly with the Grenz Glacier, so its area is now a great deal smaller.



5 PALÙ

The Palù Glacier reached its last maximum length around 1860, when its snout extended far across the Alp Palù plateau. Already in the early-20th Century the glacier started retreating from the Alp Palù plateau, and since the 1990s this melting process has accelerated greatly.



6 LOWER GRINDELWALD

The Lower Grindelwald Glacier was once one of Switzerland's largest. As a result of melting of the ice, the eponymous glacier snout has now completely disappeared. The glacier system still exists, however, in the form of its former tributary glaciers, each of which has its own name.



InnHub

People who walk in someone else's
footsteps leave no trace of their own.

WILHELM BUSCH (1832–1908)





The visionaries of La Punt

Seven people stand behind one of the Engadin's most ambitious contemporary visions: the InnHub La Punt. They are committed to turning an idea into a place of innovation that will make waves well beyond the Engadin. The project is daring and original: no wonder all the participants have it close to their heart.



Norman Foster, architect

“Life and innovation take place in social spaces of encounter. The Atrium in the InnHub should become such a meeting point.”



Caspar Coppetti, co-founder of On

“With the InnHub we're creating a place in which teams can do focussed work on important subjects.”



Olivier Bernhard, co-founder of On

“The project aims to create a single space where groups thinking in different ways can exchange ideas, challenge one another and find inspiration, to achieve great things.”



Beat Curti, media entrepreneur

“This should be an inspiring place in which global networks are formed to solve global challenges.”



Steve Koltes, co-founder of CVC Capital Partners

“The InnHub will change our thinking about the interplay between work and lifestyle.”



Christian Wenger, business lawyer and expert in digitalisation

“The InnHub should give rise to new and innovative things for the valley – and also for the whole world.”



Jon Erni, co-founder of miaEngiadina

“I believe in networks of partners. This is how we will solve the problems of the future.”



Andrina Brunner and Jon Erni over the plans of the InnHub La Punt.



The Engadin's global village

Ideas and innovations for our future are being dreamed up in all kinds of places, from Berlin and Tel Aviv to Singapore and Silicon Valley. And in the Engadin, too? Even in peaceful La Punt? We took a look to see what's going on...

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

“**A**n innovation like this could only have come from La Punt,” Brooklyn Miller says with conviction. The 27-year-old IT specialist from New York dreams of being able to visit this magical spot in Switzerland’s remote Engadin valley one day. Her colleague, Kevin James, nods as he sips his espresso. “Sure, like so many of the big transformations in the past few years, this one must have been thought up in La Punt, too.” When it comes to ground-breaking ideas and innovations, knowledge transfer and new approaches to solving global problems, La Punt is a key player. The mountain village has established itself as a world-leading powerhouse of original thinking.

Are you surprised at these words? What is happening in La Punt that you haven’t heard about? A great deal is going on – but you can hardly see it yet. The first paragraph of this article describes a short imaginary scene in the future – let’s say in the year 2050. But no, the words aren’t pure fiction. We are talking about a vision that people in La Punt are energetically working towards.

When Jon Erni talks about his projects, his eyes light up with enthusiasm.

In little La Punt, people are thinking big

Wisps of smoke emerge from the chimneys and dissolve in the sky above the old village houses, their facades adorned with ornate sgraffito decoration. Most buildings have already been here for several hundred years. They are surrounded by mighty mountains, which protect the village as if it were a treasure. How come peaceful La Punt is the focus of such an ambitious vision? “A combination of different circumstances and fortuitous events,” is Jon Erni’s answer to the question.

He is the mastermind behind the project, a native of the Engadin who grew up in Tschlin and Scuol. To understand what the planned InnHub La Punt aims to be, you need to grasp the vision that Erni and his like-minded companions are championing for the Engadin: “teis prüm terz lö”, which is Romansh for “your first third place”. If your first place is your home and the second your main workplace, then the third is a place of retreat, networking and inspiration. A place for companies, creative minds and all who are seeking somewhere they can work and at the same time find new energy in nature – for a day, a week or even longer. The setting is a large plot of land (9,400 sq. m) between the river Inn and the old village centre. This will house a centre with facilities for work, meetings and encounter: the InnHub La Punt.

When visionaries meet

It all began with the concept of “co-working spaces”, the new form of office sharing. La Punt had already seen several such initiatives. Erni wanted to create synergies and suggested a brainstorm between the initiators of the various projects and anyone else who might be interested. That alone brought together some fascinating characters with impressive CVs: real visionaries. These included the media entrepreneur Beat Curti and one of On’s co-founders, Caspar Coppetti. “That was the spark for everything,” Erni recalls. Together, the group set a target of positioning the Engadin as a







The first snowboard world championships held in Europe took place in 1987 in St. Moritz.

place of innovation. This should be a charismatic project with impact, they agreed: even the building should be an architectural landmark.

So they asked the internationally renowned architect Norman Foster if he would join a jury to judge an architectural competition for the building to house the future InnHub. But Foster, who regards the Engadin as his main home, did not want to be part of the jury: he wanted to take over the project himself. Erni's eyes sparkle: "Norman Foster's commitment to the InnHub La Punt is a real god-send," he says. For years, Norman Foster has been exploring how to use architecture to create social spaces that promote innovation. Prime examples include his Apple headquarters in Cupertino, California, and Bloomberg's new European HQ in London.

Erni goes on to say: "I've seen countless projects for which they built the building first, the shell, and only afterwards defined the contents. But we defined the contents first, and afterwards created the appropriate shell." What ultimately takes place within the building is at least as important, in other words. It will certainly be a place of innovation, that's guaranteed: On, the running shoe manufacturer, will use the facilities for developing new products. "That, too, will boost our image," Erni says.

Other exciting companies will join them. "Where charismatic companies and people work, others follow – you see a powerful attraction." The effect is already noticeable, Erni says. The team are talking to Google, Microsoft has been a partner from early on, and several higher education establishments are interested in joining them. The venue will also be appealing for start-ups, Erni believes: some are already working at the InnHub PopUp. "They want to be at the cutting edge of new developments and take advantage of this pioneering energy here."

Change is in the air at the picturesque mountain village of La Punt.

**Building materials
for the InnHub
should be sourced
locally...**



... while Engadin
construction style
should root the
building firmly in
the region.





Close to nature:
Andrina Brunner and
Jon Erni find new
energy on the cross-
country ski trails.

A vision is born

“Imagine this deserted place at the far end of a valley,” Erni says, speaking now about his hunting hut. “There’s no mobile phone signal there. This digital-free location is where I go to find new energy.” It is also where Erni realised he wanted a change. At the time, the graduate from ETH Zurich was working as the B2B manager of Sunrise, following a successful career that took him around the world on telecoms and IT projects. “I had this growing urge to undertake something of which I can later say that it left a mark: something of value to society and the region.”

It was at this time that he was contacted Not Carl. Could Erni help him build a fibre-optic network for the Engadin, Carl asked? Erni had no trouble deciding. “Digitalisation represents a huge opportunity for mountain valleys,” he says. The vehicle for the vision to position the Engadin as a place of retreat, networking and inspiration is the organisation “miaEngiadina”. It oversees not just the creation of a fibre-optic network and the InnHub La Punt but also other projects in the fields of education and networking.

In the existing mini version of the future InnHub La Punt we meet Andrina Brunner. “The pop-up is our playground,” she says. The 30-year-old manages the InnHub PopUp. “Here we can try things out, see what works, and analyse which facility systems we will need in future.” The co-working space is highly popular – not only with locals and people with second homes in the region, but often with visitors who happen to be in the valley. “If the weather’s horrible, it can happen that ski tourers, for example, decide to fit in a day’s work and come and visit us.” Recreation, exploring the natural landscapes and also being able to do some work: that’s what this place is all about. No sooner has she said it than Andrina Brunner reaches for her cross-country skis. After all, it’s now lunchtime, the sun’s shining, and Jon Erni is already waiting for her to do a loop of the cross-country ski trail together. What ideas might they come up with this time round?



InnHub LaPunt

Visit the InnHub PopUp in La Punt and discover a miniature version of what the InnHub will later offer on a larger scale.
coworkengadin.ch

Visionary architecture

The Engadin links old structures and new innovation



Chesa Futura

St. Moritz – 250,000 larch shingles were used to cover the Chesa Futura in St. Moritz. It was designed by the star architect Lord Norman Foster, who has previously given a striking new look to structures including the Reichstag building in Berlin and the main railway station in Dresden. His latest coup in his adopted home, the Engadin: the planned InnHub in La Punt. engadin.ch/chesa-futura



Old and new go hand in hand

The Chamanna d'Es-cha is a mountain hut that belongs to the Bernina section of the Swiss Alpine Club (SAC). Located in the central section of the Graubünden Alps, it sits high above the Engadin valley as if on a balcony, looking southwards towards the Bernina massif. To the north, the dramatic Piz d'Es-cha towers above the refuge, which was built in 1934 and received a modern extension from 2019 to 2020. In winter, the climb up to the venue is ideal for ski tourers and snowshoeing enthusiasts. The ascent lasts about three hours and leads through snow-blanketed forest and wide valleys. The route is gentle and manageable, but a certain level of mountain experience is required, along with knowledge of avalanche risk. Up in the hut, guests find a cosy lounge with a striking stucco ceiling and glorious views at sunset – and can feast on local Engadin delicacies prepared in the hut's kitchen. [es-cha.ch](https://www.es-cha.ch)

Architectural gems

The Engadin is full of architectural gems waiting to be discovered. The following list of buildings is just a taster:

1 Clubhaus San Gian

Celerina – The clubhouse consists of a simple rectilinear structure, subordinate to the nearby church, hills and rock.

2 Skyspace Piz Uter

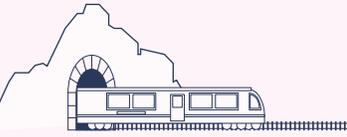
Zuoz – The “Skyspace Piz Uter” by the land artist James Turrell suggests a mountain chapel built of untreated stone, which invites visitors to enter and experience a magical play of natural light.

3 Hotel Waldhaus

Sils – Many of the features of the historical hotel are original, but guests also discover some contemporary additions – such as the elegant spa extension by the architects Miller & Maranta.

4 Public library

Maloja – The library by the architect Renato Maurizio ingeniously makes use of the narrow space between two houses.



Railway as art

St. Moritz – The Bernina Line from St. Moritz into the Valposchiavo and down to Tirano is a World Heritage Site – thanks to its skilful routing and spectacular construction methods. The little red trains showcase glorious views of mighty mountains, idyllic lakes and sparkling glaciers.



1649

The striking Chesa Merleda, easily recognisable by its gables decorated with merlons, was completed in 1649, renovated in 1800 and converted in 1999. The majestic building is one of the Engadin's best-known patrician houses.

[engadin.ch/merleda](https://www.engadin.ch/merleda)

Traditional Engadin interiors

No, the people of the Engadin did not freeze in winter in olden days. Thick house walls and (usually) a stove in the parlour made sure of that. To see just how, visit the Museum Engadinais.

[museum-engadinais.ch](https://www.museum-engadinais.ch)

Ski

**“I know of nothing more beautiful
in the world than a snowflake
falling from the sky – so small and
soft and gentle.”**

CARL PETER FRÖHLING (*1933), GERMAN
WRITER AND PHILOSOPHER





At the home of winter sports



The Piz Nair panoramic restaurant, 3,020 metres above sea level, offers impressive views of the sparkling Engadin mountains.

It is no coincidence that winter tourism was invented in the Engadin. The valley's high altitude – 1,800 metres above sea level – guarantees snow and ice. Up here it is often extremely cold, with temperatures well below freezing.

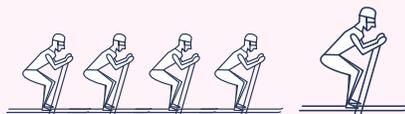
Glacier feeling

For a uniquely cool winter sports experience, good skiers can tackle Switzerland's longest glacier run. This starts by the summit station of the Diavolezza cable car and follows a marked but unpisted route that takes about 45 minutes. The run, graded medium-difficult to difficult, is framed by dramatic peaks and leads down the Pers Glacier and the Morteratsch Glacier all the way to the sun terrace of the Morteratsch restaurant.

Snowsure pistes to suit all tastes

But it is not always cold in the Engadin. In fact the climate is exceptionally sunny – in winter, too. Days are becoming noticeably warmer, despite the valley's altitude. Climate experts predict that in the next 25 to 50 years the lower altitude limit for snowsure ski areas will climb further still. The sunniest slopes will require additional help if they are to stay snowy. In the Engadin, one man is responsible for just that. Adrian Jordan and his team ensure that visitors can look forward to snowsure pistes throughout the winter. He believes it is particularly important that this snow is produced in an environmentally friendly way. As a result, everyone can enjoy the 350 kilometres of piste throughout the Engadin with a clear conscience.

Switzerland's first ski school was founded in St. Moritz in 1929.





Pure white

Happiness is gliding down snow-blanketed slopes on a pair of skis, feeling in harmony with the earth and the sky, without nature suffering for the sport. This is the vision guiding a team committed to creating a sustainable ski area in the Engadin through a variety of high-tech projects.

Text KARL GRAUHANS

The Lej Alv reservoir above the Marguns summit station captures meltwater in spring for transformation into snowflakes in autumn.



Few skiers are aware of the use of the water: the artificial snowmaking takes place in October and November.

Award-winning team

The Engadin has been Adrian Jordan's adopted home for a good decade. Together with 260 colleagues, the industrial engineer from Valais devotes himself to the many different demands and challenges that a modern ski area faces today. As COO of Engadin St. Moritz Mountains AG, he is also responsible for piste preparation – in a sustainable way. Jordan and his team do a good job. At the Alpine World Ski Championships in St. Moritz in 2017, winners included not only familiar names such as Beat Feuz (Downhill), Luca Aerni (Alpine Combined) and Wendy Holdener (Alpine Combined), but also the many people working diligently in the background. Thanks to the environmentally friendly and professional way in which they staged the event, they were awarded the title "Most Sustainable World Championships in Piste Management". In conversation with Adrian Jordan it becomes clear that caring for the environment is not just part of his job but a matter close to his heart. He believes that when we enter into nature's realm, we have a duty to treat it with care. "I prefer pistes in white – so it pays off all the more to think green," he says. Thanks to this way of thinking, his team has already been able to put many of the elements of a sustainable ski area in place.



"I prefer pistes in white – so it pays off all the more to think green."

ADRIAN JORDAN
COO of Engadin St. Moritz Mountains AG

Pioneering work in sustainability

Using the following tools and methods, Adrian Jordan and his 260 staff aim to do justice to all aspects of sustainability:

1 Piste preparation

This is a key activity, as it requires considerable manpower and use of equipment along with fuel. Piste grooming machine pilots aim not to dig deep or to displace too much snow. The following technical aids help them to work in an eco-friendly way:

→ Support through high-tech cockpits

Using a kind of joystick, the experienced pilots can steer the blade in 12 directions of movement with the lightest touch, and so work the snow with great precision.

→ Satellite support

A software system uses satellite data to measure the difference between the surface of the piste and ground readings in summer, and transmits calculations of snow depth to the cockpit.

→ Optimised vehicles

Many piste-grooming machines are equipped with a hybrid drive and use biodegradable engine oil. The goal: phase out use of fossil fuels completely. Hydrogen-powered prototypes already exist.

2 Snowmaking

Here, too, technical progress enables careful use of resources. Thanks to the following measures, the right amount of snow can fall in the right place:

→ Snowmaking follows the terrain

Complex models take topography, orientation and gradient into account to calculate optimal snowmaking.

→ Where the wind blows

The direction in which the snow should fall can be selected, too, so the wind factor can also be taken into account.

→ Snow from the smartphone

Following a notification of insufficient snow from piste-grooming machines, the snowmaking equipment can be steered via smartphone.



3 White snow

The storage of meltwater up on the mountain enables a sustainable cycle in which the collected water is mixed with air in autumn to make light snowflakes.

→ Environmental benefits achieved through the Lej Alv natural reservoir::

- 50% less groundwater used
- Partial dismantling of pumping system
- Water immediately available when needed, bringing savings in electricity, water & money

→ Goal of the Lej Nair Pitschen natural reservoir project:

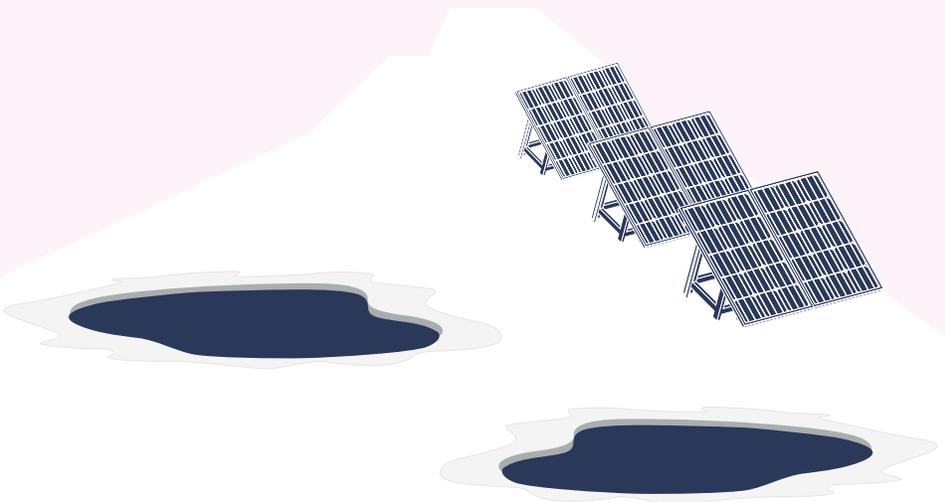
- Exclusive use of meltwater: a world first
- Complete dismantling of the pumping system
- Vast savings in electricity, water and money

4 Hydro and solar power

Today electricity is supplied by a Swiss hydroelectric power station and is therefore carbon neutral. Solar power systems for the Piz Nair cable car produce enough energy to cover one sixth of ascents. The goal is to expand considerably use of the Engadin sunshine; relevant studies have already been carried out.

5 Green travel

Multi-day lift passes include use of public transport in the valley.



Snow conjured from water and air

One of the cornerstones of this vision is the Lej Alv, a natural water storage reservoir created at an altitude of about 2,500 m. It lies above the Marguns summit station and captures part of the meltwater that in spring flows down from the nearby summits and the slopes that skiers glide over in winter. This carefully landscaped lake is a popular excursion destination, although mountain bikers and hikers may not realise that over the summer it stores the precious water that will be converted in autumn once again into light snowflakes. As the snow produced consists exclusively of water and air, like natural snow, the whole process can be repeated as often as desired. "The Lej Alv has shown that our plans are not only feasible, they also make sense," Adrian Jordan argues. Spurred on by this success, the initiators now want to create a second natural storage reservoir, the Lej Nair Pitschen. This should capture excess water that cannot fit in the Lej Alv, and so make enough water available that in future the pistes can be covered with snow exclusively using meltwater. As a result, the ski area could function without any groundwater from the valley and the other pumping stations at all. The scheme would not only benefit the environment, it would also bring considerable cost savings. This major project should be

completed in the coming years, if all goes to plan, and should cover its costs – estimated at about 10 million Swiss francs – in a little more than a decade.

High-tech snow

The team has been working on many other schemes, too, alongside the natural storage reservoir projects. Progress has been tremendous in recent years, especially in technical support. For example, measurements of the terrain in summer and winter are compared via satellite data and the difference transmitted in real time to the drivers of piste-grooming machines in their high-tech cockpits. This gives them information about the snow depth, accurate to the nearest centimetre, so they can prepare the pistes in a way that saves resources. The amount of snow cover is also adapted to the terrain, taking account of topography, exposition and gradient: because skiers and snowboarders use their edges more on steeper sections, they displace the snow considerably more here than on flatter terrain. The result of all these efforts: smooth and well-shaped pistes that fit the slopes perfectly. Visitors see nothing of this technical support, however. In mid-December, when the pistes have a sufficiently thick layer of fresh snow, the snow cannons are dismantled and stored away in the depot.



Adrian Jordan's team won the title "Most Sustainable World Championships in Piste Management" in 2017 for their eco-friendly policies.

Mountain innovation

Experiences on the Engadin's pistes



First plus-energy hotel in the Alps

Muottas Muragl – Following comprehensive renovation and modernisation, the hotel produces more energy every year than the building can use. This positive balance is not the only draw up on the mountain: the Muottas Muragl hotel, a member of the Romantik Hotels group, occupies a panoramic vantage point with breathtaking views of the lake-strewn

Engadin valley and the Bernina massif. Artists and writers from Giovanni Segantini to Friedrich Nietzsche have found inspiration up here. The hotel is accessible via a historical funicular built in 1907. The base station is on the railway line from Samedan to Pontresina; the hotel stands beside the summit station. engadin.ch/plusenergie



Renewable energy in the mountains

Whole valley – The first thermal solar plant went into operation at Marguns high above Celerina as far back as 1981. The construction of the new Glünetta restaurant in the Corviglia ski area in 1991 incorporated another installation. Since 2010, solar panels along the track of the Muottas Muragl funicular have been producing eco-friendly electricity at Switzerland’s most efficient photovoltaic facility.

Snow Deal

Book early for the best deal! The region’s lift company operates a dynamic pricing system that allows visitors who plan ahead to enjoy an early-booking discount when they buy their lift pass. snow-deal.ch



The **8**-kilometre Glacier run threads its way between crevasses as it leads down the Pers Glacier and Morteratsch Glacier. Along the way, it is best not to risk any turns beyond the edges of the piste.



Ski after dark

Normally the pistes are deserted after dark – except for the piste-grooming machines, their headlamps visible from afar. Snow sports enthusiasts have various options, however, for enjoying the Engadin’s pistes at night.

Night skiing

Corvatsch – Every Friday, the Corvatsch offers an extra-long ski day, as it welcomes enthusiasts to Switzerland’s longest illuminated night piste. corvatsch-diavolezza.ch

Ski by moonlight

Diavolezza – Skiing on the Diavolezza by the light of the moon is an experience of fairy-tale beauty: simply “fabulus”, as locals like to say. corvatsch-diavolezza.ch

Sternbar

Corviglia – The “Star Bar” attracts not just party animals but also sun-worshippers, who enjoy the mountain views from the loungers. engadin.ch/sternbar

Sleep + Ski

Visitors who spend at least one night in the Engadin can ski at a special discounted rate thanks to the “Sleep + Ski” deal. A lift pass costs from just CHF 45.– per person per day for the entire duration of guests’ stay at participating accommodation.

engadin.ch/sleep-ski



KJUS



Uncompromising
Performance

kjus.com

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 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

2 Freeride paradise

Corvatsch – Alongside sensational runs on- and off-piste, including the famous Hahnensee, attractions include one of the Alps' largest snowparks.

engadin.ch/slopes

3 Beginner-friendly

Surlej – Novices enjoy the easiest conditions by the Cristins children's ski lift.

engadin.ch/small-ski-resorts

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/small-ski-resorts

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 In a world of glaciers

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

engadin.ch/glacier-run

8 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

9 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

10 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



Pinboard

**Highlights from summer and winter
for idyllic holidays in the Engadin.**

1



Ski & Snowboard

Down the White Carpet

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

Snow Safari

The Snow Safari leads across several different ski areas and to the cosiest mountain restaurants in the Engadin. In just one day, skiers and snowboarders discover nine of the finest runs, enjoy 88 kilometres of piste and conquer no fewer than 4,444 vertical metres. engadin.ch/snow-safari

Down the Diavolezza's glaciers

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

Ski school

Learning to ski is fun – especially when it is with the help of a professional instructor. The Engadin's ski areas have various ski schools at which visitors of all ages can enjoy their first experience on skis or a snowboard, hone their skills or, after a longer break from the snow, regain confidence for a safe return to the pistes. engadin.ch/en/sport



1 Snow-Deal

Book early for the best deal! The region's lift company operates a dynamic pricing system that allows visitors who plan ahead to enjoy an early-booking discount when they buy their lift pass. snow-deal.ch/en



Sleep + Ski

Visitors who spend at least one night in the Engadin can ski at a special discounted rate thanks to the "Sleep + Ski" deal. A lift pass, including use of public transport, costs from just CHF 45.– per person per day for the entire duration of guests' stay at participating accommodation. engadin.ch/en/sleep-ski



Events

Audi FIS SkiWorld 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

Freeski World Cup Corvatsch

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

Engadinsnow

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

More info?

engadin.ch/ski-snowboard



Cross-country ski

More than 240 km of trails

Skiing with a pet dog, skiing at night, skiing across frozen lakes: in the Engadin, cross-country skiing promises many special experiences. Beginners and experts alike are spoilt for choice, with up to 240 kilometres of trail on offer.

engadin.ch/cross-country-skiing

Across the frozen lakes

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

engadin.ch/cross-country-skiing

Events

1 *Engadin Skimarathon*

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

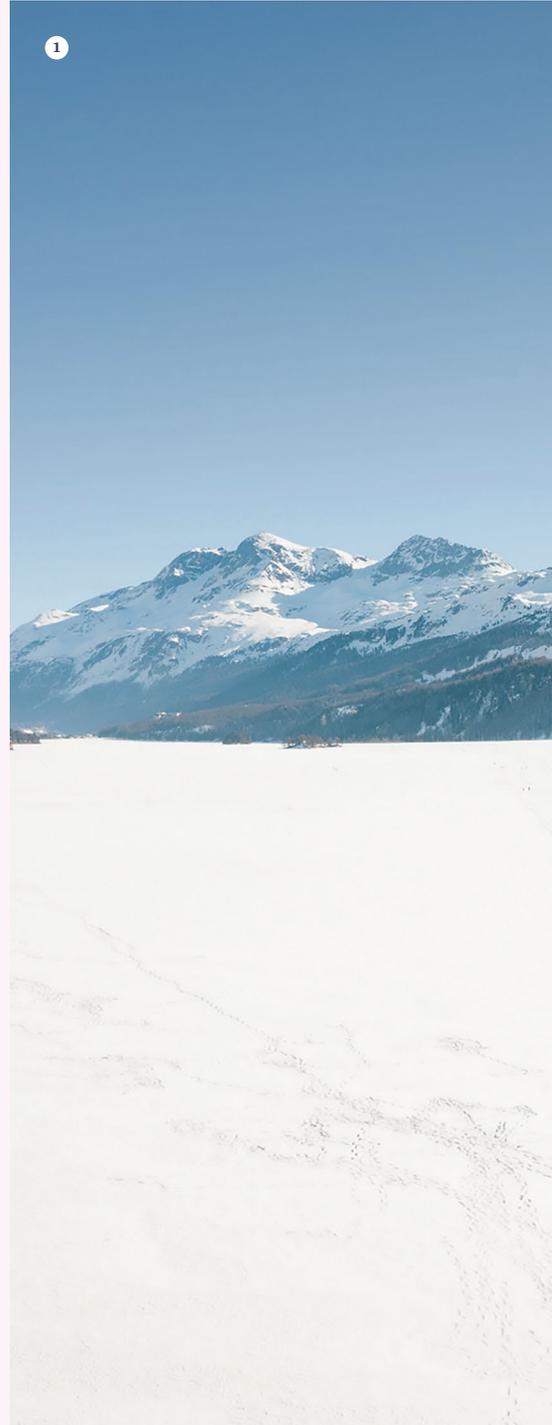
engadin-skimarathon.ch

La Diagonela

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

More info?

engadin.ch/cross-country-skiing





Winter hiking & sleigh rides



Muottas Muragl

Samedan – Few views can be as breathtaking as those from Muottas Muragl, a panoramic peak accessible by funicular. Visitors can enjoy the glorious scenery along with some invigorating exercise by following one of the three winter walking paths or the snowshoe trail, suitable also for novices. engadin.ch/muottas-muragl/winter-idyll

1 *Horse-drawn sleigh rides*

What could be more charming and romantic than a cosy ride in a horse-drawn sleigh through the snowy Engadin? Snugly wrapped in blankets,

passengers explore the wide plateau of frozen lakes or the idyllic side valleys, admiring the sparkling scenery as it glides gently by. Along certain routes, the horse-drawn sleighs offer an “omnibus” service, running to a timetable; passengers may also book sleighs for private rides, with a wide choice of itineraries. engadin.ch/romantic-escapes

More info?
engadin.ch/winter-hiking



Tobogganing & family



1 ***Tobogganing for families***

As soon as the first snow has settled, some of the region's pass roads and many footpaths turn into delightful sledging venues. As well as short descents and leisurely rides, enthusiasts find several runs that pack a real thrill. An ideal toboggan run for families, for example, is the three-kilometre path from Alp Es-cha Dadour to Madulain. engadin.ch/tobogganing

Winter walks with a pushchair

Families with young children love the flat trails between Sils, 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

More info?

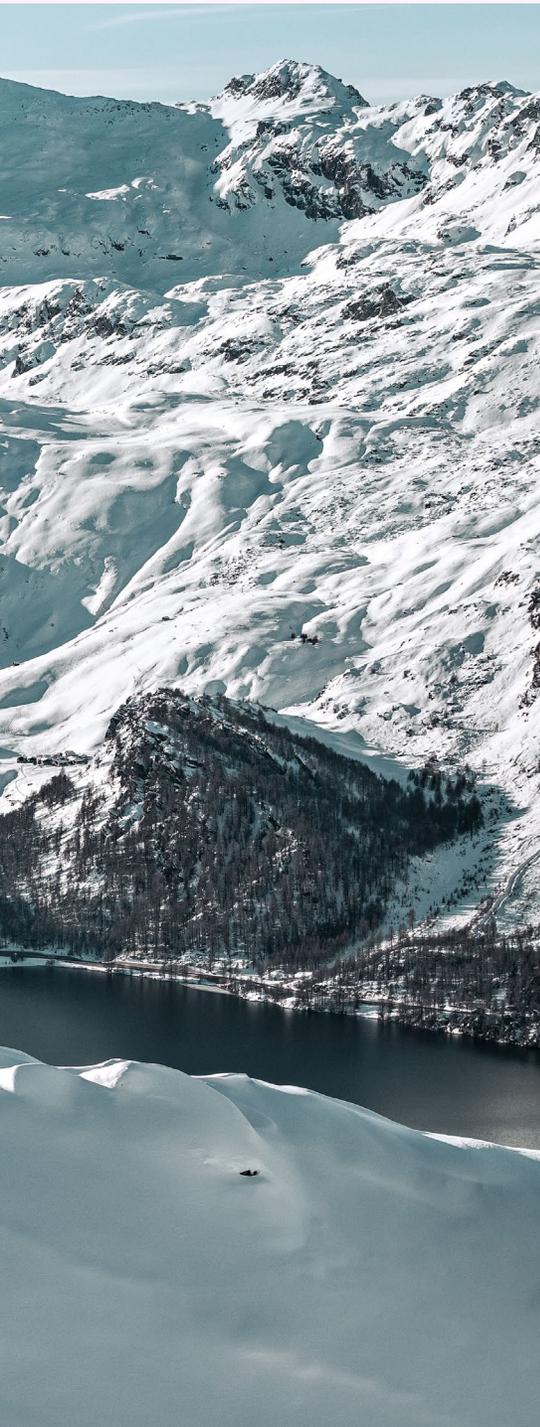
engadin.ch/families-in-winter





Far from the pistes: tips for extra safety

The freedoms of a freeride outing also carry certain dangers. However, by following various rules, participants can reduce risk. Riders should study the latest weather and avalanche reports before every trip, for example; they should venture on to open terrain only in company and never alone; tackle steep slopes one by one; and carry the necessary equipment at all times. Find further tips for freeriders at: engadin.ch/free-ride



Photograph: Schweiz Tourismus

Freeride & snowshoeing

1 *Snowshoeing along the Lake Trail*

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

Freeride heaven

Diavolezza-Lagalb – The Diavolezza-Lagalb region is heaven for anyone who loves the thrill of riding untracked powder snow. The best way to discover the finest off-piste terrain in safety is to explore in the company of one of the experienced mountain guides from Go Vertical: these specialists know the terrain like the back of their hand.

engadin.ch/free-ride



Avalanche awareness courses

Anyone who ventures off-piste will benefit from one of the avalanche awareness courses run by the Pontresina Mountaineering School. This basic training for all ski tourers and freeriders focuses on preventing avalanches, but also offers practice in what to do in an emergency.

bergsteiger-pontresina.ch

More info?
engadin.ch/free-ride





Activities on ice

1 *Climbing walls of ice*

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



Ice rinks in the villages

The Engadin has a long tradition of enjoying a great variety of ice sports. As a result, every village has a rink in winter for curling and ice hockey, figure skating and Bavarian curling – and for simply enjoying a gentle glide across the sparkling ice. engadin.ch/ice

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

Madulain ice path

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

More info?
engadin.ch/ice



Hiking

Panoramaweg Muottas Muragl

Samedan – The 7-kilometre alpine trail between the top stations of the Muottas Muragl funicular and the Alp Languard chairlift showcases magnificent views of the lake-strewn Engadin valley, the Bernina massif and the idyllic Val Roseg. engadin.ch/muottas-muragl-panorama-trail

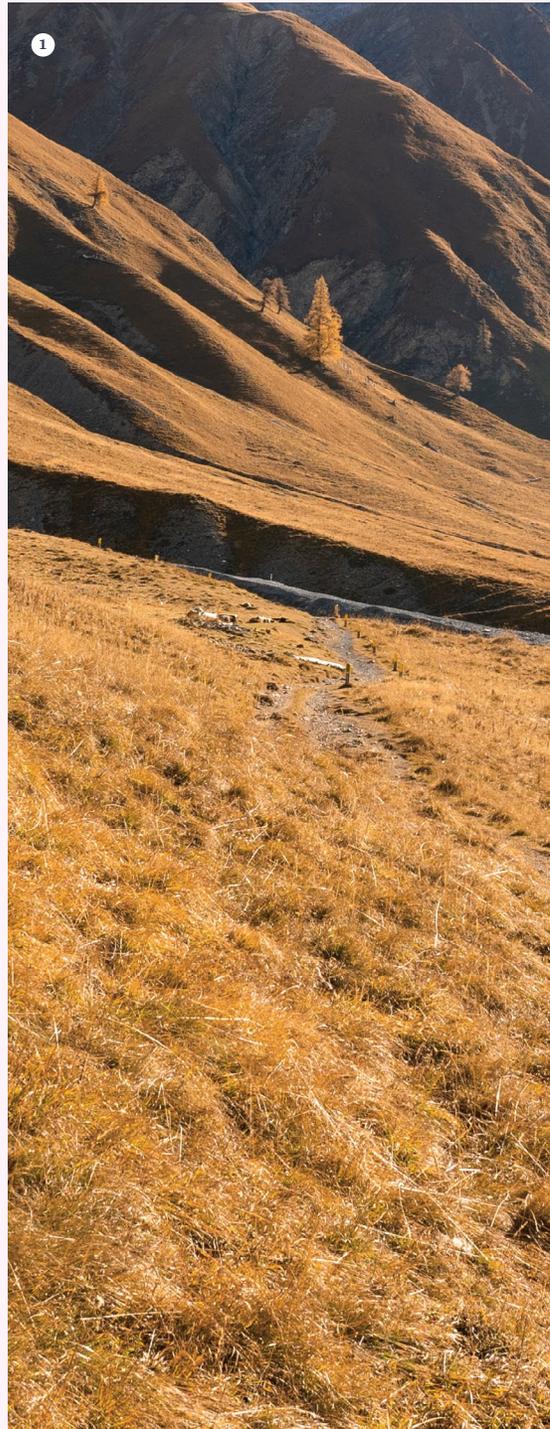
1 *Via Engiadina*

Through forests of Swiss stone pine and larch, across streams and alpine meadows: the Via Engiadina leads from Maloja to Zernez in five stages. engadin.ch/via-engiadina/en

Val Trupchun

S-chanf – Nature lovers are in heaven here: the Val Trupchun, a side valley of the Inn, has one of the highest concentrations of wild deer in Europe. It also forms the western gateway to the Swiss National Park. engadin.ch/trupchun/en

More info?
engadin.ch/hiking



Photograph: Romano Sella



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Mountain bike

1 *Corviglia flow trails*

Corviglia – Dips and rollers, banked turns, spectacular jumps and speedy descents: the flow trails on the Corviglia promise an electrifying blast of adrenalin. Mountain bikers can choose between four different routes. The Corviglia funicular summit station is the starting point for the “WM Flow Trail”, with its 360-degree turns, the “Corviglia Flow Trail”, and also the new “Marmotta Flow Trail” down to Marguns. Riders eager for yet more action can tackle the “Foppettas Flow Trail”: first gliding up on the Signal cable car before riding down via Alp Suvretta to Futschöls. This is the starting point for the trail proper: an exhilarating descent through the forest towards Champfer, with banked turns, dips and rollers guaranteeing high thrills. engadin.ch/en/flow-trails

Fuorcla Minor

Pontresina – The “Fuorcla Minor” route demands good levels of technique and fitness, but rewards riders with trails full of variety and spectacular views. Starting in Pontresina, bikers begin by riding steadily uphill towards the Bernina Pass. This initial section follows the popular “Bernina Express Trail”,

but at Bernina Suot the route branches off to lead through the magnificent Val da Fain and up to the pass at the end, La Stretta. After a short section on Italian soil, riders tackle the well-built trail up to Fuorcla Minor. The itinerary continues through the high-altitude alpine landscape to the top of the Bernina Pass, and from there back to Pontresina.

engadin.ch/en/fuorcla-minor

Chaschauna Pass

The new bike trail at the Chaschauna Pass twists down the slope in a sequence of wide, sweeping curves that are a pleasure to ride. With a length of more than 4 km and an average gradient of 10 per cent, the trail can be tackled in either direction: the reward for an invigorating climb is an exhilarating descent in glorious scenery.

engadin.ch/en/chaschauna

More info?
engadin.ch/en/bike



Family



1 Adventure rope parks

At the rope parks in Pontresina and S-chanf, adventure-seekers negotiate obstacles as they move between the treetops: a thrilling test of balance and skill. engadin.ch/mountaineering

Practice makes perfect...

Pontresina – If the climbing park is not enough, you can try your hand at a real rock face. The Pontresina mountaineering school offers courses for children aged 8 and over. bergsteiger-pontresina.ch

Senda da Gianna

Sils – As families walk along the “Senda da Gianna” fairy-tale trail, they follow the adventures of a brave young goatherd called Gianna. She has to go into the forest of God Laret to search for Karl, a young holiday

visitor who has become lost there. Will she find him? The trail near Sils offers children a wide variety of activities and plenty of stimulation: attractions include the skilfully carved wooden figures by the well-known local sculptor Reto Grond.



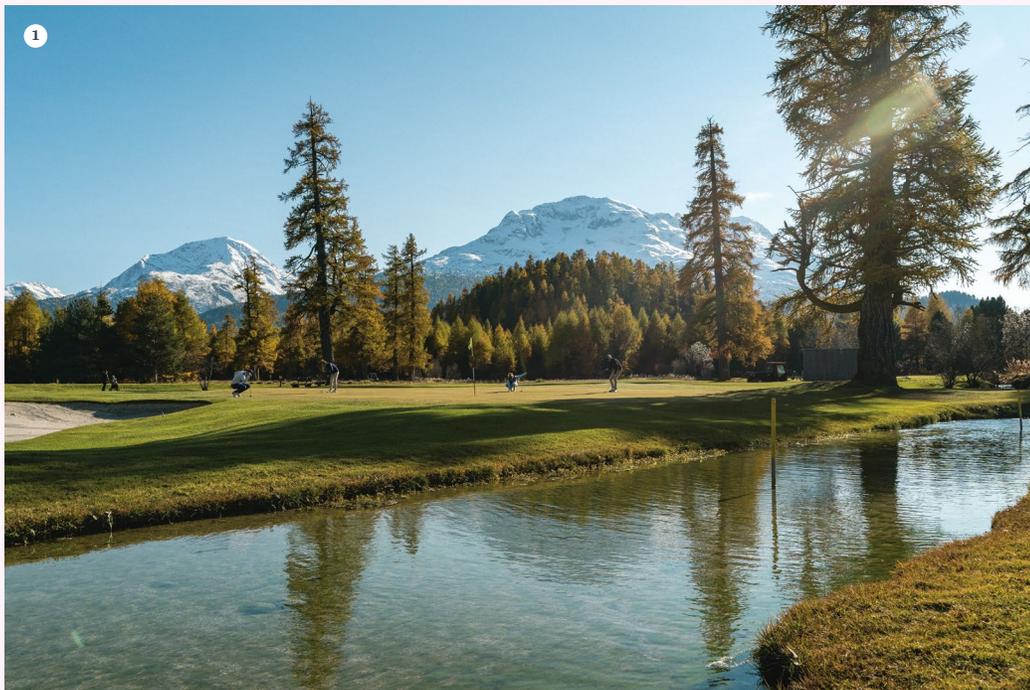
Morteratsch theme trail

Pontresina – The scenic trail to the Morteratsch Glacier features 16 info stations revealing the secrets of the third-largest glacier in the Eastern Alps: a dramatic and fascinating experience for visitors of all ages. engadin.ch/glacier-walk-morteratsch

More info?
engadin.ch/family



Golf



Golf unlimited in the Engadin

All the golf anyone could desire... That's the joy of the "Golf Unlimited" package, whereby golfers staying at least three nights at a participating hotel can play as much golf as they like at the Engadin's Samedan and Zuoz-Madulain golf courses. At many hotels, rides on public transport and on cable cars and chairlifts are also included.

1 *Samedan golf course*

Samedan – The 18-hole championship course, with partially covered driving range and innovative technical aids such as RoboGolfPro and Trackman, surpasses all expectations.

Zuoz golf course

Zuoz – The scenic 18-hole Zuoz-Madulain course promises a delightful game with holes to suit every level.

Kulm golf course in St. Moritz

St. Moritz – Beautifully set in the alpine landscape by the Kulm Hotel St. Moritz, this 9-hole course promises plenty of variety.

Hotel Margna golf course

Sils – The Margna "parkhotel" has its own 4-hole golf course with driving range (15 tees).

More info?
engadin.ch/en/golf



Water sports

Sailing on Lake Sils

Sils – Enthusiasts can look forward to thrilling sailing with strong winds on Lake Sils – almost every day in summer thanks to the good wind conditions here. About midday, the reliable Maloja wind usually starts blowing, the reason why the Engadin enjoys a worldwide reputation as an outstanding destination for water sports. Should this wind fail to appear for once, sailors can set their sails for a strong north wind instead. engadin.ch/sail-sports

1 Kitesurfing & windsurfing on Lake Silvaplana

Silvaplana – The kites and windsurf sails that dance over the water at Lake Silvaplana create an unrivalled display of colour. Silvaplana is heaven for all who love playing with the wind – in this case, the famous Maloja wind, which rises reliably every day around noon to blow steadily and powerfully across the lake. Once the wind has set in, it is never long before the first kitesurfers and windsurfers are out on the water, tracing their acrobatic manoeuvres. engadin.ch/water-sports

Mountain lakes

In addition to the large Engadin lakes, there are also many small mountain lakes higher up, whose crystal-clear, ice-cold waters attract only toughened swimmers. Anyone else will at most dip their feet in to cool off, or just enjoy the idyllic views. Swimming in the mountain lakes is not supervised, and takes place at bathers' own risk. engadin.ch/along-lakes

Lake Staz

Celerina – Nestling in the Staz forest and framed by dramatic mountains, Lake Staz is one of the best-loved swimming lakes in the Engadin. A dip in the clear water of this beautiful moorland lake is wonderfully refreshing – and healthy, too. Active substances in the peat have an inhibiting effect on skin inflammations and are rich in minerals: no wonder peat is used as a natural remedy. engadin.ch/lake-staz

More info?
engadin.ch/water-sports



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Photograph: Fabian Gattlen

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Photograph: Switzerland Tourism/Ivo Scholz

Running

1 *Trail running*

The terrain and conditions in the Engadin are perfect for trail running. Enthusiasts find countless trails of all levels of difficulty leading through thick forest, across bare mountain slopes and into secluded side valleys.

engadin.ch/trail-running

Grevasalvas

Sils Maria – Maloja – Along the way from Sils Maria to Maloja, runners pass Grevasalvas, the beautiful “Heidi village” that won hearts worldwide as a filming location. The route totals 14.8 kilometres with 969 vertical metres, and promises glorious views. engadin.ch/trail-running

Val Roseg

Pontresina – The Val Roseg is one of the Engadin’s most beautiful side valleys, and is a delight to explore on a run. The gentle but steady gradient gives legs a constant workout on the outward stretch and makes for an enjoyably fast and flowing descent back down to Pontresina. engadin.ch/trail-running

La Punt – Zuoz circuit

La Punt – The trim village at the foot of the Albula Pass is the start and finish for this relatively easy route. It leads for 9.1 kilometres up and down through fragrant forests, along the river Inn and through the beautiful villages of Zuoz and Madulain. engadin.ch/trail-running

Events

St. Moritz Running Festival & Engadiner Sommerlauf

Keen runners should ensure they keep the weekend of the St. Moritz Running Festival free in August. This is also the occasion for the much-loved Engadiner Sommerlauf.

stmoritzrunningfestival.ch

Ultraks

Calling all trail and ultra runners! The Bernina Ultraks has an experience in a class of its own in store: the Bernina Glaciers Marathon. Highlights along the course include crossing the Pers and Morteratsch Glaciers. Runners who prefer shorter races can choose from other thrilling routes..

bernina.ultraks.com

More info?

engadin.ch/trail-running





Excursions

Soglio

Bergell – Unlike other Alpine valleys, the Engadin is not a cul-de-sac but open to the world in all directions via different mountain passes. One is the Maloja Pass, gateway to the Val Bregaglia, a valley of fascinating stories, beautiful natural landscapes and romantic villages. The painter Giovanni Segantini described the village of Soglio, for example, as the “threshold to paradise”. Anyone who would like to experience this charm for themselves can reach Soglio by PostBus from Maloja in about an hour. bregaglia.ch

1 Swiss National Park

Switzerland’s only national park, located in the Engadin, is also the oldest national park in the Alps: its extensive terrain has enjoyed the highest level of protection since 1914. Today, the Swiss National Park covers an area of about 170 square kilometres and is criss-crossed by footpaths that allow walkers an intimate experience of pristine nature. Visitors can reach the entrance of the park on the National Park Express. This yellow “tourist train” offers a shuttle service between Zuoz station, S-chanf and the Varusch park hut, granting passengers first glimpses of the wilderness via large panoramic windows. engadin.ch/nationalparc

Bernina Express to Poschiavo

Pontresina – The Bernina Express offers the most attractive ride between the Alpine Engadin and the Mediterranean landscapes to the south, linking Pontresina with the town of Tirano in the Valtellina. The route is full of contrasts. At first, the panoramic windows frame the mighty glaciers of the Bernina massif; soon after, passengers are gazing out on the palms of the sunny south. The train journey makes an ideal day trip. engadin.ch/bernina-express/en

More info?
engadin.ch/excursions



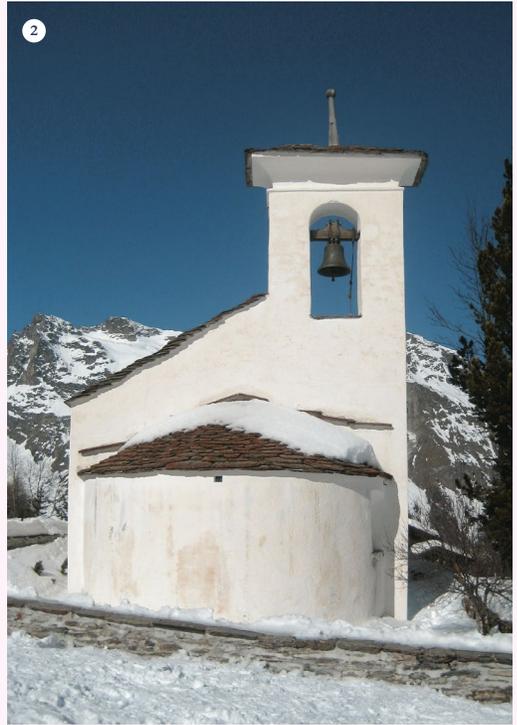


Image 2: wikipedia, Dominik Eichelberg / Image 3: Fabian Gattlen

Cultural attractions

1 *Engadin ice concerts*

A delight for the eyes and ears: Zuoz and other villages are bringing the traditional ice concerts of the Engadin back to life. Visitors enjoy not only enchanting music-making, but also an elegant performance by a figure skater gliding across the mirror-like ice to the rhythm of the melodies: a magical spectacle, framed by glittering snow and ice. These ice concerts take place in various Engadin villages during January and February, with the village ice rinks providing a sparkling setting. engadin.ch/events

Giuliano Pedretti

Celerina – Giuliano Pedretti is regarded as one of the Engadin's most important artists. He studied at Zurich's Arts and Crafts School but colour blindness forced him to give up hopes of a career as a painter. He turned instead to sculpture and also adorned the facades of Engadin houses with magnificent sgraffito decoration. In 1943, Pedretti met Alberto Giacometti for the first time in Maloja, which led to a friendship lasting many years. Pedretti's work was strongly influenced by this relationship, but also has its very own, natural style. His sculptures are on display at major museums of fine arts and also at the Atelier Giuliano Pedretti in Celerina. giulianopedretti.ch

2 *Enchanted chapel*

Fex – The small church in the Val Fex dates from the late-15th Century and is famous for its ornate frescoes, which adorn the walls and vaulted ceiling of the choir. These were covered during the Reformation but have since been revealed in all their glory; depicting a variety of characters from Scripture, they are remarkable for their vivid intensity. During the 1950s, when smuggling between Italy and Switzerland was rife, smugglers carrying contraband are said to have called in at the church to pray for protection, as the journey over the Pass dal Tremoggia was dangerous. At any time,

smugglers had to reckon with the possibility of falling rocks, avalanches and border guards: a quick prayer, then, could not do any harm.

engadin.ch/en/sightseeing/

3 *Spring Festival*

Corvatsch – A glittering end-of-season festival invites all visitors to round off the winter and welcome spring in style. The 2-day festivities promise plenty of superb music, an exuberant atmosphere and cool festival venues in which skiers, snowboarders and other guests celebrate the change in seasons together. Festival highlights include top Swiss musicians – such as Stress and Bligg, who sent crowds wild at the Murtèl station gig, mid-mountain, in April 2022. Admission is included with a lift pass for skiers and snowboarders; other visitors can buy a festival pass that includes cable car rides and concert access for 45 CHF per day.

Events

Engadin Art Talks

International artists, visionary architects and leading thinkers engage with well-informed audiences in Zuoz in late January for a stimulating exchange of ideas in a relaxed atmosphere, all in an idyllic mountain setting.

Sinfonia Engiadina

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

More info?

engadin.ch/arts-culture





Accommodation

1 *Parkhotel Margna*

Sils – This former manor house dating from the 19th Century charms guests with its delightful hotel garden, golf course and spa, promising a uniquely stylish and relaxing stay. Restaurants include the Grill Room, Stüva and Murütsch, all serving exquisite cuisine: diners are spoilt for choice! margna.ch

Pension Chesa Pool

Fexstal – The Engadin's first vegetarian hotel offers an ideal location for all who love nature and outdoor activities. Here in the secluded Fex valley, the world feels far away – yet the cross-country ski trails are on the doorstep. The soothing scent of Swiss stone pine fills the rooms, bringing guests close to nature at night, too. chesapool.swiss

Cresta Palace

Celerina – A hotel that stylishly combines the traditional and the modern, located in the heart of lively Celerina... Just a stone's throw from the hotel, guests clip on their skis to glide down the spacious slopes of the Corviglia ski area. crestapalace.ch

Hotel Restaurant Veduta Chapella

Cinuos-chel – The Veduta's hotelier, Gudench Campell – known to all as “Gudi” – is not just a welcoming host but also a keen hunter. Guests at

the in-house restaurant can often enjoy delicious local specialities prepared with fresh game. veduta.ch

Hotel Crusch Alva

Zuoz – For more than 500 years, the venerable Hotel Crusch Alva has been welcoming guests from all over the world at its central location right on Zuoz's historical village square. No fewer than four restaurants – two of which are located in the Crusch Alva's partner hotel, the Engiadina – promise mouth-watering gastronomic variety. cruschalva.ch

2 *Bever Lodge*

Bever – Bever Lodge offers guests a successful combination of comfort and sporty style, and is the ideal base for activities and adventures in the snow. The cosy, convivial atmosphere makes the hotel perfect for anyone wishing for a leisurely break as well as for energetic early risers. beverlodge.ch

More info?
engadin.ch/accommodations





Restaurants

1 **Gasthaus Krone**

La Punt Chamues-ch – The historical former muleteers' inn by the river Inn reopens on July 2022 under a young new team, serving top-class alpine and international cuisine. krone-la-punt.ch

2 **Chesa Veglia St. Moritz**

St. Moritz – This historical building houses several different restaurants, and none are to be missed. A special recommendation for the Pizzeria Heuboden: the heavenly truffle pizza! badruttspalace.com

3 **Restorant Dorta**

Zuoz – Guests at this former Engadin farmhouse full of authentic charm feel as if they have taken a trip back in time. Flavour-filled local specialities such as Zuoz hay soup and Zuoz Krautpizokels (creamy dumplings with cabbage, bacon and herbs) make for a special gastronomic experience. dorta.ch

Bo's Co

Celerina – This unpretentious but lovingly decorated restaurant in the heart of Celerina serves hot, home-made dishes throughout the day. Whenever

possible, ingredients are sourced locally – mostly from the venue's own gardens in Silvaplana, Champfer and Poschiavo. bos-co.ch

Ristorante Bellavista, Maloja

Maloja – As the name reveals, this restaurant treats guests to a wonderful view: of Lake Sils. Mediterranean-style dishes highlight the influence from the south and the geographical proximity to Italy. ristorante-bellavista.ch

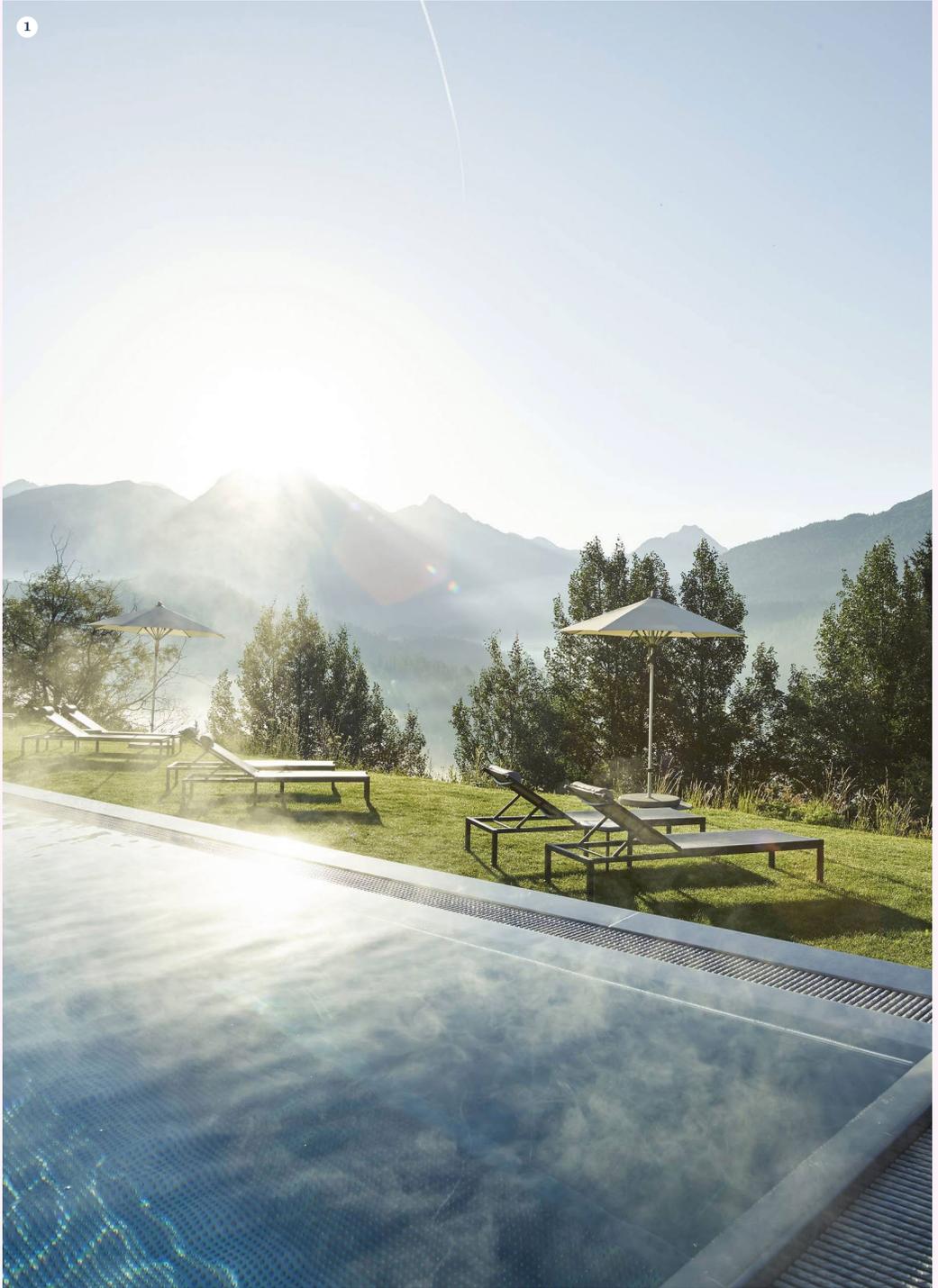
4 **Gianottis restaurant, Pontresina**

Pontresina – The craft of the famous Engadin patissiers lives on and finds new expression at the Gianottis patisserie and confectioner's in Pontresina. Next door there's a café, a wine bar and a grill restaurant. gianottis.ch

More info?
engadin.ch/culinary



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Spas and pool complexes

Ovaverva pool complex in St. Moritz

St. Moritz – The Ovaverva indoor pool, spa and sports centre is a self-contained world of wellbeing. The top floor offers Kneipp (hydrotherapy) pools, steam baths, a bio-sauna and a Finnish sauna, a whirlpool bath and wonderful views. Younger visitors adore the big indoor pool with water slides, diving boards and children's pool. ovaverva.ch

Bellavita pool complex in Pontresina

Pontresina – The Black Hole water slide at the Pontresina indoor pool is an exhilarating 75 metres long: just one descent is enough to have swimmers of all ages hooked! Adults, especially, enjoy working out in the 25-metre sports pool or relaxing in the pleasantly warm outdoor pool and in the attractive sauna section. pontresina-bellavita.ch

Mineral Baths in Samedan

Samedan – Guests seeking pure relaxation find a bathing ritual of mystical beauty in the historical village heart of Samedan. The Mineral Baths are a work of art sculpted from colour, light and water, extending over five storeys. One of the many highlights is the rooftop pool, from which visitors enjoy an uplifting view of the surrounding mountains. mineralbad-samedan.ch

MTZ Heilbad St. Moritz

St. Moritz – From treating minor or more serious injuries to preventing injury or simply offering guests a spot of pampering: the MTZ Heilbad in St. Moritz is the perfect spot for boosting health in every way. Here, the latest medical expertise

meets traditional spa culture for all-round wellbeing. The wide range of services and facilities on offer includes medical wellness, physiotherapy, mineral baths, moor mud body packs and massages. heilbad-stmoritz.ch

Day spas in the Engadin

The spas in the following Engadin hotels welcome non-residents as well as hotel guests to enjoy the facilities to the full:

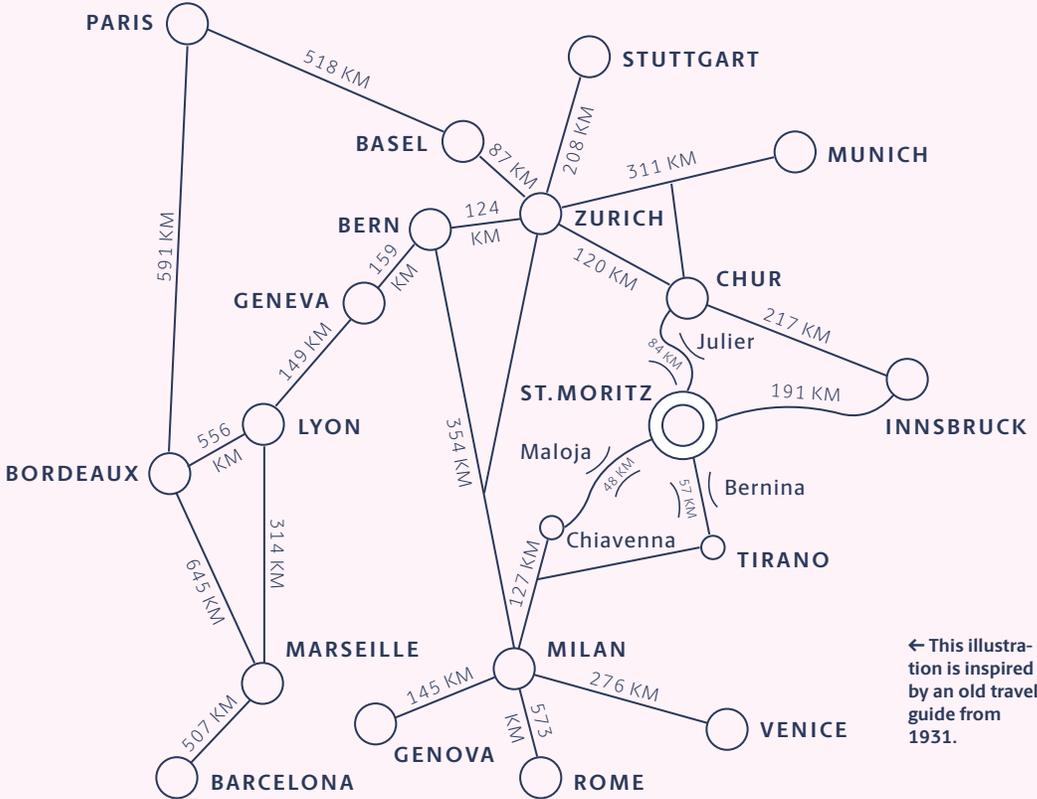
- **Saratz Day Spa**, Pontresina
- **Palace Wellness**, St. Moritz
- **Kempinski The SPA**, St. Moritz
- 1 → **Kulm Spa**, St. Moritz
- **Grand Hotel Kronenhof**, Pontresina
- **Hammam at the Hotel Castell**, Zuoz
- **Arenas Resort Schweizerhof**, Sils
- **Waldhaus Spa**, Sils

engadin.ch/en/wellness

More info?
engadin.ch/en/wellness



How to reach the Engadin



← This illustration is inspired by an old travel guide from 1931.



The red Bernina Express follows a spectacular route through the mountains on its way to the Engadin, twisting along narrow valleys, slipping through countless tunnels and gliding across bridges and viaducts. The ride is a two-hour adventure to rival any journey in the world.

i

Further information

See travel times, stops and journey durations for the Bernina Express at engadin.ch/get-here



Motorists can look forward to a dramatic drive to the Engadin. The various pass roads promise plenty of twists and turns along with superb views. Alternatively motorists can skip the pass roads by using the car transporter rail service through the Vereina tunnel.

i

Further information

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

Publisher: Engadin St. Moritz Tourismus AG, engadin.ch — **Contact:** Jan Steiner, jan.steiner@engadin.ch — **Production/Concept/Text/Editing/Copy-editing:** Transhelvetica / Passport AG, transhelvetica.ch, Jon and Pia Bollmann, Michèle Fröhlich, Karl Grauhans, Martin Hoch, Claudia Walder, Max Wild, Jürg Wirth, Claudius Wirz — **Layout:** Transhelvetica/Passaport AG, Franca Sidler — **Photographs:** Filip Zuan, filipzuan.com, @filipzuan; unless specified otherwise, made available by Engadin St. Moritz Tourismus AG and partners — **Translation & proofreading:** James Bedding — **Printer:** Multicolor Print AG, Baar — **Copyright:** All rights reserved. Reprint of all or part of this magazine only by express permission of the tourism organisation Engadin St. Moritz Tourismus AG and with acknowledgement. Retail price: CHF 20

