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MAILBAG

Understanding about Swiss politics

"Swiss Review"

I have been enjoying the varied issues of Swiss Review for some years. It is a connection to my roots and it keeps me informed of the events happening in Switzerland. It particularly gives me more understanding about Swiss politics. So when I receive my voting envelope I already have quite a good perspective of the issues that will be voted upon.

Sharon Nelly Winiger-Aliocod
Kidapawan City, Philippines

Can one afford it?

"Swiss Review" 5/04, Focus

I have a few comments on your excellent article in the October Swiss Revue. I had some busi-

ness in Wil and was lodged two years in a room in the leading hotel. Since my host paid for my stay, I did not know what the room rates where. I really liked the town and we decided to go there on our own. An e-mail inquiry about room rates remains unanswered. I guess if one has to ask "how much?" one cannot afford it.

Another thing, we got addicted to "Frigor" Schoggi and Thomy Senf, however Mr. Nestle decided not to sell these items in the USA.

Otto and Yong Semet
Lake Oswego, Oregon, USA

NA new tone

"Schweizer Revue" 6/04

Warmest congratulations on the December issue (6/04) of the "Swiss Review"! I found the

articles by the new editorial team, particularly those by Gabrielle Keller, Heinz Eckert, Rolf Ribi and Andreas Gross, extremely interesting. Up until recently "Review" articles have seemed somewhat biased and I have not always appreciated them. I (and others too) now hope you will stick to this new tone.

Roger-Gaston Progin
Paris, France

Cheaper in France and Italy

"Swiss Review" 5/04, Focus

The concern expressed regarding falling hotel occupancy rates is of high interest to us. We normally travel to Europe for a 2-3 week visit in the October season (cost!), and my Swiss wife visits family for 2 weeks

each winter or spring. We find the hotel and restaurant costs to be too high. We are better able to find a reasonable holiday in France and Italy. We have used E&G lists in the past but they are now over our budget. My conclusion is that we are probably not alone and that lower cost travel for youth, seniors and any non-wealthy would increase visits to Switzerland. My first visit was in the 50's and I was in love with the country even before meeting my wife. I suggest that you need hotels of limited luxury, one or two stars, costing \$60-\$80 per night and air flights in the \$600 range. Get your tourist minister to remember the core traveler, not the wealthy Pasha.

Martin Kagan
USA

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