

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 34 (2007)
Heft: 5

Rubrik: News in brief

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Pro Patria stamps

The project that Pro Patria wants to support and promote with the proceeds of this year's special edition stamps is called "Cultural Routes of Switzerland". Once again, the Swiss Post has created some real philatelic treasures on this theme. The four Pro Patria stamps are devoted to the ViaJacobi, ViaJura, ViaGottardo and ViaCook cultural routes. The four historic routes are in the Inventory of Transport Routes of Switzerland created by the Federal Government, one of a series of inventories of landscapes, areas of outstanding natural beauty and village façades most worthy of preservation.

Lavaux awarded Unesco World Heritage status

Just like the renowned vineyards of Saint-Émilion, Lavaux on Lake Geneva is now a Unesco World Heritage site. The Unesco World Heritage Committee also agreed to expand the Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn World Natural Heritage site. The region has held this status since 2001 and will be expanded from 539 km² to 824 km².

After Africa it's the Rütli

Micheline Calmy-Rey undertook a ten-day marathon journey to seven African countries in July. She also won another victory at the 1 August celebrations on the Rütli: in spite of the risk of another disturbance of the celebrations by right-wing extremists, as happened two years ago when Samuel Schmid attended, the Federal President once again showed the courage which motivates her in all her activities.

Unpredictable summer

Temperature variations of up to 20 °C from one day to the next, snow as low as 1800 metres above sea level, the worst

wheat harvest in 30 years. Rarely has Switzerland experienced such an unpredictable summer. In August there were even floods reminiscent of those of August 2005. Torrential rainfall meant that hundreds of people had to be evacuated across Switzerland. The level of Lake Biel rose to a record 430.90 metres above sea level, 47 cm above the danger level!

And a second coup!

Swiss boat Alinghi won the seventh race of the 32nd America's Cup by just one second, successfully defending its title against Team New Zealand 5-2. This means that Ernesto Bertarelli's team can keep the silver trophy which they won for the first time in Auckland in 2003. This famous sailing regatta will next be held in 2009, again in Valencia.

A woman's place is in the kitchen!

According to "Living in Switzerland", a study conducted by the Swiss Household Panel in Neuchâtel, a majority of Swiss (51%) believe that pre-school children suffer if their mothers are not present. Nearly two out of three men think that mothers should look after their children rather than go to work.

Work satisfaction among the Swiss

According to a study published by the Geva Institute, work satisfaction in Switzerland is the second highest in the world, behind that of Mexico and ahead of the US. However, barely half the working population are really satisfied with their salary. The Travail.Suisse trade union is to demand salary increases of up to 4% in its autumn negotiations with the employers' federation.

Airports and restrictions

Swiss airports are being overwhelmed by goods which may not be taken on board flights. Since limits were imposed in November 2006 on the amount of fluids which can be carried in hand luggage, nearly two tonnes of perfumes, shower gel and drinks are being confiscated every day!

Drama on the Jungfrau

Six soldiers lost their lives in a mountaineering accident on the Jungfrau. The soldiers were completing their 17th week in the military training school. It seems that the tragedy was caused by the fall of one of the soldiers, who was roped up to the others. The whole country has been shocked by the inci-

dent, and even Federal Councilor Samuel Schmid could not hold back his tears at the funeral in Andermatt in Uri canton.

Miss Alpes 2007

Not, this isn't just another beauty contest. The "Helvetic" beauty of candidates is one of the criteria assessed in a new contest held in Villars-sur-Ollon (Vaud canton). The winner must, of course, be beautiful, but she must also be able to shoot a crossbow, make a fondue and recognise wines in a blind tasting test.

ALAIN WEY



Advertisement

14.7.2005


Vote SVP, Vote for Switzerland!

Dear fellow citizens living abroad,

On 21 October, 2007, elections will be held. We, the Swiss citizens living abroad can also exert our influence on Switzerland's future; personally, I will support the Swiss People's Party's electoral list of citizens abroad, since:

- The SVP is committed to Switzerland's freedom and independence.
- The SVP defends traditional Swiss values.
- The SVP wants Switzerland to remain an attractive destination to live, work and do business.
- The SVP represents the interests of Swiss citizens living abroad.

Therefore, choose the SVP's electoral list of citizens abroad and speak out for the interests of Switzerland and its citizens living abroad!

With warmest regards

Rolf Schudel, Johannesburg (SA)
President SVP International


www.svp-international.ch