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"Marroni" - Roasted Chestnuts in Wädenswil from October to January since 1882

The Togni-Family dynasty from the Blenio-valley (Ticino) has supplied the citizens of Wädenswil with roasted chestnuts for the past one hundred and twenty winter seasons (mid October to mid January).

The "Marroni-Toni", as the present member of the Togni Family is known by the locals of Wädenswil, is a fourth-generation 'Togni', a peasant farmer with some cows and a few goats. Every year in October he leaves his family to look after the farm work at Semione in the Blenio-valley.

Handing on the family tradition as "Marroni-Toni" is a problem for the 63 year old Lino Togni (his real name), since son Franco is not willing to break his employment contract as mechanic each year for the sake of roasting chestnuts for the 'good folk' of Wädenswil (Canton Zürich).

Time will tell says Lino Togni with a smile and anyway I intend to continue as 'Marroni-Toni' for at least another 20 years. And with good health and a bit of luck he should be able to do just that for his many friends and customers with his

"Heisse Marroni, ganz heiss!"
taken from 'Tages-Anzeiger' and translated. Ed.



BILD TOM KAWARA

Marroni-Toni alias Lino Togni - seit 36 Jahren Saisonner am Zürichsee.



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Snippets...

Murder, Mystery and Intrigue in the Bernese Oberland

From mid-October until April 2002 the Park-Mattenhof hotel in Interlaken will be the scene of dastardly deeds as it prepares for a season of whodunit weekends.

**Returning to the Stone Age
The buildings house courses in Neolithic culture**

For the past few years, the village of Gletterens near Lake Neuchatel has been home to a unique reconstruction of Neolithic dwellings. The site, located in a nature reserve between Estavayer-le-lac and Portalban consists of three houses built of wood, clay, sand, dung and straw. But the humble structures tell the story of life as it was around the lake some 5,000 years ago.

Big bargains at Solothurn art mart

Paintings by Urs Richle are among those on offer. At a time when art sales frequently total millions of dollars the idea of paying affordable prices for contemporary art sounds like a contradiction in terms – but not in Solothurn.

For the second consecutive year, this small Swiss city is hosting an art supermarket where works by living artists – perhaps some of tomorrow's big names – are fetching from SFr99 to SFr599.

The supermarket is a far cry from 'Art Basel', the annual fair which generates tens of millions of dollars in sales. But its organiser Peter Meier says it offers a rare chance to purchase works from a selection of up-and-coming artists before they go on sale for serious money.

"By the time we close on January 5, we need to generate sales totalling SFr400,000 to break even," said Meier, "to cover advertising, rental costs and other expenses.

The proceeds of each sale are split 50-50 between us and the artist, who for over six weeks is able to exhibit his or her works to a wide public."

Gold in demand since US terror attacks

Demand for gold has increased since the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, as buyers seek safe haven investments.

Erhard Oberli, chief executive of the Swiss-based precious metal refiner Argor-Heraeus, said that these sorts of investments had diminished prior to the events of September 11.

"The investors had almost totally disappeared before the horrible events of September 11, but now we can see they are coming back partially," said Oberli.

"We are seeing increased demand for smaller bars from small investors who are buying 10, 50 or

Ski free in Swiss Alps

Hopes are that downhill is for skiers and not the tourism economy. As part of its new winter campaign, Switzerland Tourism is offering free ski passes to holidaymakers booking hotels on line.

Top spots like Arosa, Saas Fee and Crans-Montana are among the 14 winter resorts participating in the special offer. Switzerland Tourism, the country's main tourism marketing body, is putting the accent on "ski free" as part of its newly launched high-profile winter campaign. The campaign, "Switzerland's True Wealth", presents Switzerland as a veritable winter wonderland. It is mainly targeted at markets in neighbouring countries, in an attempt to compensate for the expected drop in travellers from overseas, particularly Americans and Japanese.

International Year of the Mountains - 2002

As part of the United Nation's forthcoming International Year of the Mountains, Schumacher (car racing) will help Switzerland Tourism promote the country's natural appeal. The driver, who is a nature lover, was the most suitable person for this role. "Mr. Schumacher is very involved with nature," Brechtbühl said. "We turned to him because we want to actively promote our mountains as a holiday resort." Schumacher has agreed to lend his celebrity status free of charge.

Swiss to spend more on space research

The Swiss government is set to increase its spending on space research, upping its contribution to the European Space Agency (ESA) for the next four years.

Henry Dunant medal awarded to Swiss

Henri Dunant founded the Red Cross in 1863.

The Henry Dunant Medal, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's highest distinction, has been awarded to a Geneva historian recently.

The Movement announced Roger Durand as one of two recipients - the second is the president of the Cambodian Red Cross, Mrs. Phlech Phiroun.

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