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Magazine for Members of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc

## BEAUTIFUL SWITZERLAND

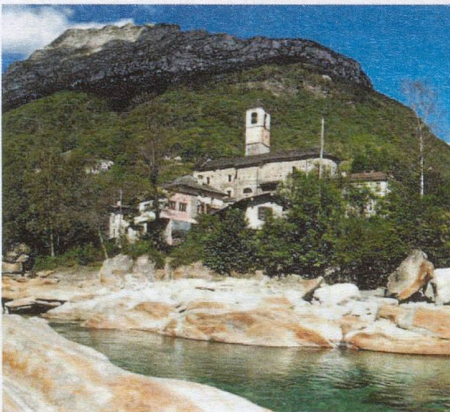


### The Verzasca Valley

The region of Tenero and Verzasca has been populated very early; stone artefacts from the early Stone Age (1800 B.C.) were found, and other precious discoveries (bronzes, amphora, coins) from the area are also in the archaeological museum of Castello dei Visconti in Locarno.

Tenero has the mildest climate in Switzerland. Here fog is a rarity, rainfall is mostly of short duration, and the mountains of Verzasca valley offer a definite protection against the

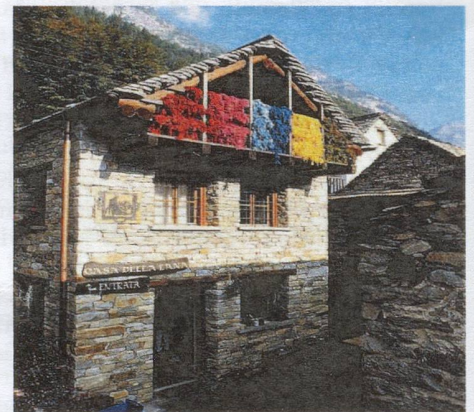
vineyards as far as the Verzasca dam, which is, with a height of 220 m, one of the highest dams in Europe. From there, driving along the lake, Vogorno is reached. The typical little village of Corippo can be seen opposite, nestled in the hillside. The whole village of Corippo is under Denkmalschutz (monument protection) because of its original beauty and architectural uniformity. Along the route between Corippo and Lavertezzo, the view of the Verzasca river unfolds in full



Lavertezzo



Ponte dei Salti a Lavertezzo



Casa della lana a Sonogno

north wind. Its ideal position, surrounded by hills with flowering trees and luxuriant vineyards, blue lake and an abundance of Mediterranean vegetation, contribute to Tenero's ever increasing popularity as a desirable holiday resort throughout the seasons.

Tenero lies at the entrance of the Verzasca Valley, the wild, romantic Ticinese valley which has kept its genuine, unspoilt aspect of a southern alpine valley. The Verzasca road, first built in 1866/71, begins in Gordola and stretches for 25 km to Sonogno - where Giorgio lived before he became one of the Schwarzen Brüder, immortalized by Lisa Tetzner....

On this short stretch from Tenero to Sonogno the change in landscape is unbelievable: From the charming shores of the Lago Maggiore, the road ascends first through lovely

beauty: The unbelievably green river (Verzasca, derived from "acqua verde" – green water) flows among beautifully veined polished rocks. The whole valley is crowned by imposing mountains (average height 2400 m) which invite you to unforgettable mountain hikes. The summits offer extensive panoramic views from the Wallis alps to the Bern, Glarus and Graubünden alps.

The Verzasca valley is ideal for those seeking rest, for hiking holidays, or to indulge in fishing and hunting. Tenero and the Verzasca valley can also be recommended for a holiday close to nature and at the same time in a certain amount of comfort.

*provided by Paul Werthmüller*

