

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 76 (2010)  
**Heft:** [2]

**Artikel:** Customs in Appenzell Innerrhoden  
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**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-944134>

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## Where is Switzerland's cheapest place to live?

While Switzerland may not be known for its low cost of living, a study has revealed the most affordable place to set up home.

The survey measured a range of expenses - from tax rates, social security payments, health insurance premiums to utility bills, house prices and rent - in a number of communities.

It found the cost of living varied enormously depending on where people chose to reside. The rural canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden again topped the list as the most inexpensive place to live.

The report said the canton was the most appealing place to live for the broad middle classes thanks to relatively low real estate prices, moderate tax rates and the country's lowest health insurance premiums.

Geneva remained rooted to the bottom of the league table of the 26 cantons owing to high property prices and hefty taxes. The disparity in the amount of disposable income enjoyed by inhabitants has increased the trend of people moving cantons for financial reasons.

*from swissinfo*

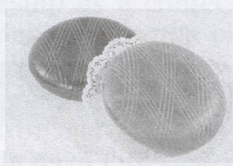
*Comment: The trouble is that you can't really work in Geneva (and enjoy a relatively high income) and live in Appenzell Inner Rhodes where living costs are lowest...*

## Appenzeller Biberfladen

### Ingredients:

100 g butter  
 ¾ cups sugar  
 ¾ cups Golden Syrup  
 1 cup milk

gently melt in a wide pan



2½ cups flour  
 2½ tsp baking powder  
 2 tsp ground ginger  
 2 tsp ground mixed spice;  
 add and mix

Line a flat shallow baking tray, e.g. 40 x 25 cm, with baking paper and spread the cake mix evenly into the tray; bake in a preheated oven at 180° for about 30 minutes or until nicely brown.

This comes close enough to the real thing, according to Franz Rempfler.

**En quete!**

## Customs in Appenzell Innerrhoden

### Chlausezüüg

«De Chlausezüüg» has recently become increasingly popular. It is a pyramid of goodies erected in a milk bowl which can reach a metre in height, and decorated with flat cakes called «Chlausebickli» and «Devisli». The pyramid consists of «Filebrot» (bread) and «Biberfladen» (honey and nut flavoured cookies) or of a wooden frame with five or six sides. Apples, dried pears and nuts also belong here and a small artificial Christmas tree with baubles and silver threads crowns the top of the pyramid.

### Räuchle

Many people in Innerrhoden don't feel christmasy until the blue smoke of incense pervades the house with its fragrance. This ceremony takes place late in the afternoon at Christmas. In the village the altar-boys go from house to house with the smoking censer, in the country the father of the family fetches the special pan from the cellar. Using a brand from the stove and with branches of holly and juniper left from Palm Sunday, he starts the pan smoking. Then the «Räuchli», incense bought from the verger or drugstore, goes into the pan. Now father carries the smoking pan through all the rooms of the house, the stable, barn and byre and all around the premises. In the meantime the family stays in the parlour and prays for divine protection against «Öbel ond Oofall» (evil and accident).

*from the internet*

## Appenzeller Witze



D Katrii frooged am Jock:  
 «Du, vo wem het doch öseri Meedl  
 eres böös Muul?»  
 Do säät de Jock:  
 «Vo deer aml nüüd, du hesch es no.»

De Chopfeschedueli ischt im Gääsebehnli inne uff Sangalle abi gfahre. Well er imene Raucherabtääl inne gkhocked ischt, het er au ooschiniet sin himmltruurige Kanaschter päckled. Bi de Statio Zwäabrogge ischt e Frau in gliiche Wage inicho, het sofor s Feschter abegloo, khuesched wie letz ond de Ueli aagfahre, wenn er en Tschentlemen wär, wör er uufhööre bäckle. De Ueli het zrogg ggee, ond wenn sii e Tschentlemänin wär, so wär si in en Nichtraucher ini gkhocked. Die Frau ischt ab dem verockt woode ond säät zom Ueli, wenn si siini Frau wäär, gääbs em Gift. Do meent de Ueli:  
 «Ond wenn i din Maa wäär, so nähm is.»