

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 76 (2010)
Heft: [5]

Artikel: Zermatt visitors demand snowy streets
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-944190>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 19.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Off-pisters face fines for causing avalanches

Avalanches onto marked ski runs in canton Valais, triggered by off-piste skiers, have provoked a debate about liability and sanctions for those who flout warnings.

Last winter, six people were reported to the cantonal prosecutor for allegedly setting off avalanches that swept onto pistes in Anzère and Zermatt where people were skiing, the Valais police reported.

Tragedy was narrowly avoided in Anzère, near Crans-Montana, when three off-piste skiers triggered a 200-metre-wide avalanche that crossed a marked piste, injuring two people. In total, 130 people were involved in the rescue operation.

Every year around 130 avalanches are caused by skiers and snowboarders in Switzerland.

In Switzerland off-piste skiing is not illegal. Ski runs and off-piste zones are both part of the public domain. But reckless acts like ignoring avalanche warning signs and then setting off an avalanche that hits a marked run can lead to a conviction, even if there are no victims.

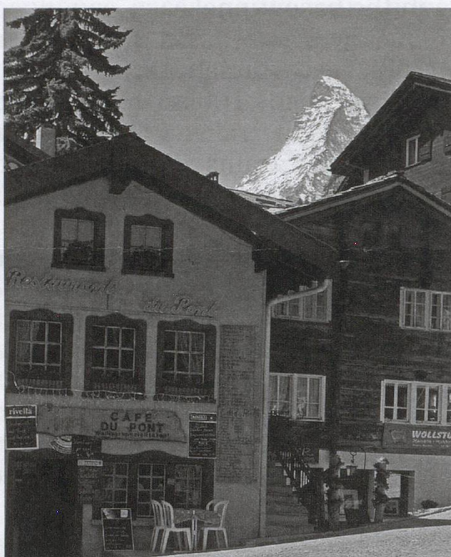
Freeriders responsible for incidents like those in Anzère and Zermatt have been given fines of SFr1,000 and asked to pay for damages and to meet the cost of the rescue operation – often tens of thousands of Swiss francs. Irresponsible skiers have also had their ski passes taken away and been put on resort blacklists. Switzerland, like France, Spain, Austria and Germany, rejects the preventive presence of police on the slopes. The European exceptions are Italy and Slovenia, where officers on and off the slopes can fine wild boarders and skiers for endangering others.

from swissinfo

*To a dog, you are family.
To a cat, you are staff.*

Zermatt visitors demand snowy streets

While many Swiss residents hate to slide around on icy paths and roads, tourists and locals in Zermatt have been complaining about the opposite problem.



Zermatt

For the first winter ever Zermatt's local authorities cleared snow and ice from paths and roads throughout the picturesque mountain resort in 2009 to help prevent accidents. But they were met by an avalanche of complaints.

Many tourists and local residents complained about their dirty shoes, dog paws damaged by salt and ruined tobogganing runs, and said Zermatt lost some of its winter wonderland appeal.

In recent years frequent weather changes in winter – thawing followed by cold snaps – turned the slippery snowy streets into dangerous ice rinks and led to a number of accidents. The decision was therefore taken last summer for a radical clear-up.

However, the resort had underestimated people's reactions.

Zermatt might consider to follow Grindelwald, whose local authorities rejected calls to clear snow from the ski resort's streets, and Davos, which bans road salting for aesthetic reasons.

from swissinfo



TRADITIONAL FINE MEATS AND SMALL GOODS

AVAILABLE NOW!

**New Zealand's finest
Delicatessen Meats**

Continental Frying/Boiling Sausages

- Specialty Meats • Meat Loaves
- Smoked Meats • Cold Cuts
- Salamis • Dried Meats



Visit our factory shop:
68-70 Greenmount Drive
East Tamaki, Auckland

Hours: Monday to Thursday 8am-4pm
Friday 8am-5pm • Saturday 8am-1pm

P 09 274 4455 F 09 274 1203 W www.swissdeli.co.nz
PO Box 51-520 Pakuranga Auckland 2140

«Taste the Difference»

SWISS KONDITIONE BERN

Bakery & Pastry

**Do you feel like eating real Swiss/German
breads, tasty and healthy?**

German Sourdough, Fitness Bread,
Butterzopf, Kibbled Rye, Walnut Bread,
Tasty White Bread, Basler Bread,
or choose from a wide range of rolls,
inclusive Laugenrolls.

In the sweet range we offer
Blackforest Cake, Bienenstich,
Chocolate Truffle Cake, Quark Cheesecake,
Fruit Flans, Patisserie,
seasonal specialities and much more.

We are using local and often
organic ingredients.

Retail sale at our bakery

**Friday and Saturday 7am-2pm
5/448 Rosebank Road
Avondale, Auckland
Tel: (09) 828-5860 Fax: (09) 828-5861**