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# HELVETIA



MAGAZINE OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

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## That little Swiss secret...

### Highlights

- Grison
- Life/histories:  
The Itens' intrepid itinerary
- Hiking with kids
- St. Moritz

### Inside

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plus poems, Chuderwätsch and Consigli della Nonna



The village of Scuol in the lower Engadin, with the River Inn in the foreground

*Imagine a valley on top of the roof of Switzerland, forming the source of a river that eventually ends up some 1500 km east in the Black Sea. Curious? It's none other than the Engadin in the far southeast corner of Switzerland and the River Inn.*

The Romansh name for the valley Engiadina comes straight from the Romans: Vallis Enjatina (Valley of the Aeniates), named after the ancient Rhaetian inhabitants living on the edge of the River Aenus. It is one of the few places in Switzerland where Romansh is still more commonly spoken – no doubt because of the historical remoteness of the area, allowing the language to be preserved.

The En River (Romansh), or the Inn River as it is commonly known, finds its source on the Maloja mountain pass at the very top of the valley. It feeds into a beautiful chain of alpine lakes - winds its way past "ritzy" St Moritz, and finally makes its way down into the greater wilderness of the lower Engadin. It is here we find the traditional mountain villages with their whitewashed and painted houses, steep mountain sides and of course – Switzerland's only National Park.

S-chanf, Scuol, Tschlin, Champfer, Champagnas, Silvaplana, Celerina, Samedan ... these intriguing place names give the Engadin its unique identity and charm.

Artists and tourists started to arrive as soon as transport made this possible. Friedrich Nietzsche, Richard Wagner, Hermann Hesse, Thomas Mann, Arturo Toscanini, Richard Strauss, Herbert von Karajan, Alfred Hitchcock, Brigitte Bardot and Gunter Sachs, Charlie Chaplin, Henry Ford, Greta Garbo, the Kennedy family and the Shah of Persia: you name it, they were here! They were all drawn to the valley to find their muse, entertainment and natural beauty. Similarly, visitors of the more "common variety" such as you and I find great inspiration in the essence and genuine remoteness of the Engadin.

Susie Wood

[http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inn#/media/File:CH\\_Scuol.jpg](http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inn#/media/File:CH_Scuol.jpg)

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