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HELVETIA



MAGAZINE OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

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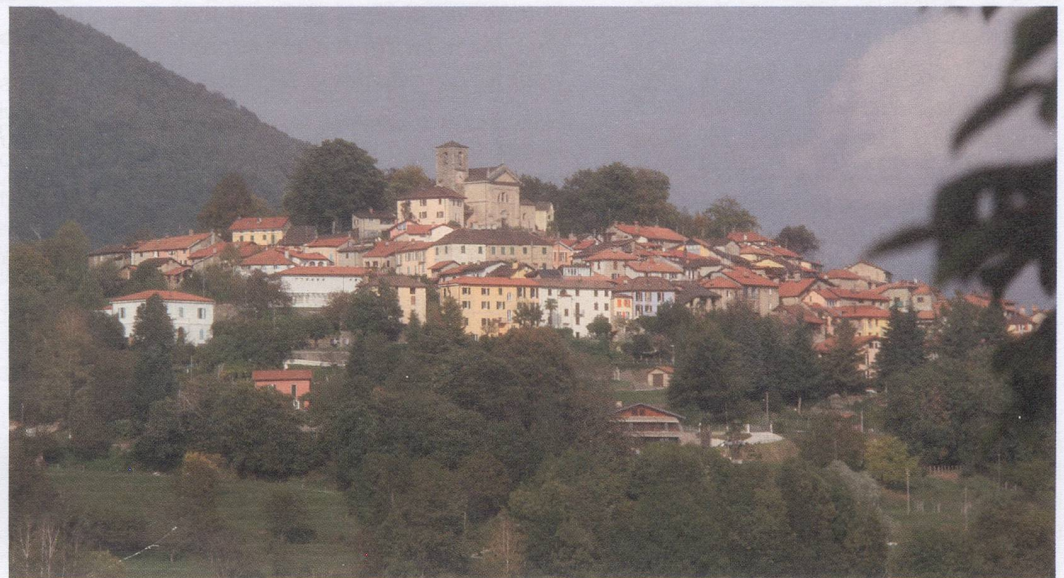
Highlights

- 60th Anniversary of the Auckland Swiss Club
- Farewell of our Swiss Society Team
- Swiss Market Day
- Swiss AHV / New Zealand Super Annuation news

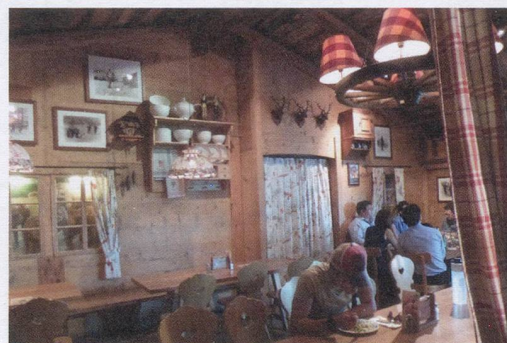
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Breno – Zurich: six nights and two wheels



When the temperatures in Auckland drop below the “nice day for a swim” level and the wet days set in, there is nothing like getting on a plane that will get you to Switzerland, where the air smells of haymaking and the “Badis” (outdoor swimming pools) are opening their doors. That’s what we did three years ago, with Singapore Airlines, the first leg of our annual summer escape to Switzerland. We get a strange preview of our “Heimat” here in a Singapore mall, in a Mövenpick/Marché restaurant:



From the Fondue to the lampshades the place looks oddly authentic, except for the tropical heat outside, of course.

The next day, we land in Zurich and take the train through the Gotthard tunnel, then the “Postauto” (bus) to Breno, a small village in

the Malcantone above Lugano. Spared by mass tourism, the Malcantone, is a quiet valley, ideal for long tramps through chestnut forests and up past the “Alpe” to the “Monti”. We had lived there thirty years ago, so it feels a bit like coming home and catching up with old friends. One of them is Nero. He was my companion on last year’s bike trip from Büren an der Aare over the Simplon to Breno. He is strong, black and he can be stroppy at times but on the whole he is a very reliable... bike.

This year the plan is to go over the Lucomagno Pass to Zurich. So, “Avanti Nero!” We leave the Malcantone on the Via Cantonale past Arosio. And down we race the spectacular “Penudra”. A drop of 500 meters in 24 sharp hairpins. A thrilling biker’s dream. Arrived in the valley, I realise I need some kind of fixing for my iPad, which I have found an invaluable tool. To navigate, I use the www.schweizmobil.ch website.

Schweizmobil, an idea that started in 1993 by a group of enthusiastic cyclists from Olten, was officially launched in 1998 by Adolf Ogi. With state funding and private sponsorship, the foundation maintains 30’000 km of tracks and trails all over the country. For a cost of CHF40.-/year, one gets full access to the website with maps, itinerary-drawing tools on dedicated platforms for hikers, trampers, bikers, mountain-bikers, electro-bikers, line skaters and even canoeists. The foundation also backs

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