

# New Swissair air/sea agreement

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wald, 49ft.; Unterer Grindelwald, 39ft.; and Morteratsch, 65ft. The Tälliboden glacier advanced by 49ft., the Gries by 72ft., and the Porchabella by 141ft. The Kaltwasser, Valsorey and Rhone glaciers were at a standstill.

\* \* \*

*Novel trends in Swiss hotel construction.* The new trends in modern architecture have also had an influence on hotel construction in Switzerland. Several recently completed buildings have been constructed in the modern fashion as regards style and appointments, and some of them fit into their scenic setting most impressively. At Ascona, in sunny Ticino, the Hotel "Europe au Lac", designed by the well-known Swiss architect Erhard Gull, has recently been opened. Owing to the limited building space available the hotel was built on a triangular ground plan, and thus two of its sides overlook Lake Maggiore. All rooms have balconies. At the main entrance there is a pleasant "locanda" (local inn). An originally shaped bay admits the lake right to the restaurant terrace. The dining-rooms, bars and lounges, decorated in pastel shades, have an unmistakably Southern aspect, and the triangular, arcaded inner courtyard offers a wonderful vista on the lake. Not only new buildings, however, but also some old ones that have been re-designed are being widely talked about in Switzerland. For example, the re-designed "Vieux Manoir" Hotel, on the Lake of Murten/Morat, very near the place

where the Confederates of old defeated Charles the Bold in 1476. Set amid a charming landscape of vineyards, a former patrician house has been made into a modern hotel for holiday-makers without sacrificing its old-world atmosphere. Each room has an individual style; ancient four-poster beds and other antique furniture are among the appointments. For business meetings, knightly halls serve as conference rooms. A smart grill-room, a period restaurant and a bar are added attractions. Special rooms where fish dishes and wine are served have been installed in an old farmhouse. Furthermore, there is also an open-air grill in the middle of the great park. The hotel grounds extend to the banks of the lake, where, on a wide frontage, there are private harbour and bathing beach. It is indeed gratifying to note how much trouble is taken by Swiss architects when making alterations of this kind; they give due importance to the modern in the most practical way, yet preserve the ancient where this is deemed to be worth while.

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