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NEWS FROM THE LAND

(by courtesy of SNTO)

Touristic highlights of the Canton of Valais

Sion:—In co-operation with the Innkeepers' and Hoteliers' Association, the Tourist Office of Valais (UVT) and OPAV, the office promoting Valaisan agricultural products, in 1970 organised a big culinary competition: "Le Valais des Gourmets". Conditions for participation may be obtained on request from OPAV, Bahnofstrasse 5, Sion, telephone (027) 2.22.48. It is the purpose of this competition to rediscover old and forgotten Valaisan recipes and to invent new dishes which should properly represent the canton's gastronomy. The dishes have to contain one or more products of the Canton of Valais. The public grand finale of the contest will take place in October.

Down in the deep cellar . . .

Those interested, whether alone or in groups, are requested to get in touch with OPAV, Bahnofstrasse 5, Sion, telephone (027) 2.22.48. OPAV will be glad to arrange visits to wine cellars and the cellars' owners will be happy to receive such visitors.

The Valaisan Wine Fraternity

Within the framework of the "Year of the Wine", the "Ordre de la Channe", the Valaisan Wine Fraternity, have among others organised the following chapters: on September 6 the "Chapitre de la Dôle" in the large courtyard of the Stockalper Palace in Brig, from October 3 to 10 "Les Chaptres du Valais du Vin" in Martigny; on November 7, "Le Chapitre Limmat-Rhône" in Zurich and on November 28 "Le Chapitre des Rapilles" in Sierre. For further information on the "Ordre de la Channe" one may get in touch with the Secretariat of the Ordre. Mme. G. Zwissig, Postfach, 3960 Sierre, telephone (027) 5.17.10 or M. Henri Imesch, 3960 Sierre, telephone (027) 5.10.65.

"Dôle for the entire family"

Within the framework of the "Chapitre de la Dôle" OPAV has received on September 6 the population and visitors of the Valais in the courtyard of the Stockalper Palace in Brig in order to honour the Dôle wine and other Valaisan specialities.

The Valaisan Mountainous Vineyard Road

In connection with the "Valais du Vin", the Tourist Office of Valais and the Office for the Promotion of Valaisan Agricultural Products together with the Department of Building and Police of the Canton of Valais are inaugurate-

ing the Mountainous Vineyard Road. The road from Martigny to Salgesch is being provided with signs for the benefit of all friends and visitors of the vineyards on Valaisan slopes. It is a drive full of variety through a magnificent region.

Art exhibition at the Manor House of Martigny

It is being held from May 30 to October 11, 1970 and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Its subjects are: The vine and the wine across the centuries, the wine and folk art in the Valais, the vine and the wine in creative art, the vine and the wine in literature and music, bottle labels, wine and man, medicine and health.

The great grape harvest festival of Lugano . . .

The grape harvest festival is the highlight of the autumn in Lugano. It is the season when grapes and chestnuts are ripe and their harvesting, just as it used to be in grandfather's time, is the occasion for festivities. To start them off, on Friday, October 2 there will be a very special kind of evening performance. Chestnuts with whipped cream will be served in the intervals between the music of choirs in regional costumes and rustic bands. Saturday night there will be open-air performances in Lugano and the neighbouring communities of Castagnola, Paradiso and Massagno by the music bands, choirs, folklore and dance groups that participate in the grape harvest festival. Finally, the festive Sunday will begin with a morning concert by the Lugano city orchestra. At 2.30 p.m. the vine growers' festival parade will start at Cassarate. It is going to march along the lakeshore promenade as far as Paradiso and thence it is going to return through the centre of Lugano along the lake to its starting point. Swiss and foreign music bands, merry groups in colourful costumes and trucks laden with richly adorned flower floats and folkloristic presentations will enhance the parade.

. . . and Neuchâtel

During the first weekend in October instead of water new wine is pouring forth from the wells of the town. The shop windows along the streets disappear behind open-air market stalls. The strollers throw confetti at each other and dance in the streets until the early morning hours. On Sunday at 3 p.m. sharp, a canon shot signals the start of a grand parade which is admired every year by more than 70,000 spectators from all parts of Switzerland and from neighbouring

France. The music band from Boudry adds particular originality to the parade. But the other bands marching along also add to the merriment and delight the ear, for instance this year the Koninklijke Militaire Kapel—the famous Royal Netherlands Military Band—while the magnificent flower floats graced by beautiful girls from Neuchâtel are a most pleasing sight for the eye.

Visiting wine cellars in the Vaud region

Epesses:—At the sloping vineyards of the Canton of Vaud wine cellars have now opened their doors to groups of visitors. It is the aim of this innovation, based on many years of experience in other regions, to enable tourist groups travelling in the Canton of Vaud to visit a wine producer and, in addition, to relax for a while. Fourteen well known wine cellars stand ready to extend this type of hospitality. The stop comprises of a visit to the wine producing plant (press, cellar, bottling, storage, putting on labels), tasting of various wines and technical explanations. These visits are designed for groups of more than 20 persons touring one of four regions of the Vaud. This innovation is a necessary addition to the six public wine testing centres already extant and called "Caveaux des vignerons", open so far in Yvorne at the Chablais region, in Chevres, Epesses and Lutry in the Lavaux region and in Aubonne and Lussy on the shores of Lake Leman.

Merry markets on the shores of Lake Geneva

Vevey:—Until the middle of September every Tuesday and Saturday morning the picturesque display of a folkloristic market takes place on the Big Square in Vevey, the same place where every twenty-five years the famous grape harvest festival is staged. Surrounded by fruit, vegetables and multi-coloured parasols, the sales-women and vendors in original Vaudois costumes offer the products of their gardens, hothouses and orchards. At the open old cornhouse whose roof is supported by eighteen stone columns, the vine growers dispense to the merry-makers their new wine which is tasted with great pleasure, every week in differently adorned glasses. The charming melodies of wind instruments and the ingratiating folk songs of a costumed glee club further enhance the mood of the occasion. People come from far away just to enjoy the market which provides so much pleasure to the eyes, ears and mouth. They mingle with the local population, snuggle up to photogenic typical scenes, take pictures and on their return home recall them when viewing them on the screen. They also offer their friends and themselves a nice drink in the glasses they brought home from the memorable market in Vevey.