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TOURIST NEWS

SEASON TICKETS FOR SKIERS

Many Swiss holiday resorts are again offering money-saving season tickets for skiers this winter, entitling the holders to unlimited use of ski transport facilities. Klosters and Davos are offering adult visitors special daily and season tickets for the mountain railways – at children's rates – from 23rd to 30th March. Mürren is introducing new one-day and two-day tickets (which exclude use of the Schilthorn aerial cableway), while the Lungern ticket covers the entire Hasliberg–Käserstätt–Mörlalp and Melchsee–Frutt region. And the Mythen ski-ing region is introducing a regional daily ticket. Skiers wishing to test their skills on a wider range of Swiss slopes during the winter season are offered a special season ticket by the Swiss Association of Cable Transport Companies (SVS). The ticket is valid on more than 1,000 ski transport facilities nationwide, and represents a saving of 25 per cent.

ENGADINE SKI MARATHON – 9th MARCH, 1980

Each year, at the beginning of March, about 10,000 enthusiasts gather in the Engadine area of Switzerland to compete in the "Ski Marathon", Switzerland's biggest cross-country ski-ing event.

This season's 12th Engadine Ski Marathon is open to those born before 1960 and takes place on 9th March, 1980. The route is Maloja (5,960 ft) – Isola – Sils – Surlej – Silvaplana – St. Moritz – Pontresina – Samedan – Bever – Zuoz – S-chanf (5,487 ft).

Applications must reach the organisers by 1st February. Forms are available from: 12th Engadine Ski Marathon, 7504 Pontresina, Switzerland.

Special "Ski Marathon Training Weeks" are organised from 12th to 19th January, 19th to 26th January, 23rd February to 1st March and 1st March to 7th March, with seven nights' accommodation (full board) at Zuoz.

The price of Sw.Fr. 380 also includes a welcome drink, four hours' Langlauf training daily on the Engadine Ski Marathon course, transportation, badge and a farewell dinner.

Information and enrolment: Verkehrsbuero Zuoz, 7524 Zuoz, Switzerland.

AROUND THE COMBIN GROUP

Walking enthusiasts used to the mountains can complete a tour round the Combins Glacier massif in 10 to 12 days. The area is rich in plant and animal life and the mountain trails are all marked. The route starts at Martigny-Bourg (1,636 ft), goes over Col-des-Planches (4,628 ft) and the Col-du-Tronc (5,215 ft) to Verbier and continues in the Val-de-Bagnes to Mauvoisin, from where it climbs to the highest point, the Fenêtre-de-Durand (9,174 ft). Then follows the descent into Italian territory to Balme and St. Rhémy, followed by the ascent to the Great St. Bernard Pass (8,098 ft). The route continues across the Col de la Rousse (8,436 ft) and La Tsisette (6,576 ft) to Orsières (2,910 ft). From there the walk leads over Le Clou (3,358 ft) to Bovernier and back to Martigny-Bourg. This varied tour is described in detail in the new brochure "Tour des Combins" published by the "Association valaisanne de tourisme pédestre" (rue Lausanne 15, CH-1950 Sion)

ST. MORITZ – PRICE FREEZE

As during the last three to four years, hotels in St. Moritz will not increase their rates for the coming winter season.

Tariffs for the mountain transports, ski schools, etc. will also remain stable.

ZERMATT – NEW AERIAL CABLEWAY

Europe's highest aerial cableway (3,820 m) Trockener Steg to the Klein-Matterhorn should be completed in time for this winter season. From the north side of the Klein-Matterhorn, where the cableway will end, a 170 m long tunnel will lead to the Breithorn area from where one will be able to ski over the Plateau Rosa to Testa Grigia, then over the Theodul Glacier to Trockener Steg. This area will be open for ski-ing in winter as well as in summer.

Further developments are under construction or have been planned, such as a new underground funicular from Zermatt to Sunnegga which should be finished by 1980.



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LIECHTENSTEIN – NEW CHAIRLIFT

A new chairlift will be finished in time for this winter season in the resort of Malbun. With a carrying capacity of 1,200 persons per hour, it will avoid long queues and increase the skiing facilities of Liechtenstein's winter sports centre.

WINTER HOLIDAYS IN ENGELBERG

The central Swiss Alpine village of Engelberg – famous for its Benedictine abbey and long established as a day-excursion destination – is now becoming increasingly popular as a holiday resort in its own right. This winter season's programme of all-inclusive arrangements for visitors is being extended from 6th January right through to 12th April. Ski-pass prices have been kept down to the same level as last winter, and an added attraction this winter is the inclusion in all-in holiday arrangements of a traditional Swiss fondue party. Visitors to Engelberg are invited to participate in the open toboggan races to be held on 13th January and 3rd February over the excellent 2.2 miles Gerschnialp – Engelberg course, which is also open to the public during the entire winter season.

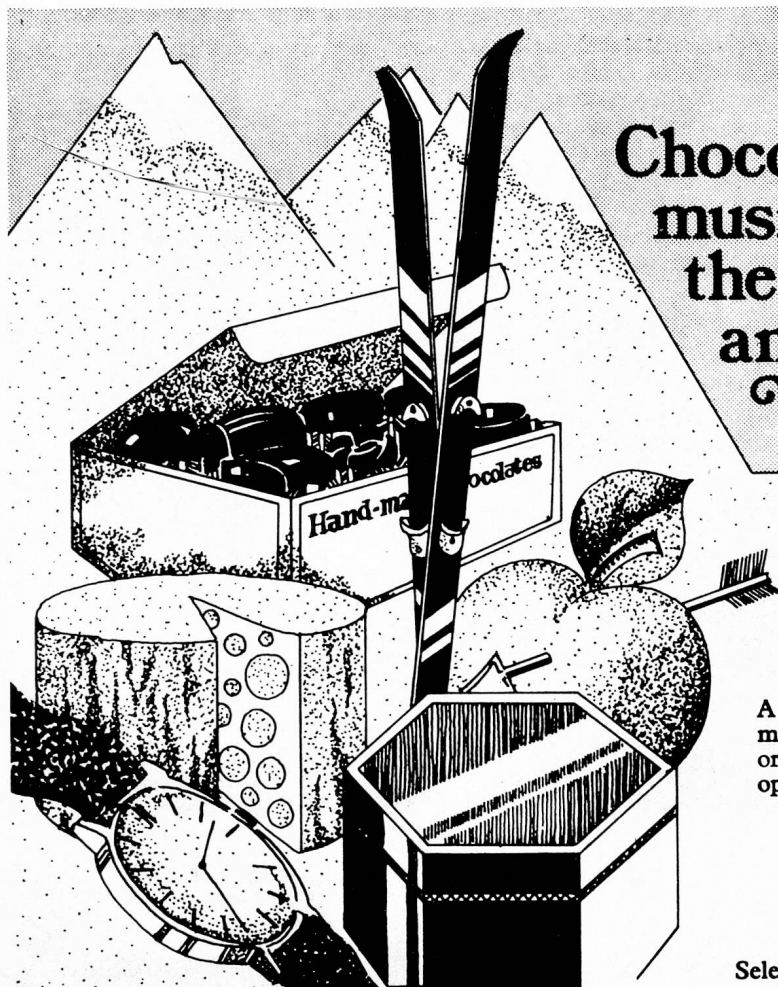
AN EXTRAORDINARY INVESTMENT FOR SWISS ABROAD

I have come across an outstanding investment opportunity in Switzerland, which I should like to recommend to you, readers. There is nothing like it available to you if you are a Swiss resident abroad or a dual national registered with your Consulate. You can open a private savings account in Switzerland that pays you up to 3½ per cent compound interest, free withholding tax (*Verrechnungssteuer/impôt anticipé*) of 35 per cent. The 3½ per cent, therefore, equals 5.38 per cent interest on money deposited in Switzerland. But above all, the investment pays you up to Sw.Fr. 50,000 should you lose your livelihood due to political unrest or similar hardship. It is thus a savings account *and* an insurance cover at the same time. This provides a unique opportunity to start a long-range savings plan which also gives you insurance cover guaranteed by the Swiss Government. You will ask how this is possible. The answer is that this fund was specially created for the benefit of the Swiss abroad and is available to them alone.

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