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Wheeler dealers in Winterthur!

THE Winterthur City Tourist Office is offering visitors a special deal believed to be unique in Switzerland.

The offer comprises three nights' local hotel accommodation complete with half-board and rental of a new bicycle for only Sfr. 290 per person.

And if you pay an additional Sfr. 200, you can keep the bicycle!

Special offer from Chur

CHUR, capital of Switzerland's Romansch-speaking Canton of the Grisons, is offering special one-week arrangements in nine of the city's hotels.

Ranging from Sfr. 345 to Sfr. 458, they include seven overnights, seven vouchers for main meals and a number of free admissions as well as a return trip on transport facilities on the Dreibründenstein mountain.

There are also three-day Chur weekend passes covering two overnights with breakfast and admission to Chur's museums, priced at Sfr. 65 to Sfr. 98. Children between two and 12 years sleeping in parents' room get a 30 per cent reduction.

Super facelift at Montreux hotel

THE luxury Montreux-Palace Hotel has completed a Sfr. 11 million renovation project – one of the most extensive ever undertaken by any Swiss hotel.

It involved the complete reconstruction of the top two floors of the hotel, which is a fine example of art nouveau style dating back to 1906.

The sixth floor consists of a new "Bel-Etage" with 29 double and two single rooms. On the seventh floor three suites have been built, each with its own terrace garden.

One of the suites, with an area of 300 sq metres, also has a large terrace for receptions and is



The medieval heart of the city of Winterthur, Canton Zurich, showing St. Laurentius' church

accessible only by a private lift.

The Montreux-Palace hotel now has 450 beds.

Park hotel re-opens

THE traditional-style Parkhotel Kurhas Tarasp in the Swiss resort of Bad Scuol, closed since 1978, has reopened after renovation.

The hotel has been given 45 new apartments – all with living room, bedroom and bathroom, telephone, radio, colour television and minibar. There are also 85 hotel rooms with bath.

New record for Zurich

PASSENGER traffic at Zurich airport passed the eight million mark for the first time last year.

The total of 8,363,080 was a

4.6 per cent rise over the 1980 figure. Scheduled traffic passengers increased by 6.6 per cent, but charter traffic slumped by more than 8 per cent and totalled fewer than one million passengers.

The daily average number of passengers passing through Zurich airport was just under 23,000, but at peak periods this figure was almost doubled.

Five-star cycling

ZURICH-based Cyclotour is offering seven-day cycling holidays in Switzerland's Saanen region in conjunction with Steigenberger Hotels.

The firm offers escorted tours as well as go-as-you-please arrangements, all including half-

board accommodation in the five-star Steigenberger Hotel Sonnenhalte in Saanen, use of 10-speed cycle and provision of suggested routes.

Prices are from Sfr. 830 per person.

'Made-to-measure' in Lugano

NINE hotels in the lakeside resort of Lugano are co-operating in a "Lugano made-to-measure" offer of moderately priced one-week arrangements.

The offer, until October 31, starts at Sfr. 395 for seven overnights with breakfast, Sfr. 490 with half board and Sfr. 595 with full board.

The price also includes various concessions and services including a city tour by Danzas bus,



The fountain in the Piazza Manzoni in Lugano in the midst of southern vegetation

funicular trip, use of sauna and one hour on the tennis court for two people.

Hotels taking part are the Admiral, Europa, Excelsior, Meister, Arzone, Belmonte, Gotthard, Holiday-Select and Nizza.

Reservations link with China

SWISSAIR has become the first Western airline to establish an electronic hotel reservations link with the People's Republic of China.

The recently-completed Hotel Jianguo Beijing (Peking) is now hooked up to HORIS, Swissair's computerised hotel reservations system.

This enables accommodation to be booked in a split-second transaction at the same time as

the flight reservation. The facility is available worldwide from Swissair and Austrian Airlines ticket offices as well as from 260 travel agencies.

Brussels tourism chief retires

ADOLF Heuberger, head of the Swiss National Tourist Office in Brussels since 1968, has retired following a career that spanned four decades.

Mr Heuberger, a highly respected and often quoted tourism expert, was last year awarded the international Dag Hammarskjöld prize for making it possible for tens of thousands of deprived Belgian children to visit Switzerland in the immediate post-war period.

He is succeeded by Lax

Lehmann, who was director of SNTO's Canadian operation in Toronto since 1973.

More growth for air tour firm

IT was back in 1969, in Geneva, when Eric Harsch first decided to organise a series of cheap weekend flights to London using an airline called Autair. Not surprisingly, he called the company 'London Air Tours.'

The trips were so popular that the schedule was increased to provide daily flights on British Caledonian BAC1-11's, and in 1975 a London office was opened.

More success followed and in 1976 Eric Harsch appeared on BBC television, revealing that the

company had, that year, brought a record number of Swiss tourists into Britain.

The company's tenth anniversary was marked by the chartering of the 'Orient Express' for the representatives of the major travel agencies which had contributed to the company's success.

Then in 1980 recession hit the travel trade and there had to be a major restructuring in Geneva. However the London office remained independent and a new company was formed, Holidaymaker UK Ltd.

At first the company's trade mark was Geneva Air Tours, since they specialised in flights to Geneva. Now, an expansion of the business to include Basle and Zurich has led to another new trade mark - "Airtour Swiss."