

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1983)

Heft: 1797

Rubrik: Readers' letter

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Another 'first' for trade fair capital

BASLE provides an excellent venue for a host of international exhibitions, and it must sometimes seem as if every possible kind of exhibition has already been held there.

But this year sees another "first" – the first specialised international trade fair for tableware, ceramics, arts and crafts will be held in Basle on June 5-7.

Intertable 83 is a trade fair which will fill a need long felt in Switzerland. In the past, the problem was always that suppliers and manufacturers, many of whom had immense ranges of elegant tableware to offer, were obliged to visit several fairs and exhibitions every year.

None of these was entirely adequate either because they were open to members of the general public, and therefore lacked the desired professionalism, or because they occurred at inconvenient dates or at unsuitable venues.

In the circumstances, it was hardly surprising that many buyers, suppliers and manufacturers often had to travel beyond Switzerland's borders to find trade fairs which corresponded to their needs. In 1983, Intertable will change all that.

Essentially, the fair is for retail and wholesale trades which deal in crystal, glassware, silverware, top flight household goods, crockery, cutlery and presents, suppliers of hotel furnishings and

specialised departments of department stores and chain stores.

The retailers selected by the organisers in consultation with the exhibitors will be invited by letter to attend. Only retailers and their staff will be admitted to the fair.



READER'S LETTER

I REFER to your article in the November "Women's Observer" pages entitled "Eating Out? Here Comes the Chalet look".

As a catering consultant, I wholeheartedly agree with your tongue-in-cheek report and wonder if our Canadian friends might like to take a (maple?) leaf out of our own book and visit Swiss Chalet in Selsdon Road, South Croydon.

To my knowledge this fine establishment has been providing the discerning diner with a wealth of excellent Swiss specialities for

over 20 years.

The exterior has been tastefully adapted to look like a chalet, and the interior is as near authentic as one could expect, and so is the food.

One wonders if Mr Audergon, the proprietor of the Croydon Swiss Chalet, is aware that the name he has spent so long nurturing to a reputation par excellence has so callously been used to describe a totally non-authentic "Swiss" diner franchise imported by our dear Canadian friends. – M.J. Kelvin, Croydon, Surrey.

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Switzerland comes to Cheshire

THERE was a little bit of Switzerland among the green fields of Cheshire recently when the staff restaurant of Ciba-Geigy's Macclesfield site held a Swiss Week.

Each lunchtime, the staff were able to enjoy real Swiss specialities such as Rind Gulasch Nach Tessiner Art (diced beef in a creamy red wine sauce) served by colourful Serviertöchter und Kellner (waitresses and waiters).

The whole event was

supported by a special display of Swiss products and a daily raffle with traditional Swiss foods as prizes.

This meant that diners could carry off cans of Hopfenperle Feldschlossen lager as a change from their local Greenall Whitley brew, or even round off the meal with a Swiss praline or two.

Jackie Stewart's tips for winter driving

JACKIE Stewart, three times world motor racing champion, has warned British motorists not to be caught unawares when the worst of the winter weather begins to make driving difficult and dangerous.

"Unlike drivers in Switzerland, where I live," says Jackie, "British drivers have a short memory and tend to forget the lessons learned in snow, ice and fog of previous years."

Not surprisingly, Jackie has a number of hints which local drivers will find useful when it comes to coping with the usual bad conditions this winter.

Fresh snow, he says, provides good grip for the car's wheels, and it is possible to keep going without too many difficulties.

"In fact," he continued, "one of the big dangers of snow-covered roads is that it is fairly easy to drive quite fast on them. The problem comes when you want to stop!"

The one good thing about snow, according to Jackie, is that it is a very obvious hazard. There is no fear of a driver not realising that the road ahead is slippery.

Ice, on the other hand, is not always evident, but Jackie's Swiss driving experience has shown him what to look out for: frost on the car roof and windows when it is left parked out-

side, frozen puddles at the roadside, or frost on the hedgerows and grass verges - they can all mean that ice may be present on the road surface, especially in sheltered spots.

The rear lights of a car in front can give a clue, too, when they cause reflections in what in other respects appears to be a dry road.

"The main point about driving in bad conditions," advises Jackie, "is to use your common sense. If the weather is bitterly cold and it

has recently been raining or snowing, there'll be ice about, so prepare for it.

"In a severe gale, country roads can be blocked by fallen trees just round the corner so make sure you'll be able to stop in time.

"If you have to drive through flood water it is best to do so in a low gear, keeping the engine revs high to discourage water from running back up the exhaust pipe but slipping the clutch to keep the road speed down so that the bow wave doesn't

drown the engine.

"By using this technique it is possible to negotiate surprisingly deep flood water with no more than a little discomfort.

"Whether you get through successfully or not, the one certainty is that you'll have very wet brakes," says Jackie. "Try them straight away to see how they perform, and if necessary - and it probably will be - dry them out by driving for a mile or two with your foot lightly on the brake pedal."

MUSIC

Gwyneth Jones sings in the following operas at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden: Der Rosenkavalier (Feldmarschallin), January 19, 22, 25, 28 and 31; Tosca (Flora Tosca), February 12, 15, 18, 21 and 24; gala concert for the centenary of Richard Wagner's death, February 13.

EXHIBITIONS

Benjamin Constant, "Une vie au service de la liberté", The Library, University of Warwick, Coventry, January 30 to February 19.

On January 24, an exhibition on Adolphe Appia will open in the foyer of the Lyttleton at the

THE ARTS

National Theatre and will be shown until March 5.

Appia was born in Geneva in 1862 and died practically unknown in 1928. He was, however, a remarkable precursor who revolutionised stage design and laid the foundations for modern conception of scenography.

He was the first to underline the importance of three basic elements in the theatre: the actor, the setting and the light.

LITERATURE

Max Frisch will come to London on the occasion of the

publication of two of his works in English.

He will be in England from February 21 to 25 and will lecture at Cambridge University and at the Institute of Germanic Studies of London University.

Dindo's film, "Max Frisch's Journal I-III", will be shown at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, followed by a discussion with Frisch.

The Royal Shakespeare Company is considering having a reading of one of Frisch's plays at The Pit Theatre, Barbican Centre.

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