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THE RIGIBAHNEN EVENT MARQUEE

Hans Weber



From this high vantage point, and with the plain blue sky, this scene looks as though it could well be a model – but it isn't.

PHOTO: Hans Weber

The Rigi Bahnen are one of the few Swiss railways that receive no government subsidy. They are seen as a purely tourist railway running from Vitznau on Lake Luzern, and from Arth Goldau on the Gotthard main line, up to the summit at Rigi Kulm. Therefore they have to work hard to attract customers.

In May 2007 they opened the big marquee at Rigi Staffel at 1,600 metres above sea level. This tent-like structure is at right angles to the railway, along a ledge built into the mountain, with panoramic views. It can be used for conferences; meetings; product launches; and so on,

catering from 100 people up to 750 people. The range of options is great, from riding up by steam loco hauled train, with aperitif on board of course, to tobogganing; a hike with a campfire meal; or any of the open-air sports that can be enjoyed on the Rigi all the year round. The marquee has a terrace, and big windows. The Rigi Bahnen have teamed up with Grand Casino Luzern, Gourmelino AG, and Alfacom AG to provide a full range of catering and technical equipment options. The marquee is proving popular, and proving that the concept was a good one. Well done the Rigi Bahnen! Details can be found at www.rigievent.ch.