**Zeitschrift:** Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Railways Society
**Band:** - (2019)
**Heft:** 137

**Artikel:** Riding with the Post
**Autor:** Keating, Peter
**DOI:** https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-853792

**Nutzungsbedingungen**
Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Mehr erfahren

**Conditions d'utilisation**
L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. En savoir plus

**Terms of use**
The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. Find out more

**Download PDF:** 09.12.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch**

# Riding with the Post

Peter Keating

Line 324 buses waiting at Locarno.

*All photos:* Peter Keating

Last September, whilst staying in Locarno my wife and I planned a days walking in the forested hills that surround the Valle Orsernone to the north west of the busy city. This is described as one of the most impressive and mysterious valleys in Ticino. Although many SRS members will know, and have travelled by the metre-gauge train along the Centovalli, the beautiful area to the north of this route is generally little visited. Several PostAuto routes serve the area, so one morning we caught one of the six-a-day services on Line 324 from outside Locarno station up to this isolated valley where we passed through small, depopulated, stone built villages, where straw weaving was once their main industry. Our PostAuto was a Hess Midi-Bus, with an identical vehicle on standby to duplicate the service out to Spruga, on the border with Italy, if required. As the service headed west out of the city we reached Intragna, crossing the Centovalli line not far from the station, and where we headed north into the Valle Orsernone. After some 12km along a very serpentine road, having passed through the intriguingly named community of Loco, and various villages clinging to the mountainside, we reached Russo. Here we changed onto a connecting PostAuto on Line 325 to go up the Valle di Vergeletto to Vergeletto. On a later day we saw the smaller bus, which operated this service, in Locarno. On its way up the valley the bus diverts up a series of hairpin bends to the small village of Gresso perched high on a hill, before returning back down to continue its journey to Vergeletto. From May to October this service is extended a couple of kilometres further, passed the small community, on to Zott to connect with the "Funivia" (a cable car with 4-seat cabins) that travels up to Alpe Salei in just 7 minutes.

A line 324 bus enters Comologno from Spruga.

We found that Alpe Salei, at 1780m, was an area of mountain meadows surrounded by larch woods that forms part of a scheduled Forest Reserve area. Leaving the "Funivia" we discovered the Capanna Salei, a charming mountain hut that serves food and refreshments in the season and also

offers some basic accommodation. Whilst on this plateau we walked to the Laghetto Salei, with its superb views of the surrounding mountains and Lago Maggiore in the far distance, then chose to walk down to Comologno in the Valle Onsernone. Before arriving at this village we passed through Ligunc, a scattered array of chalets without seemingly any road access. At Comologno we rejoined the PostAuto on Line 324 as it headed down the valley from its terminus at nearby Spruga to return to Locarno. The main road through the historic village of Comologno is very narrow, with the houses behind this only having foot access, and the bus took priority as it threaded its way through the community. It was a pleasant and interesting trip down the valley on a very bendy road to Russo. Here the bus on Line 325 joined us from Vergeletto allowing passengers and mail to be exchanged, with more trays of post being brought out by the village Post Master. We could not help but think that a community of fewer than 200 people would not have had a Post Office, and six buses daily, in the UK. Stopping again at Loco, another village of just 200 people, this time the driver collected the trays of post before returning us down to Locarno. Apart from a pleasant day in the mountains we had been part of the daily life of these valley communities as we rode the transport and postal infrastructure that keeps these isolated locations alive.

**1.** A driver collecting the post at Loco.
**2.** The bus used on Line 325 at Locarno.
**3.** Zott-Alpe Salei Funivia.
**4.** The Russo Postmaster with mail for the bus.