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Autor: Sargerson, Jason
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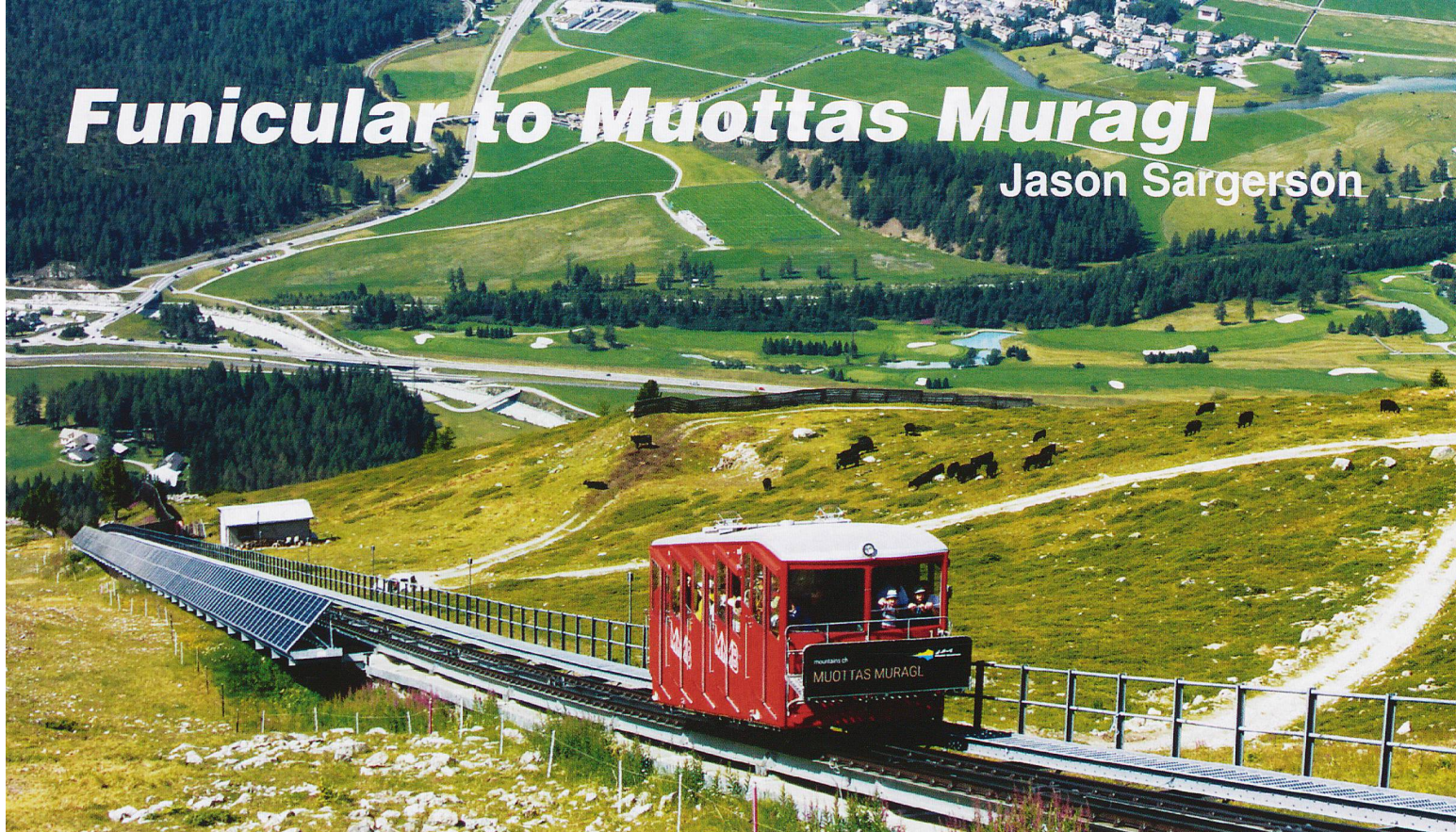
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Funicular to Muottas Muragl

Jason Sargerson




The Funicular climbs above Celerina.

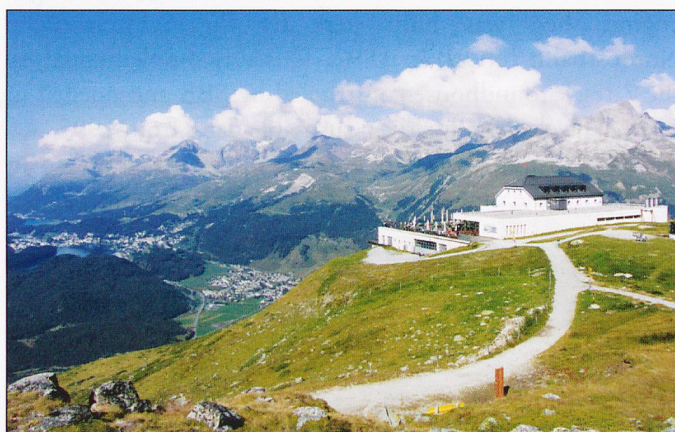
All photos: Jason Sargerson- all taken 04/08/2018

The funicular to the top of Muottas Muragl (2448m) in the Graubünden is metre-gauge, and has a length of 2199m as it climbs some 700m. The funicular's lower station, Punt Muragl, is served by adjacent stops on the Rhätische Bahn (RhB) lines from Samedan and St Moritz to Pontresina. The funicular runs regularly at least every 30 minutes, taking about 10 minutes for the ascent. Unfortunately the Swiss Pass is not valid but the CHF 35 fare is well worth paying on a fine day for the spectacular views alone.

Inside the funicular's cars there are bench seats that can be folded up if it is busy, so if you need to sit down for the journey it is suggested going when it is quiet, probably around 9am as the crowds can develop after then. The funicular ascends through coniferous forest for about half of the journey then spectacular views appear above the tree line. At the summit there is an hotel, a large restaurant and terrace. In addition to the many walks across the mountain that start from the top of the line, including into valleys such as the Val Champagna, it is possible to walk down to Samedan and Pontresina. The panoramic view takes in the lakes of Sils, Silvaplana and St Moritz, whilst the villages of Celerina and St Moritz can be clearly seen below. The small lake, Lej da Staz can be seen to the right of Piz Rosatsch. The white peaks of the Bernina group and Val Roseg are visible to the south in good weather.

The 16-bed hotel was completely rebuilt and enlarged in 2010. The hotel is an energy-plus building that uses high quality modern insulation, as well as generating solar energy in two ways, producing more energy than is actually needed for the hotel. Apparently Muottas Muragl is one of the sunniest places in Switzerland, so solar power was a natural choice for the hotel's energy. The system here is also possibly the way forward for many other buildings, using both solar and geothermal energy. Solar energy is collected through

solar pipes at the lower south facing level of the building and stored through geothermal loops. These thermal loops coupled to a heat pump, provide the hot water for the building. Solar energy is also collected in a second way, through photovoltaic panels stretching 228m along the railway line. This provides enough electricity for the hotel, excess energy being routed to the thermal loops. The clever insulation and efficient building materials ensure that energy is not wasted. The hotel is proud of its eco credentials and arranges guided tours for visitors to view the energy installations of the hotel. 



ABOVE: The hotel at the top.

RIGHT: The funicular Cable Room.

