



Item: Fast Lane 2022 Petergram #05 (#99 since inception)
Date: **Saturday, January 29th, 2022**
From: Peter Sontag writing from our office in Oldsmar, Florida
To: Our Fast Lane Travel Customer Family and Friends at home in
Australia, Canada, Europe, Iceland, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa
and in the **USA!**

Subject: Gung hay fat choy – wishing you great happiness and prosperity!

Welcome to the Year of the Tiger!

I. **Happy New Year:** About 20% of the world's population will be celebrating the **Chinese New Year of the Tiger** on Tuesday, February 1st, 2022. **Gong xi fa cai** is how Mandarin-speakers wish you a happy new year—literally "wishing you to be prosperous in the coming year." Most of the overseas Chinese communities speak Cantonese. **Gung hay fat choy** is how Cantonese-speakers wish you a happy new year—literally "wishing you great happiness and prosperity." Back in the early '70;s when I was on assignment working in Hong Kong, this time of year, the entire Island was a sea of red lanterns and week-long celebrations. Families did their spring cleaning; tables were laden with longevity noodles; dumplings; lumpia; steamed fish and tang yuan for dessert — cooking as much as possible in advance so that there can be many dishes on the table when the new moon appears. "Red Pockets" were given to loved ones. Lunar New Year is celebrated in all of East Asia.

II. Our **Fast Lane Travel Team** is definitely looking forward to a "**Tiger Year**" in 2022 after the two toughest years our business has endured. **A. The Good News:** We are getting lots of inquiries and registrations for 2022. The **PCA Spring TREFFEN** is **sold out**, although, we just had a cancellation this week – I'll send out a note to the waiting list. The **first Tuscany PORSCHE Fest** is **sold out** and the **second Tuscany PORSCHE Fest**, Wed. Oct. 12th to Sun. Oct. 23rd, 2022, is filling up rapidly.

B. Spring Update: In order to offer one of our trips we need to secure the "product" as best as possible, i.e., the hotel space. This is particularly true in the US since 5-Star Hotels are scarce and especially in "high season" hotels want deposits now to hold the space. Last year we had the "Florida Snowbird PORSCHE Tour" which was sold out. We had a fabulous time, and the participants loved our creative Photo Rally and the Rally Dinner with "valuable prizes" at the 5-Star Casa Monica in St. Augustine. This year I am offering the same tour, i.e., the **Wheel Base Flamingo Luxury Automobile Rally** with enhancements, Mon. Mar. 14th to Sat. Mar. 19th, 2022. The **Bad News:** We have had a tepid response, and the hotels want substantial non-refundable deposits. If by the end of the month we don't have at least 18 customers signed up, **we'll have to cancel** that Luxury Tour. Check out the YouTube Video of this trip on our website:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxktFLzJXw&t=30s>

C. 2022 USA Fall Tours: By popular demand I am offering the wonderful and hugely successful **Carolinas PORSCHE Fest** again, Tue. Sep. 20th to Thu. Sep. 29th. Don't miss this trip – **SIGN UP NOW** – We'll start at the PORSCHE Track in Atlanta, drive to the German Village of Helen, GA. From there Highlands, NC; the awesome Tail of the Dragon and Cherohala Skyway; The Biltmore Inn, Asheville,

NC; Blue Ridge Parkway; and the Greenbrier in White Sulfur Springs, WV. It's spectacular; luxurious and a wonderful experience. Check it out on our website <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouAqK9ApCLg&t=69s> Secondly, for the folks West of the Mississippi – you must join us on the **Romantic Wild West PORSCHE Fest** from Sat. Oct. 29th to Tue. Nov. 8th – It was by far THE most fun and successful PORSCHE Fest last year – DON'T MISS THIS wonderful Experience.

- III. I **cancelled** the planned **Fall Colors of New England** for **this year**. It's not for lack of interest or participation – No, it's because all premium hotels are already sold out in MA, VT, RI and ME. So, the "it's a new world" realization we have come to regarding the planning of trips in the US is that we need to book venues at least 18 to 24 months in advance to secure the parking, luxury accommodations, and restaurant confirmations. Due to the COVID-driven shift in desirable destinations the rules have changed. Thus, I am moving the **Fall Colors of New England** to **2023** and we have started to select trip dates for 2024.

A. **Fast Lane Website:** We are currently re-designing our website, so not all trips may be posted yet – please be patient. By next week we should be finished with the revisions. In the meanwhile, just shoot me an e-mail as to which trip you are planning to choose to enjoy some luxury and fun driving? Thank you very much.

B. **Europe:** As I mentioned above, we look forward to the **PCA Spring PORSCHE TREFFEN**, Mon. May 2nd to Sat. May 7th. We currently have 18 customers under deposit and still have space for 2 more participants. While there is still uncertainty about the Omicron situation in Germany, we are fully committed to conducting this trip. There is still uncertainty as to the availability of Porsches as I mentioned in last Saturday's Petergram. I'll keep all y'all (that's plural) in the loop.

C. The **German Romantic Castles PORSCHE FEST** is a repeat of last year's Tour. We are again including Berlin, Hamburg, the PORSCHE Factory and legendary Racetrack. The **12 Alpine Passes, PCA Fall TREFFEN**, and **Beautiful Swiss Alps** and the **Dolomites** (Italy) all look good. I'll be following up with everybody next week.

D. The **Tuscany PORSCHE Fest**, Mon. Oct. 3rd to Sat. Oct. 15th is **SOLD OUT**. Consequently, I have planned a **second Tuscany PORSCHE Fest**, Wed. Oct. 12th to Sun. Oct. 23rd – this second Tour will **ONLY be conducted** if we get **at least 10 couples** (we can take a maximum of 14) registered and committed by no later than (my birthday) April 25th, 2022. 😊

E. Lastly, we are planning another luxurious AMA River Cruise from Nuremberg to Vienna, plus Budapest, if you'd like to extend it, from Sat. Dec. 3rd to Sun. Dec. 11th. I am starting this trip with a couple days first in Stuttgart to experience the Christmas Markets, especially the Schlossplatz market. Then a bullet train ride to Nuremberg. All in all, we are planning to visit 10 Christmas markets, including Nuremberg, Passau, Salzburg (Austria), Český Krumlov (Czech Republic), the monastery city of Melk, Vienna and Budapest (Hungary).

IV. **My Final Thoughts: More Random Brain Doodles**

Being an adult is the dumbest thing I have ever done.

Common sense is not a gift. It's a punishment because you have to deal with everyone else who doesn't have it (happens to me every day when I watch the News).

Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on clothes and leave the house.

I came. I saw. I forgot what I was doing. Retraced my steps. Got lost on the way back. Now I have no idea what's going on.

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit (it's kilometers when we're in Germany).

I don't have grey hair. I have wisdom highlights.

I don't mean to brag, but I finished my 14-day diet food supply in 3 hours and 20 minutes.

I don't trip and fall, I do random gravity checks.

I may not be that funny, athletic, or good looking or smart or talented. I forgot where I was going with this. . . .

I see people my age mountain climbing. I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.

I thought growing older would take longer.

I'd grow my own food if only I could find bacon seeds.

If you can't think of a word, say "I forgot the English word for it. " That way people will think you're bilingual instead of forgetful (works for me).

I'm a multitasker. I can listen, ignore, and forget all at the same time!

I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.

It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.

It's weird being the same age as old people.

Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say, "Close enough."

Life is like a helicopter. I don't know how to operate a helicopter either.

My bucket list: keep breathing.

My doctor asked if anyone in my family suffered from mental illness. I said, "No, we all seem to enjoy it."

Never sing in the shower! Singing leads to dancing, dancing leads to slipping, and slipping leads to paramedics seeing you naked. So, remember... don't sing!

One minute you're young and fun. Next, you're turning down the car stereo to see better.

Retirement to do list: Wake up. Nailed it!

Some people are like clouds, once they disappear it's a beautiful day.

Some people you're glad to see coming; some people you're glad to see going.

Sometimes it takes me all day to get nothing done.

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story anyway.

When I was a kid, I wanted to be older... This is not what I expected.



Please stay safe, healthy, get both of your inoculations and booster shots, wear your masks inside in public and don't hug strangers. Look forward to the great times we will have together again on the MANY fabulous PORSCHE tours in 2022. Please register for one of our **USA PORSCHE Tours** – we all need to get out now and have some fun! All the best to you, Peter