



**Item:** Fast Lane #10 in 2022 Petergram (#104 since 2020)  
**Date:** **Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 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:** **The Ukraine Effect; A Sinking Ship Full of Porsches; and Let's Get Back into Travel**

**I. In the NEWS:**

**A. The Ukraine Effect – My Comments:** This invasion has underscored that while the world is becoming more unified electronically; you still have governments out there with a 12<sup>th</sup>-century mentality who believe that physical force is the solution to international disagreements. Vladimir Putin was born in 1952 and apparently missed part of world history class. Are we back in 1938 now? I feel deeply for those families who are impacted and for a whole country that tasted freedom. It brings up very painful and scary remnants of my childhood memories of WW II. Where is Ronald Reagan when we need him? In my daily conversations with various folks in Germany, one of the executives I spoke to expressed concern about additional delays in car productions. Apparently, one of Russia's key exports is palladium, along with South Africa supplies approximately 33% of global demand, according to Techcet market research. Palladium is used for catalytic converters in automobile manufacturing. Palladium turns toxic gases, like carbon monoxide, into less dangerous nitrogen, carbon dioxide and water vapor. Is there anything else that can possibly happen to our business? Apparently, yes.

**B. Ship sinks with thousands of luxury cars:** The WSJ reports The Felicity Ace had caught fire last month, destroying thousands of Porsches, Bentley, and VW's.

*By William Boston Updated March 1, 2022 12:58 pm ET*

BERLIN—A cargo ship that [caught fire last month](#) with thousands of luxury vehicles on board sank Tuesday morning, the ship's management company said. MOL Ship Management Singapore Pte Ltd, which owns the company that operates the ship, said the Felicity Ace sank around 9 a.m. local time about 220 nautical miles (253 miles) off Portugal's Azores islands after it began to take on water and tilt to one side. The Panama-flagged 60,000-ton merchant ship carrying around 4,000 luxury cars—including models from [Porsche](#), Bentley, Audi, Lamborghini and other [Volkswagen AG](#) brands—caught fire in February and burned intensely for days.

SMIT Salvage, the Dutch company charged with salvaging the ship, sent a team of large oceangoing tugboats to the scene and [was towing the vessel](#) to safety when it sank. Salvage crews and the Portuguese navy had said that the intensity of the fire might be explained by [a large number of electric vehicles](#) on board. Some batteries are known to be flammable and burn at high temperature when they combust, making such a blaze hard to extinguish.

The Felicity Ace fire is one of the first on board a major vehicle carrier loaded with a substantial cargo of electric vehicles. The incident has sparked debate among insurers and regulators about how to safely transport such vehicles, a question that will gain urgency [as EVs become more widespread](#). While the cause of the fire on the Felicity Ace might never be known because the ship is lying at the bottom of the ocean, experts say there is a danger that batteries in electric cars can short circuit and catch fire. That could mean that precautions not relevant for conventional vehicles might have to be taken into account during transport, regulators said. After the blaze stopped, [Volkswagen](#) had said it expected "that large parts of the nearly 4,000 vehicles from several group brands were so damaged in the ship fire that they can no longer be

delivered.” [Volkswagen](#) declined to comment on the value of the cargo. Incident insurance experts Russell Group Ltd. estimated that the cargo on board the Felicity Ace was worth about \$438 million, of which the cars on board accounted for about \$401 million. Russell estimated that VW could face losses of at least \$155 million.

**C. GOOD NEWS: Americans Are Emerging From the Pandemic Ready to Splurge on Events and Travel** More consumers are hitting theme parks, dining out and booking hotel rooms, companies say. Source: **WSJ**, By Will Feuer, Feb. 17, 2022 5:33 am ET.

More Americans are satisfying their wanderlust and spending big to do it, companies say. With daily new Covid-19 cases falling, restrictions easing and the strongest consumer finances in recent history, Americans are finally emerging from the pandemic eager to splurge on everything from travel and sports events to restaurants, cruises and theme parks, executives say. “Premium customers, who after being cooped up for 2020 and the first part of 2021, are traveling and spending again with a vengeance,” Wynn Resorts Ltd. Chief Executive Craig Billings said Tuesday of the latest quarter. As more Americans travel, Marriott is seeing greater demand for its high-end properties, CEO Anthony Capuano said on a conference call with analysts Tuesday. At Walt Disney Co’s theme parks, business came roaring back in the most recent quarter, with revenue from both domestic and international parks more than doubling year-over-year. Attendance is still short of pre-pandemic levels, but those who are showing up are spending as much as 40% more per capita than in 2019, Chief Financial Officer Christine McCarthy said last week. “We’ve got really strong domestic demand,” CEO Bob Chapek told analysts. As more Americans venture out, some venues are dropping mask requirements. Disney said that starting Thursday, masks will be optional for fully vaccinated visitors at Disney’s outdoor and indoor locations, except for enclosed transportation.”

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*Appeared in the February 18, 2022, print edition as 'Americans Start Splurging On Travel and Experiences'*

**My Comment:** “I look forward to all of you coming back with lots of friends to Fast Lane Travel.”

2022 Fast Lane PORSCHE Trips in Current Planning V-104							
Code	From	Date	To	Date	PORSCHE Tour	Highlight	pp Dble
STR	Mon	2-May	Sat	7-May	PCA Spring PORSCHE TREFFEN in Stuttgart	Autobahn Driving	\$ 5,998
TAP	Tue	31-May	Thu	9-Jun	Twelve Alpine Passes PORSCHE Fest	Alpine Driving	\$ 12,998
LEM	Sun	5-Jun	Mon	13-Jun	The 90th 24-Hours of Le Mans Luxury Tour	Pit Pass, "50-yard line"	\$ 18,498
GRC	Sat	27-Aug	Thu	8-Sep	German Romantic Castles - Baltic Sea	Huge Success in '21	\$ 16,598
FTR	Sun	11-Sep	Sat	17-Sep	Original PCA Fall PORSCHE TREFFEN Stuttgart	Factory & Museum	\$ 6,498
CAR	Tue	20-Sep	Thu	29-Sep	USA Carolinas Fall Colors - Tail of the Dragon	Huge Success in '20	\$ 11,698
SWI	Tue	20-Sep	Sat	1-Oct	Swiss Alps & the Italian Dolomites	in production	\$ 15,698
AUS	Wed	21-Sep	Sat	1-Oct	Come Home to two Peters' Austria	NEW Luxury Experience	in design
TPF	Mon	3-Oct	Sat	15-Oct	Tuscany PORSCHE Fest & Interlpen	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
TPF2	Wed	12-Oct	Sun	23-Oct	Tuscany PORSCHE Fest & Interlpen #2	Almost SOLD OUT	\$ 15,498
RWW	Sat	29-Oct	Tue	8-Nov	USA Romantic Wild West - fabulous sunsets	Huge Success in '21	\$ 11,998
XMS	Fri	2-Dec	Mon	12-Dec	Stuttgart X-Mas Market & Cruise to Vienna/Budapest	10 Christmas Markets	from \$5,200

**II. 2022 European PORSCHE Tours UPDATE:**

It looks like European travel is getting back to normal. Thankfully, folks are eager and ready to get out and enjoy life again. On the **PCA Spring PORSCHE TREFFEN** in Stuttgart I can still accommodate about 2 couples. On the **Twelve Alpine Passes** we

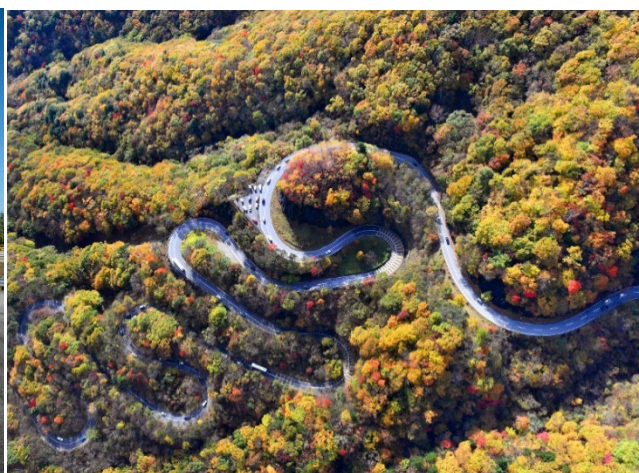
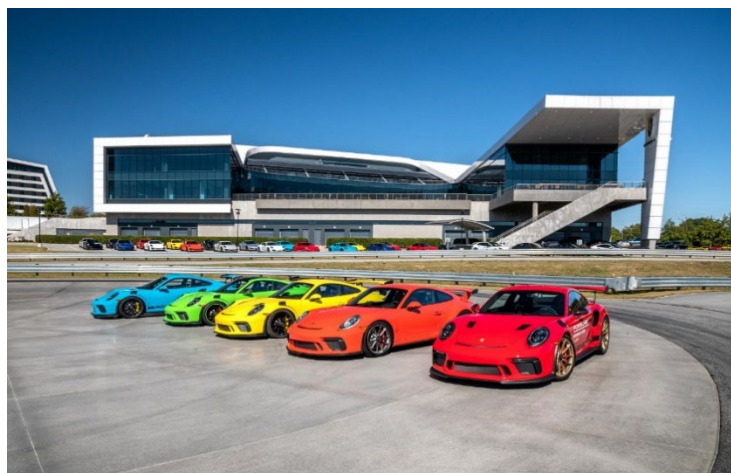


have two groups of 6 couples each, but we have space for more. Don't forget about Le Mans – it's the 90<sup>th</sup> running of the race. It's expensive, but as they say, worth it. It's THE most inclusive and luxurious Le Mans Race trip you can imagine. We include the Normandy Beaches, wine tasting, a drive around the track with a curve-by-curve description by Robin Donovan who drove the race 14 times. You are in the paddock with the drivers; pit passes; helicopter over the track during the race; Mulsanne night visit; luxurious chateau 15 minutes from the track. There is no other experience like it.

III. **2022 USA Tours:** By popular demand I am offering the wonderful and hugely successful **Romantic Wild West PORSCHE Fest** – check it out on our website [www.fastlanetravel.com](http://www.fastlanetravel.com) or just call us at 813 343 3001 or e-mail us at [info@fastlanetravel.com](mailto:info@fastlanetravel.com) – Thank you.



For the folks who want to experience John Wayne's Wild West and be awed by THE amazing scenery – you must join us on the **Romantic Wild West PORSCHE Fest** from Sat. Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> to Tue. Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> – It was by far THE most fun and successful PORSCHE Fest last year – **DON'T MISS THIS wonderful Experience. I'd like six more couples to sign up for this trip.**



Furthermore, we are getting the most calls right now for the luxurious **Carolinas PORSCHE Fest**, Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss our day at the PORSCHE Track in Atlanta; "German" Helen, GA; Romantic Highlands and, of

course; the challenging and beautiful **Tail of the Dragon** – America's favorite mountain road in the East.

Despite the fact that the rest of Europe is following into Switzerland's footsteps, if Europe is not for you this year – then please don't miss our spectacular and successful **US PORSCHE Tours!**

**IV. My Final Thoughts: Volker Gempt's Message.** Many of you have met and know



our good friend and colleague Volker Gempt. He, and his lovely wife Nobuko, have been on many trips with us, guiding customers on the Autobahn and through the Alps. His many years of experience with the PORSCHE Company have been the source of wonderful stories of the "old days." I, like many of you, are dog lovers.

**Yesterday I received this e-mail from**

**Volker:** "Hi, sad to have to inform

you that our Labrador-Lady 'Baby-San,' after giving us joy and affection for over 14 years, walked peacefully in her sleep over the 'rainbow bridge' into the 'eternal hunting grounds' to join her many wildlife friends. We miss her...😞 Volker.

**V. My Comment:** Dear Volker and Nobuko, on behalf of the whole Fast Lane Family, we share your grief and extend our condolences. We feel your pain and sadness. Over the years I have lost 2 yellow labs, Homer (16) and Cortland (8). I now have Maddie (12) who displays her love by bringing me her toys when I come home from work and is grateful when I take her on our daily runs through the woods. Dear Volker and Nobuko, next time you are in Florida with us, Maddie is yours 24/7.



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