



Item: Fast Lane #26 in 2022 Petergram (#121 since 2020)
Date: **Saturday, June 25^h 2022**
From: Peter writing on Wednesday, June 22nd 2022 sitting in seat 1G on an AB350-900 on Lufthansa 4401 TPA-FRA, operated by Finnair. He then continues writing from regal and beautiful Vienna, Austria, where Peter was born.
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: **A report from beautiful Austria**

I. **Austria** wasn't beautiful when I was born here on April 25th, 1943. My kids have asked me to write a book about my life. Here is an excerpt of the Vienna where and when I was born: The captain of the US Air Force lead B-17 in the first squadron took off from Foggia, Italy at 12:05 am in the pitch-black darkness of Friday, March 17th, 1944, guiding his bomber group towards today's target, Vienna, Austria. Eleven more squadrons followed the leader. The objective of the bombing raid was Floridsdorf, the Southeastern suburb of Vienna known for its industry, oil fields and oil refining plants including storage tanks.

I suppose most people do not remember much about their lives before they were four or five years old other than, perhaps, very traumatic, or painful experiences. In my case I remember the sirens – those awful undulating wailing penetrating sirens announcing impending death; the bombings; and subsequently being surrounded by the invalids . . . all the people hobbling on one leg, missing arms, blind or burned beyond recognition. I grew up in a theater of the absurd, Kafkaesque panoply of freaks.

The shock waves of the anti-aircraft gunneries from the FLAK (**F**lieger **A**bwehr **K**anone) tower up on Gumpendorferstrasse, the road leading to the village of Gumpendorf and behind the Messepalast (fair grounds exhibition building) could be felt in the Naschmarkt District where we lived. Around 04:00 am the piercing, wailing, undulating scream of the air raid sirens started. As the first wave of flying fortresses dropped their explosive loads the crescendo of detonations, screams, the grinding gnarled sound of buildings collapsing burying all the content and suffocating the inhabitants, who in all likelihood have probably fled to the basement for shelter, had started. As always, I was yanked out of my crib; hurriedly swaddled into a blanket and carried way downstairs. We then were huddled three stories underground at Linke Wienzeile 6 (left lane along the river Wien) in the basement of the "Theater an der Wien," where we lived. People were sitting more or less in fetal positions, with tucked up knees, in the deep underground basement by candlelight. It seemed like it was snowing inside – no it was the dust raining from the arched basement ceiling as the bombs' shock waves shook loose a century of stucco, mold and cobwebs. I was 11 months old surrounded by deafening noise, perennial agony, fear and death. My mother told me I never cried during the bombings – I don't know why – perhaps because she always held me very close – it felt secure, furthermore, I think her fear was diminished by holding me. It's not easy for me to write this- I'm omitting some gruesome parts which still haunt me as I write this.

II. Austria Today: You may be wondering . . . there is no PORSCHE trip scheduled. What is Peter doing in Austria? Well, I'm very lucky, I have an amazing family who asked me to show my grandkids: Billie Maple Sonenberg (9) and Lukas Morgen Sontag (8) the Austria where I was born and lived until I was 17 when I had this magnificent opportunity to come to the US. My daughter, Alicia and her sister Julie and Julies' husband David decided that it was time to spend some time in Austria for some **living family history experiences**. Vienna, yes is regal and beautiful. It has been completely rebuilt and it is THE most beautiful capital in Europe. About 2000 years ago it was a Roman garrison: Vindobona, about a day's march northwest of the then Roman capital Carnuntum, which today is a little village in Burgenland, near the Hungarian Border, but with remnants of a Colosseum. I guess the Romans couldn't do without their entertainment even in their conquered Gaul. In Vienna, the magnificent treelined boulevard, the Ringstrasse, traces the medieval city wall. There is nothing like it anywhere else in Europe. Not only is Vienna a center for art, cuisine, international meetings, but it's also a place with lots of things to do for kids.

On the Austrian Airlines Flight OS 130, from FRA to VIE, the flight attendants handed out little disinfectant packets. Notice the greeting on the package. Loosely translated it means "Hello, freshness".

In Hawaii it's Aloha, in Italy it's Ciao, in France Bon Jour, in Austria its "Servus". For those of you who remember your Latin – Servus means Slave. It's the root for Engls words such as servce, is the only country in the world where people greet each other as slaves. This goes back about 2,000 years when the Romans had conquered all of Gaul up to the Danube

River. Thus, when a Roman Praetorian, for example, commanded a local to perform a task, he would call: "Servus, come here and shine my armo" or whatever. So the Astriand then assumed that "servus" was a greeting and to this day it is the colloquial "hello" when greeting a friend in Austria. Yes, my ancestors were slaves.

In the Tampa Bay suburb of Dunedin, Florida, right on the Gulf of Mexico, THE very best restaurant in town is "**Bon Appétite**" owned and managed by a fellow Austrian from Salzbrg: Peter Kreuziger: <https://bonappetitrestaurant.com/>. In 2023 Peter and I decided that in 2023 we will offer an amazing private and exclusive tour of Austria, driving PORSCHEs from **Munich** to the legendary 5-star (should be six) **Hotel**

Interlpen in Tirol; then on to "Sound of Music" **Salzburg**; from there to te beautiful "Green Heart" of Austria: **Steiermark**; and on to **Vienna**. Peter Kreuziger and I are planning this fabulous trip to Austria: Sunday, August 28th to Thursday September 7th 2023. More details to come. Just mark



your schedule for the moment. This “**Come Home to Two Peters’ Austria**” will be an unprecedented “insiders” experience, you could never duplicate on your own.

III. Balance of 2022: The PORSCHE Factory expects more enthusiasm from the PCA with a bigger turnout for the traditional **FALL TREFFEN to Stuttgart**. It’s an exhilarating experience to enjoy a day in Zuffenhausen at the awesome **PORSCHE Museum** and be able to get a very rare tour of the **PORSCHE Factory**. In addition, we spend a couple days driving a PORSCHE on the Autobahn, in the Bavarian Mountains and across the Austrian Alps. It’s a very rare treat to get invited by PORSCHE. Get a group together from your local PCA Region and enjoy unequalled hospitality and an amazing PORSCHE Experience. **Come on, check it off your bucket list!**

IV. Our US PORSCHE Fest trips are a very attractive option for you if Europe is not in the cards for you this year. So, drive your own PORSCHE, Corvette, ’62 Cadillac, Lexus or whatever, to our superbly planned and organized **Carolinas** and **Romantic Wild West** tours. We conduct both US trips in THE most desirable time of the year in each location. The **Fall Colors of the Carolinas**. If you don’t want to bring your own car, we will assist you to rent one from PORSCHE Drive Atlanta or the Phoenix PORSCHE Dealer. Please check out these links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coKJcvb0nII> and this one <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8tGOBhxkdQ>

V. 2023 Fast Lane PORSCHE Tours Forecast:

2023 Planned Fast Lane PORSCHE Tours:						
From	Date	To	Date	PORSCHE Tour	Highlights	
Fri	21-Apr	Wed	26-Apr	Original PCA Spring PORSCHE TREFFEN Stuttgart	Factory & Museum	
Sun	23-Apr	Thu	4-May	NEW: From Munich to Amazing Croatia	Alps, Gmünd & Adriatic Coast	
Sat	3-Jun	Mon	12-Jun	HUGE: The 100th 24-Hours of Le Mans Luxury Tour	Paddock, Pit Pass, Tribune	
Wed	7-Jun	Fri	16-Jun	REPEAT: Twelve Alpine Passes PORSCHE Fest	Awesome Scenery & Fun	
Sat	8-Jul	Mon	17-Jul	Our 5th: Colorado Rocky Mountain High	The BEST of the Rockies	
Sun	28-Aug	Thu	7-Sep	NEW: Come Home to Two Peters' Austria	An unequalled private tour	
Mon	11-Sep	Sun	17-Sep	Original PCA Fall PORSCHE TREFFEN Stuttgart	Factory & Museum	
Wed	20-Sep	Sun	1-Oct	Our 3rd: Fast Lane Alpine Adventure	Repeated by Popular Requ.	
Tue	3-Oct	Sun	15-Oct	Our 12th: Tuscany PORSCHE Fest & Interlpen	Our Annual Favorite	
in planning - early December				NEW: Christmas Markets in Germany & Austria	Starting in Stuttgart to Vienna	

2022 Fast Lane PORSCHE Trips Still Available V-121						
From	Date	To	Date	PORSCHE Tour	Highlights & Status	pp Dble
Sun	11-Sep	Sat	17-Sep	Original PCA Fall PORSCHE TREFFEN Stuttgart	PORSCHE Factory	\$ 6,498
Tue	20-Sep	Thu	29-Sep	USA Carolinas Fall Colors - Tail of the Dragon	Spaces still Available	\$ 11,998
Mon	3-Oct	Sat	15-Oct	Tuscany PORSCHE Fest & Interlpen #1	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
Wed	12-Oct	Sun	23-Oct	Tuscany PORSCHE Fest & Interlpen #2	Register ASAP, selling out	\$ 15,498
Sat	29-Oct	Tue	8-Nov	Romantic Wild West - THE best of the USA	Don't miss out on this trip	\$ 11,998

VI. My Final Thoughts: Dance Like No One's Watching

We convince ourselves that life will be better after we get married, have a baby, then another. Then we're frustrated that the kids aren't

old enough and we'll be more content when they are. After that, we're frustrated that we have teenagers to deal with. We will certainly be happy when they are out of that stage. We tell ourselves that our life will be complete when our spouse gets his or her act together when we get a nicer car, a bigger house, can go on a nice vacation, when we retire.

The truth is, there's no better time to be happy than right now. If not now, when? Your life will always be filled with challenges. It's best to admit this to yourself and decide to be happy anyway.

One of my favorite quotes comes from Alfred D. Souza. He said, "For a long time it had seemed to me that life was about to begin - real life. But there was always some obstacle in the way, something to be gotten through first, some unfinished business, time still to be served, a debt to be paid. Then life would begin. At last, it dawned on me that these obstacles WERE my life."

This perspective has helped me to see that there is no way to happiness. Happiness is the way.

So, treasure every moment that you have. And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time.

And remember that time waits for no one ... So, stop waiting until you finish school, until you go back to school, until you lose ten pounds, until you gain ten pounds, until you have kids, until your kids leave the house, until you start work, until you retire, until you get a new job, until you get married, until you get divorced, until Friday night, until Sunday morning, until you get that promotion, until you get a new car or home, until your car or home is paid off, until spring, until summer, until fall, until winter, until you are off welfare, until the first or fifteenth, until that project gets finished, until your song comes on, until you've had a drink, until you've sobered up, until you die, until you are born again, to decide that there is no better time than right now to be happy ...

Happiness is a journey, not a destination.

Thought for the day: "work like you don't need the money. Love like you've never been hurt, and dance like nobody's watching."

And that, my friends, is why I am taking time to **cherish a little time with my family in Vienna, Steiermark and Salzburg, Austria.**

Below are some random pictures I took of Austria that I thought you'd enjoy. . I'll include some pictures in my next Petergram.





Please stay safe, healthy, and look forward to the great times we will have together again on the remaining **PORSCHE** tours in 2022 and the fabulous tours planned for 2023. Please register for one of our **2022 USA PORSCHE** Tours – You really must get out now and have some fun! All the best to you, Peter

