



**Item:** Fast Lane #27 in 2022 Petergram (#122 since 2020)  
**Date:** **Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022**  
**From:** Peter writing from Vienna, Müzzzuschlag and Salzburg, Austria  
**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: Report from beautiful Austria continued:** Vienna has returned to its regal splendor. The City Executives have created “green” oases in the city; closed various roads to motorized traffic (like London had done about a dozen years ago); built additional underground garages; and permitted restaurants to utilize the sidewalks for additional customers’ tables. One can truly feel the new vibrancy and Lebenslust of the whole city.

**I. Report from Austria continued – Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> 2022:** Hans Pfisterer and I took the U-Bahn (very fast and efficient) to the Westbahnhof Train Station to the SIXT Rental Car Company to pick up our Mercedes Van which comfortably holds 4 adults, 2 kids and luggage. We faced a small issue in that the Navigation System was in Italian and that the map did not have North Orientation, which I prefer. Let me just say that the PORSCHE NAVI system is more user friendly – maybe I’m just used to it? We got both issues sorted out with the help of the Bosnian counter staff. From there we drove to the Naschmarkt, the Theater an der Wien, and then to the Prater amusement park. All key locations in my childhood that I wanted to show my grandkids, Billie and Lukas. While the Innenstadt (the town center) has retained its charm plus now added the inevitable **Louis**

**Vuitton, Gucci and Cartier** shops.

**Notice** the roped off queue outside the Cartier shop. I want to be in a business where people stand in line to give me money. The outlying areas have grown with skyscrapers and entire lower-Manhattan-looking-business centers



**II. Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> 2022:** Today is the BIG Day when my family arrives with the grandkids. Hans Pfisterer picked me up promptly at 7:00 am for their 7:50 arrival on OS 90 at 07:50 from EWR after a relaxing eight-hour overnight flight on a comfortable Boeing 767ER. The plane was on time, and we stood outside luggage/customs with

the obligatory **Fast Lane Travel** sign. I was elated to see Billie and Lukas and, of course, their parents arriving in the town where I was born. Parking is really easy at VIE Airport. We packed up everybody into our Mercedes Van and headed into town. We arrived at the **Hotel Europa** on the Neuer Markt Platz and Kärntnerstrasse. Luckily the rooms were ready – which is not always the case when you come off a trans-Atlantic flight, because check out time is noon. That's why on our PORSCHE trips, particularly for the folks from the West Coast (9-hour time difference) we recommend that you book the room the night before to guarantee availability at early morning check in, especially on weekday arrivals. **Why did I choose the four-star Hotel Europa?** Here is why. Let me share another vignette from the book I'm writing for my kids.

**Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022: I'll finish our wonderful vacation details next week after I'm back in the US.** In the meanwhile enjoy my history with the Hotel Europa:

### **#17 Forget Academia – Hotel Business Apprenticeship – this is Peter at age 14**

In Austria in 1957, at age 14, one had to appear in front of a panel of wise old men who would determine one's future. I remember standing in front of a long table in a bright, sterile room with high ceilings, as all older monarchy buildings in Austria had high ceilings, somewhere "im dritten Bezirk" in some type of "Amt". The three men behind the table laden with "Akte" (files) wore white lab coats, were bald and fat for the most part and scrutinized me occasionally over the rims of their glasses. One of them had a pointed beard. My mother was sitting on a bench outside in the hall waiting for the verdict. I was standing. There was no accommodation for seating made for the Schüler (middle school student).

This was the place apparently where my life's path would be decided. The options were to continue my studies by entering high school, i.e. Hauptschule or the even the prestigious Gymnasium in Austria, which prepared one for the ever so important Matura Prüfung, the Academic High School Diploma – equivalent to a sophomore level college education in the U.S. The verdict was for me to do neither but go into a "Lehre" an apprenticeship to learn a vocation. I overheard them whisper to each other something to the effect that he doesn't look "slow" or "minderwertig" (the Austrian term at that time: worth-less-than-normal, i.e., somewhat retarded). They then asked me to walk back and forth. I complied and walked back and forth erectly in front of them. I overheard one of them say to the others "Er geht sehr stramm – sieht gut aus" (he walks nicely – looks good).



They then all agreed that I would be placed into an apprenticeship as Kellner, i.e., my life's destiny would be to be a waiter serving customers. Academia was foreclosed for me. How could I possibly continue further education – I was told already that I had no chance of ever learning to speak English. I wasn't upset at all – it sounded great. I

heard waiters make great tips and besides I fondly remembered the customer service experience from my Liegebetten days at the Hotel Panhans. I now needed a place to accept me as an apprentice.

Austria at that time was being rediscovered as a beautiful country with cute people that dressed funny in Lederhosen or Dirndls and had a renowned music history. Towns and the infrastructure were being re-built from the destruction of the war. New hotels were sprouting and an international visitor boom was anticipated. Beethoven, Mozart, the Strausses, Mahler, Brahms, Schubert and many others – it was a musical Disney world. Somebody in Vienna also figured out that if we clean up the place, sandblast some of the buildings and plant some flowers – they will come. And they came in droves.

My mother, through her contacts, found me an apprenticeship placement at a new hotel that would be completed in June 1957 the Hotel Europa right between the Kärntner Strasse and the Neuer Markt square. I interviewed with Direktor Zartl, the General Manager designee once the hotel would be completed. My acceptance was a foregone conclusion and I would enter the hotel business as a page boy and work my way up. Looking back, apprenticeships were basically legalized semi-slavery. If you didn't get into academia you had to complete a 3-year apprenticeship, no matter what craft you chose, to get a "journeyman" certificate. Then after a few years as "journeyman" you then took the "master's exam" that if passed successfully would enable you to get a Gewerbeschein (a business competence certificate to operate a specific business, i.e., a license) and open a business in your craft. We worked anywhere from 48 to 60 hours a week. Every Tuesday we got off to go to the Gastgewerbeschule – hotel business school. For the most part we worked 10 to 12 hours a day. The pay was 300 Schilling a month (then \$12) plus all the meals while you were on duty plus tips and your work jacket and slacks cleaned and pressed once a week. The white gloves I needed I had to buy myself.

**III. 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

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	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	<b>SOLD OUT</b>
Wed	12-Oct	Sun	23-Oct	Tuscany PORSCHE Fest & Interlpen #2	Register ASAP, <b>selling out</b>	\$ 15,498
Sat	29-Oct	Tue	8-Nov	Romantic Wild West - THE best of the USA	<b>Don't miss out on this trip</b>	\$ 11,998



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=coKJcwb0nII> and this one <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8tGOBhxdQ>

## 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

## VI. My Final Thoughts:

***This is what we, who are aged 70 or 80 years plus, can look forward to.***

This is something that happened at an assisted living center. The people who lived there had small apartments but they all ate at a central cafeteria. One morning one of the residents didn't show up for breakfast so my wife went upstairs and knocked on his door to see if everything was OK. She could hear him through the door and he said that he was running late and would be down shortly, so she went back to the dining area.



An hour later he still hadn't arrived, so she went back up towards his room but found him on the stairs. He was coming down the stairs but was having a hard time. He had a death grip on the hand rail and seemed to have trouble getting his legs to work right. She told him she was going to call an ambulance but he told her no, he wasn't in any pain and just wanted to have his breakfast. So, she helped him the rest of the way down the stairs and he had his breakfast. When he tried to return to his room, he was completely unable to get up even the first stair step, so they called an ambulance for him.

A couple of hours later she called the hospital to see how he was doing. The receptionist there said he was fine, he just had both of his legs in one side of his boxer shorts.

I'm sending this to my children so that they don't sell the house before they know all the facts.

**VII. A Personal Note:** And that, my friends, is why I continue taking time to **cherish a little time with my family in Vienna, Mürzzuschlag, Steiermark and Salzburg, Austria.**

Below are some more random pictures I took of Austria that I thought you'd enjoy. I'll include some more pictures in my next Petergram. The picture with the dog is a new Austrian invention – the Dog Safe. A lovely dinner table at the Villa Lambach in Mürzzuschlag, Austria. I've also included a wonderful view from the Villa Lambach in Mürzzuschlag, the town in Steiermark where my mother was born. Plus a view from the Salzburg Fortress south onto the city. And for those of you who have met Gerald Pairitsch, our Austrian State Trooper, he took off a day in Mürzzuschlag to guide us around and was able to join us for dinner. He also guided my grandkids through a new magical forest – perfect for kids. Lukas and Billie picked wild blueberries and strawberries in the forest. Their flavors are indescribably intense. It was wonderful for me because that is exactly what my grandfather, my Opa, used to do. It's also lovely to be welcomed back to Salzburg with flowers and fruits in your room. My friend Franz Winter sent a horse drawn "Fiaker" to drive us around old town Salzburg. For dinner my friend Richard Stocker drove us to the lake across from the "Sound of Music" Castle. What a delight.







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