



Item: Fast Lane 9<sup>th</sup> in 2023 Petergram (#156 since 2020)  
Date: **Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 2023**  
From: Peter 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, Japan, Singapore, South Africa and in the USA!  
Subjects: Trip of the Week: TUSCANY; Two NEW and IMPROVED PORSCHE Trips; My Final Thoughts: Perks of being 70.

- I. Featured Trip of the Week: The 2023 **TUSCANY** PORSCHE Fest – THE best time of the year to be there. Cooking Class & Wine Tasting: Mon. Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> to Sat. Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> 2023. It'll be our 12<sup>th</sup> year of conducting this magnificent Italian

**Porsche experience.**



Sitting on the terrace at **Casali di Bibbiano**, enjoying dinner with a magnificent sunset and the town of Montalcino across the valley, one of the guests exclaimed: "This is like living in a painting." Our Tuscany Experience is amazing not only because of the estate's location but also because of the great excursions we have planned for you to **Siena, Florence** and awesome **Montepulciano**. This, of course

is a medieval town, surrounded by a city wall. High up on the top of the town is the renowned cathedral and city hall on revered Piazza Grande. Of course, there are absolutely no cars allowed inside the city (only delivery vehicles from 7 to 9). Guess who parks **14 PORSCHEs with a police escort** on **Piazza Grande**? In addition, we visit the Roman Baths at **Bagno Vignoni** Hot Springs, the beautiful **Abbey Benedittina Olivetana** right outside the town of **Buonconvento**. Of course, we have privileged parking there inside the Abbe – no need to park outside and hike in like tourists have to. You are on a Fast Lane Travel trip! You'll love the **Photo Rally** with "valuable" prizes from the Stuttgarter Flea Market. Please go to <https://fastlanetravel.com/make-reservation/> Nothing underscores the delight of our Tuscany PORSCHE FEST than comments from last year's customers. Next page:



"Dear Peter, Guides and Staff Jacoy and I cannot thank you all for one of the most amazing European trips we have ever been on. I had heard that Peter's trips were good, **but this one was beyond my expectation.** The cars, the planned routes, the lodging, and the food were fantastic. Each day, each event and each briefing were so well organized. The gifts each night delivered to our rooms with a card, with the upcoming event for next day was very much appreciated. The Mercedes and Porsche Museum tours were so valuable to get the history of each company success and passion for what they do. The factory tours and the amazing lunch at the Porsche dining room was so much fun and informative. A special thanks to Fabian and Gerald for their great leadership and coaching to get us all to exceed our personal limits and becoming members of the 150 mph Club. The trip was spectacular, and we appreciate all of your efforts to make this adventure so wonderful. We look forward to our next trip with Fast Lane Travel. Thank you, **Craig and Jacoy K., Utah**"



II. Presenting Two **NEW and IMPROVED PORSCHE** trips, brought back by popular demand.

A. Our awesome **COLORADO PORSCHE Fest** – **currently in production.** **Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> to Thursday July 20<sup>th</sup> 2023** – We'll be starting in Colorado Springs, Garden of the Gods, **United States Air Force Academy** (if open – it wasn't in 2021). Then we head west to the breathtaking **Gateway Canyon** area; Durango; the Million Dollar Highway, our Photo Rally to the Rim Rock Canyon; a visit to our **Mountain Man** in McCoy; my absolute favorite road in the US is CO 134 – nothing else like it. We are ending at the **Ritz Carlton**, Bachelor's Gulch in Avon, Colorado. We will organize car shipping to/from the PORSCHE Dealer in Littleton. I am estimating the **cost** to be \$15,998 for one person, or \$23,998 for two sharing a suite. Of course, all meals, parking, a luggage van, car washes, and even gasoline are included. **Before we make reservations and deposits – I need a handle on how many will be participating. Please shoot me an e-mail: [peter@fastlanetravel.com](mailto:peter@fastlanetravel.com) that you are in.** I need at least **12 couples** to amortize the fixed costs and secure the rooms/suites at the hotels – it's THE perfect time of year in Colorado.



**B. 2023 Christmas Markets from Stuttgart to Vienna – currently in production.** We start in Stuttgart; bullet trains to Munich, Salzburg and Vienna. **Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**Stuttgart Christmas Market report of 2022, by Johny Varsami in Stuttgart**

First mentioned in 1692 the Stuttgarter Christmas Market is with 4 million visitors per year one of the oldest and biggest Christmas markets in Germany. After two years of the COVID forced break (last year it was even cancelled while it was almost built up!) it was officially opened in the courtyard of the Old Castle by the mayor and with a concert of the Hymnus Boys' Choir. Some of you might already have enjoyed their wonderful singing during a Fast Lane trip.



This time everybody is thirsty to make up for the missing Glühwein of the last two years and as the virus is no threat anymore there are no COVID rules and restrictions. The Christmas market is as crowded as it was before the pandemic, maybe even more! And although the inflation has also reached the Christmas market – the Glühwein price raised to insane 4 Euro – it doesn't seem to prevent the people from celebrating Christmas. Also because of the extremely high energy costs the lightning of the big Christmas trees was reduced by 50% and the ice rink was transformed to a roller-skating rink, but at the same time a huge Ferris wheel was placed in front of the New Castle on Schlossplatz – doesn't make much sense.

For those who don't only go to the Christmas market to get drunk like me, there is also a great variety of typical and not so typical Christmas foods like waffles, Lebkuchen (gingerbread), stollen, baked apples, roasted almonds, chestnuts, Baumstriezel, stockfish, Kässpätzle, Maultaschen and the so much requested Bratwurst (20 inches long!). The famous Stuttgarter Stäffele (remember the onion soup served inside an onion?) also has its own stand (but I don't go there because they want 4,50 Euro for their Glühwein!). On the Karlsplatz where Peter and I are usually buying the "valuable" prizes for the photo rally there is a Finnish Christmas market where they prepare salmon on open fire and serve Nordic Glühwein (Glögi) inside a tipi tent.

Apart from drinks and food you can find stands with the usual Christmas decoration, but also handcrafted objects that are typical German like the famous Christmas pyramids and nutcracker dolls from the Erzgebirge (Ore Mountains). There is also a long tradition of selling everyday objects like brooms, soaps, socks and all kind of stuff made of leather and sheep wool.

Finally, a short note about celebrating Christmas in Germany. Unlike in the US, children here already get their presents in the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> (Bescherung). They are placed beneath the Christmas tree which is traditionally put up on the same day. In order to reduce stress people now put the tree up a couple days in advance. If you have a car you can drive to a Christmas tree farm and chop it on your own, but usually the tree farmers come into the cities and set up selling points on a square in each district, so that you don't have to carry it in the subway or bus.



**Christmas market opening in the courtyard of the Old Castle**





**The main gate to the Stuttgarter Christmas Market.**



**View of the Schillerplatz (Schiller Square) which is the location of the Flower Market when we are there in the spring or fall on Saturdays.**



**View of the Marktplatz (Market Square)**



**Christmas market stand of the Stuttgarter Stäffele – our favorite Restaurant.**



Finally, some Glühwein and the inevitable Bratwurst.



Roasted Mackerel from the North Sea



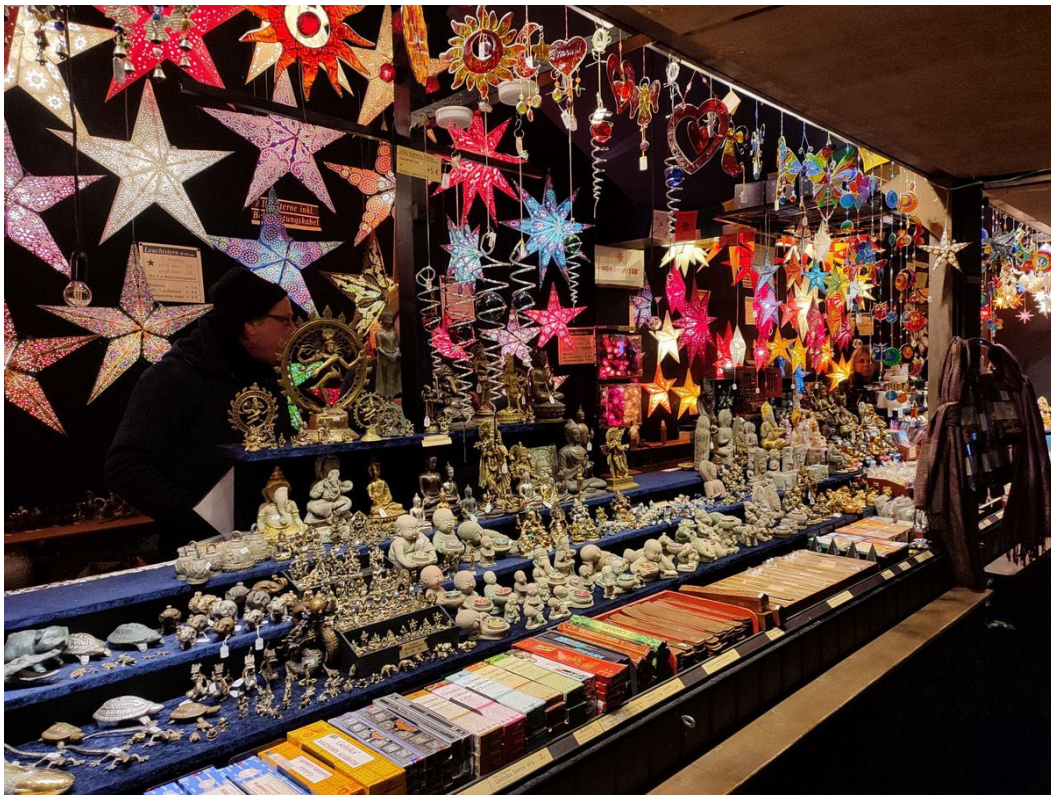
Your Glühwein Mug with your Name



**Finnish Salmon**



**The famous Dresdner Christmas Stollen Cake . . . Fabulous**



**Christmas decorations**



**Door stoppers**



**Handcrafted from the Erzgebirge Region in northern Germany.**



**Marshmallows for the kids & St. Nicklaus, not Sant Claus, in Germany**

Please plan on coming with me to Germany and Austria this Christmas 2023. Again, an email from you to [peter@fastlanetravel.com](mailto:peter@fastlanetravel.com) expressing your interest and/or your participation would be greatly appreciated **as it helps us enormously in the planning.** Every hotel is willing to block rooms, up to a point – but they all want to know – how many are coming? It's a little hard for me to answer that until I have a better understanding of your desire to experience Europe during this pre-Christmas season. You'll love it. Thank you, Peter

#### IV. My Final Thoughts: **Perks of being over 70!**

- Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
- In a hostage situation, you are likely to be released first.
- No one expects you to run anywhere.
- People call at 9 PM (or 9 AM) and ask, "Did I wake you?"
- People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
- There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
- Things you buy now won't wear out.
- You can eat supper at 4 PM.
- You can live without sex but not your glasses.
- You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
- You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
- You sing along with elevator music.
- Your eyes won't get much worse.
- Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
- Your joints are more accurate meteorologists.
- Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
- Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.
- You can't remember if you have seen this list before.
- **AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING: Never, NEVER, NEVER , under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill, and a laxative on the same night!**
- **Good friends are like stars...You don't always see them, but you know they are always there!**



Please stay healthy, happy and take good care of yourself...Let's look forward to the great times we will have together again on one of the fabulous PORSCHE tours this year and help us plan for 2024. I hope to see you soon in Europe with me. Peter