



Item: Fast Lane #16<sup>th</sup> in 2023 Petergram (#163 since 2020)  
Date: **Saturday, April 15<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: The PCA Treffen is ready to roll; Lake Como, 12 Alpine Passes; An old blind Marine taps his way into a bar.

I. **Ready to Roll – “Los mit der grossen Freude in Stuttgart:”** Last week I told you that we are getting ready for the first trips to Europe – the wonderful **Spring PCA TREFFEN** (Treffen is the German word that the PCA adopted in the 50’s to name their annual sojourn to the “source” and it means to meet, get together, having fun). We re-established the Treffen Trips for the PCA in 1975, after a 13-year hiatus and, over the years, have adapted to the wishes of the PCA Members. I am leaving on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> for **my 225<sup>th</sup> PORSCHE Trip**. Guinness World Record Book where are you? To satisfy the PCA members’ requirements, we now offer **two variations** of the **PCA TREFFEN**:

**A. The Traditional PCA TREFFEN, which is a 7-day event and includes** Stuttgart



Airport and other local transfers; all hotels, all meals, all beer & wine with dinners (we discourage alcohol at lunch on the driving days), Furthermore, we have private reserved seating at the crazy Spring Oktoberfest (which customers in the past have viewed as THE trip highlight), and most importantly, you will enjoy a private tour of the **NEW PORSCHE Museum** and the rare privilege of a **PORSCHE Factory Tour**. In addition, you’ll drive on no-speed limit sections legally of the **German Autobahn** to the Bavarian Alps and spend one

night on the spectacular island of Lindau on Lake Constance in a 5-star hotel’s lake-view room. We also include tolls, parking, and all gasoline at currently \$10.80/gallon. The “traditional” Treffen appeals to the folks who have limited time or budget.

**B. The more popular PCA TREFFEN PLUS, which is a 10-day event and, as the**

name implies, includes all features of the Traditional PCA TREFFEN above plus a fabulous drive through **Switzerland to Italy’s Lake Como**. This trip also includes a **luggage van** accompanying the group; our legendary Weissach-designed **James Bond Photo Rally**; a **cruise** across **Lake Como to Bellagio**; and returning to Stuttgart via the ominous **Black Forest**.



**C. Please note three essential logistics and success elements:**

1. The reason **we include all gasoline** is that in Germany et al you cannot pay at the pump. It wastes too much time for each driver to go inside and pay. It's more efficient to line up all the cars, fill up one after the other, and then the guide goes inside to pay at the counter. The benefit of 45-years of experience is speaking.
2. Air fare is not included because participants come from all over Canada and the US, plus we have international participants, like a couple from New Zealand on the TREFFEN Plus, for example. The exception, when we can include air fares, is that when a **PCA Region gets a group together** to come on a trip, then we can **negotiate a group deal with the airlines**.
3. You have the advantage of a **choice of PORSCHE models** because you rent them directly from the PORSCHE Museum in Stuttgart. The rental is not included in the trip price because the primary reason is that folks prefer a choice anywhere from a Boxster to a Turbo S and the credit card points accrue to you. Our staff facilitates the rental for you.

**Comment from a happy PORSCHE rental customer:** *"I just wanted to comment on how easy it was to rent a new Porsche 911 4S for our **Tuscany Trip**. I was really surprised that I was able to complete the application, enter the credit card information and complete the process in less time than it usually takes me at my preferred major car rental company – as an elite member. It was so quick, I thought I might have missed something, but the car was ready and waiting, in my requested model, when we arrived in Zuffenhausen for delivery. What a fantastic trip driving that new 911 around Germany, Austria and Italy. Bill and Jo Ann H., Cincinnati, Ohio."*

- D. Speaking of Lake Como – fasten your Sticker Shock seat belt:** In **2017** at the magnificent **Grand Hotel Tremezzo**, directly on the Westshore of Lake Como, we paid **710** Euros/night for a lake-view room; plus 10% room tax; plus 38.50 Euros parking/day; and 14.00 Euros portage – **roughly \$975/night** Scroll forward to **2023** at the **Grand Hotel Tremezzo**. They now have raised their prices to **1,100** Euros/night, a **55% price increase**, translated with room tax, parking & portage, roughly **\$1,500/night** for a room. But it's lake view! Sweet dreams. You may recall **Econ 101** from your college days: when demand exceeds supply, then inevitably prices increase. There is a shortage of 5-star hotels at key destinations in Europe.
- E. Occasional Suggestion:** "Peter, why don't you plan a trip which includes less fancy places, like 3- or 4-star hotels? **My Answer:** When planning and conducting a PORSCHE trip, THE **single most important consideration is secure parking!** Typically, hotels in a fewer-star category do not have indoor or locked parking. Parking a \$200K+ PORSCHE on the street is not an option at Fast Lane. Let me illustrate my point. **Firstly**, several years ago a couple picked up a new Turbo S Euro Delivery. They just wanted to enjoy their drive; see magnificent vistas; and stop in little villages at inexpensive local B & B's or quaint Gasthäuser. What a wonderful happy vacation plan in their new Turbo S. In a remote village in Italy, they parked in front of a picturesque local inn, locked the car, and went in to check in. A flatbed truck pulled up, about a dozen or more young strong men jumped off; physically lifted the car onto the flatbed and it was gone. The car is probably in Minsk today being driven by the son of a Russian oligarch.



**Secondly**, for the last dozen years, or so, when AVIS was able to get rental cars from PORSCHE, you were not permitted to drive outside the German-speaking countries like Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein & Switzerland. Thus, France, Italy, the Czech Republic, etc. were off limits. We were only able to go to Italy or France because we travelled as a group and could assure AVIS that we had secure parking at 5-star hotels. In fact, in 2014 one of our tours took us to Monte Carlo. We stayed at the then Monte Carlo Beach Hotel – it's now a Le Meridien. PORSCHEs were parked in an outdoor, not fenced-in, hotel parking lot. We had to hire an armed guard with a German Shepard to guard the cars during the night --- and this is why secure parking is the first criteria for our selection of hotels.

**F. Imminent Departure:** This week we are moving from the proverbial pre-trip intense preparation to the pre-trip panic 😊 just triple checking everything. Does the flight matrix match the bus matrix? Have all restaurants been notified of allergies? Is the luggage van rented and is Miro standing by to drive it? Are the rooms and suites at Lake Como confirmed? Do the shirt sizes delivered from the shirt/embroidery company match what the customers told us they want? Etc.

**II. Honeymoons!** Did I mention that we have had several couples on their honeymoons on our trips? This is the special arrangement Thomas made for a newly-wed couple at the Interpalpen Hotel in Innsbruck, Austria. The view from that suite is awesome . . . oh, perhaps they never looked at the view 😊. The Interpalpen will spoil you.





### III. Trip of the Week, the **12 Alpine Passes PORSCHE Fest** – **VERY LAST CALL!**

<https://fastlanetravel.com/2023-twelve-alpine-passes-porsche-fest/>

Please go to our website for details Germany, Austria, Switzerland & Italy, plus a hint of Liechtenstein. We still have space and some awesome PORSCHEs waiting for you. The Swiss Alps are waiting for you – start practicing your yodeling . . . that reminds me of a true story.



**IV. My Final Thoughts: An old, blind Marine wanders into an all-girl biker bar by mistake.** Source: 2013 Alumni Ralph Sica

He finds his way to a bar stool and orders a shot of Jack Daniels.

After sitting there for a while, he yells to the bartender, 'Hey, you wanna hear a blonde joke?'

The whole bar immediately falls absolutely silent.

In a very deep, husky voice, the woman next to him says,

'Before you tell that joke I think it is only fair, given that you are blind, that you should know five things:

1. The bartender is a blonde girl with a baseball bat.
2. The bouncer is a blonde girl.
3. I'm a 6-foot tall, 175-pound blonde woman with a black belt in karate.
4. The woman sitting next to me is blonde and a professional weight lifter.
5. The lady to your right is blonde and a professional wrestler.

Now, think about it seriously, do you still wanna tell that blonde joke?'

The blind Marine thinks for a second, shakes his head and mutters, 'No... not if I'm gonna have to explain it five times.'



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 our fabulous fun PORSCHE tours this year and help us plan for 2024. **I hope to see you soon in Europe with me on my Birthday on April 25<sup>th</sup>.** Peter