



Item: Fast Lane News #23 in 2023 (#170 since 2020) on Saturday, June 3rd 2023
From: Peter at Hatchworld and in our office in Oldsmar, FL
To: Our Fast Lane Travel Family and Friends at home in Australia, Canada, Europe, Iceland, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, South Africa and in the USA!
Subject: 12 Alpine Passes Trip Report; European PORSCHE Delivery; 5 Reasons You Need to Use a Travel Advisor Now More Than Ever; My Final Thoughts: Ivy League Graduation Season.



I. The Twelve Alpine Passes: Today, Saturday, the lucky group, on this wonderful **PORSCHE Fest**, are driving on the mostly, no-speed-limit, magnificent **A-7 German Autobahn** to the Tirolean Alps. From there they will cross into Austria over the breathtaking Hahntennjoch Pass to the luxurious **Interalpen Hotel**. This is almost an understatement when you drive into the carpeted garage reception. The view south from the junior suites we have reserved for everyone is magnificent. One of THE most frequent comments we get about this hotel is the cuisine, in that they offer the most expansive, lavish and delicious breakfast buffet, appetizer spread at dinner, and an unequalled dessert buffet with a variety, uniqueness and quantity seen nowhere else.



Then tomorrow, they'll drive west on the Austrian Autobahn and turn south through the Ötztal Valley and head on to Italy on the renowned fabulous Timmelsjoch Pass with its legendary serpentine, spectacular views and Alpine peaks.

On top of this pass is the statue of an eagle with the compelling and timely inscription: ***Was Freundschaft verbindet, kann Politik nicht trennen.*** Translation: **That which bonds friendship, politics cannot tear apart.** It is actually a historic reference to the fact that “Süd Tirol,” now is part of Northern Italy, but used to be part of the then Austro-Hungarian Empire. This territory was annexed by Italy in 1919, at the end of World War I. On April 26, 1915, Italy negotiated a secret Pact of London by which Great Britain and France promised to support Italy annexing the northern frontier lands in return for entering the war on the Entente side. To this day, many people living in South Tyrol still cannot accept the fact that they are part of Italy. Their children learn Austrian German in addition to Italian. All public signage is in both languages. Today, about four generations later, there is this eagle statue on top of the pass proclaiming friendship.



On a personal note, in 1917, a couple months after my grandfather, Florian Schmidt married my grandmother, nee Katharina Schrittwieser, he was conscripted into the Kaiser's Military in 1917. He was stationed right here in Süd Tirol. At the end of this senseless and brutal **World War I** he returned to this little town of Mürzzuschlag, in southern Austria, to meet his baby daughter, Maria – or Mitzerl (the local endearment) who was born that December, while he was on the southern front. Mitzerl was my mother. Today, “Süd Tirol” is a beautiful, fertile, and peaceful part of the Alps known as the Dolomites. If you love driving a PORSCHE through the Alps on roads with the most awesome curves – this is in the top three.

We have also included a new resort hotel, **Chalet Mirabell**, on the south side of the Alps. The cuisine is truly delightful and paired with local wines in a beautiful setting. The cars will be parked securely under the hotel. The key element is: you don't have to think. More details continued in next week's Petergram.



II. European PORSCHE Delivery:

This picture was sent to us by Ray and Diane from Arizona, who just took delivery of their beautiful Cayman GT4 in Leipzig.



Ray wrote: Thank you. We picked up the car this afternoon (see attached photo). It was a great experience!!

Peter – First of all, wishing you a speedy recovery from your recent surgery. And thank you for the recommendation of the Auerbach's Keller. We had dinner there tonight. Great atmosphere and fine food! Best, Ray

My Comment: There is nothing that can compete with the fabulous experience of taking delivery of your new baby in Germany, at THE Source. You get to drive it the way it was meant to be driven. **I have enjoyed that Euro Delivery experience eight times. Call us, 813 343 3001, come on one of our tours or we'll design one for you.**

III. You can still join one of our Great 2023 Fall Trips: Based on multiple requests and on the successful 2017 Greek Island Sailing Cruise, our wonderful **Fast Lane Luxury Travel, LLC**, Manager, **Susan Sheridan (1 813 475 5989)**, has designed and organized this year's **river cruise**: It's the best time of the year to enjoy **Bordeaux**. On this luxury tour: no need to unpack and pack every day; superb cuisine; wine tasting; riding a bike through the French countryside; visiting historic sites – come join us in **July**. The **Fall TREFFEN Plus** is identical to the Spring trip we just completed. Lake Como, Tremezzo and Bellagio are waiting for you.

| 2023 Fast Lane PORSCHE Trips in Planning V-167 | | | | | |
|---|--------|-----|--------|--|--|
| Don't Miss the remaining 2023 Fast Lane Trips - Register ASAP - Space is getting tight! | | | | | |
| Day | Date | To | Date | PCA PORSCHE Tours | Important Features & Comments: |
| Sun | 4-Jun | Mon | 12-Jun | 100th 24-Hours at Le Mans Race | SOLD OUT |
| Thu | 20-Jul | Thu | 27-Jul | BORDEAUX River Cruise - relaxing & cuisine | No driving - just watching the world go by |
| Wed | 13-Sep | Mon | 18-Sep | Original PCA Fall PORSCHE TREFFEN | Factory/Museum & Lake Constance |
| Wed | 13-Sep | Fri | 22-Sep | Original PCA Fall PORSCHE TREFFEN PLUS | Adding Lake Constance, Italy & Lake Como |
| Wed | 4-Oct | Sun | 15-Oct | Interlpen PORSCHE Fest - Alpine Luxury | Plus Grossglockner, Gmünd & Salzburg |
| Mon | 16-Oct | Sat | 28-Oct | Fabulous trips from our Estate in Tuscany | Florence, Siena, Pienza, Montepulciano |
| Fri | 1-Dec | Sat | 9-Dec | Christmas Markets with Peter in Stuttgart | Munich, Salzburg, & Vienna |

IV. 5 Reasons You Need to Use a Travel Advisor Now More Than Ever

Sponsored by Delta Vacations® by [Denise Caiazzo](#) / May 01, 2023

People everywhere are back on the roads, in the air, and at sea traveling to destinations they've been dreaming about for the past few years. But travel is a little more complicated than it used to be. With still-changing border requirements and shifts in travel pricing and availability, it's more important than ever to work with a travel advisor in planning and booking trips. Here are five essential ways that travel advisors help travelers get the most out of their vacation time.

1. Saves you precious time

Although everything travel-related is accessible on the internet, each search takes time, and planning can be overwhelming, even for the most seasoned travelers. Enter ... your dedicated travel advisor.

Caroline Reinhard-Chacon, owner/manager, Travel Leaders, explains: "For most people, time is their most precious resource, and we save travelers time – by qualifying the customer to present a short list of options that fit their needs rather than they having to sort through and get overwhelmed by all the options. For example, making sure it's the right kind of hotel for the client type – especially important in all-inclusive beach destinations where the clients will spend a lot of their time, but also for city vacations, that hotels are in areas convenient to sightseeing or even organizing a trip to take advantage of opening times, shopping times, and special events."

2. You're given objective information

In a world where it seems there's a corporate sponsor for everything, travel advisors are the consumer's "last line of objectivity," as Matt Cervone, president, Just Cruises, says. "Meaning that when a client looks at a website or speaks to a reservation agent directly ... let's say a cruise line, the consumer may not be aware that the cruise line may not be

a good fit for them (for whatever reason, i.e., itinerary, value, style, etc.). Obviously, it goes without saying that the cruise line will not offer or suggest a competing product even if it is better for them. “Thus, there is no objectivity when a consumer is in direct contact with a supplier. Ultimately, a good travel advisor will guide them to the cruise line or product that best fits their travel style, experience, and budget.”

3. You have access to unadvertised discounts and special pricing

Because travel advisors have long-standing relationships with airlines, hotels, cruise lines, and tour companies, they can get discounts and special pricing for their clients that are not available to the general public, even online.

“Many times, people unfamiliar with using the travel agent think they will pay more when engaging a travel advisor to help them plan an adventure. In fact, travel advisors have access to unpublished rates, which help save clients money ... Many times we have exclusive benefits and perks to add - like a resort credit that would otherwise be forfeited.”

4. Their first-hand experience gives you insider information

Travel advisors love to travel, giving them first-hand experiences and knowledge of destinations, airlines, hotels, and attractions around the world. It's always better to connect with someone who has been there, done that.

“I have experienced hundreds of properties globally, and can give you a first-hand account of the differentiating factors that will allow you to make a decision that gets to the right fit for you and your family, which is what it's all about,” says Colleen Aaberg, co-owner, Aaberg Travel Design.

“If you hire a professional to do your taxes, remodel your kitchen, change your oil, and cut your hair, why wouldn't you do the same for travel? I could do all of the above myself - but should I? I believe in doing what I do well, and consulting a professional to do what they do well to simplify my life!”

5. Travel advisors are *your* advocate

Let's be honest, sometimes when we travel, things go awry. And no one wants to be on their own in an unfamiliar country trying to sort out new hotel reservations, an alternate route to or from their destination, what happened to their luggage, or changing tour bookings. And all of that became more complicated during the pandemic, further increasing the value of having your own travel advisor.

“There are still ongoing schedule changes, and customers are still contracting Covid during their travels, and they need a single point of contact who can be reached directly. Also, much has changed since before the pandemic, and many clients did not travel during the pandemic, so they are out of practice and are looking for reassurance and tips to feel comfortable.”

Pandemic or not, a travel advisor is a real live person in your corner to arrange all of the important details of traveling, in addition to where you'll go, where you'll stay, and what you'll do once there (passports, visas, entry requirements, travel insurance, deposits, special requests, schedule changes). Plus, they will handle anything unexpected that comes up on your behalf.

“We have our ear to the ground at all times. We are able to let clients know if there’s something that has changed that might impact their trip with regard to a destination or hotel property. We advise on the options of travel insurance to ensure that our clients have all of the pertinent information to make a decision that’s right for them and protect their vacation investment, explains Aaberg. “A good travel advisor is your advocate, friend, and trusted resource to ensure a seamless travel experience,” Cervone reminds us.

Travel advisors (previously called travel agents) have been helping travelers nearly since the dawn of travel. They genuinely love this industry, and they are here to assist.

My Comment: Please call **Susan Sheridan**, the Manager of **Fast Lane Luxury Travel, LLC**, our full service, licensed and bonded Travel Agency at **1 813 475 5989 directly** or our main office number **1 813 343 3001 for all airline, cruise, hotel, safari reservations – any vacation – even Travel Insurance. She is an amazing expert in all travel matters.**

FROM THE SPONSOR:

Delta Vacations® — a Delta Air Lines® company — is one of the largest vacation providers in the U.S. We deliver elevated, all-in-one, customized and flexible vacation experiences designed for SkyMiles® Members.

V. Some of my Favorite Radom Pictures.

This is THE most important S-Bahn Station in Stuttgart between the Hauptbahnhof and Weil im Dorf!



Just another Swiss Mountain Pass – anybody guess which one?



No, this is not Beacon Park in Detroit – it's the Schlossplatz in Stuttgart.



THE most luxurious and amazing Hotel Interalpen.



Sunrise view from one of our castles in Austria.



VI. My Final Thoughts: It's Ivy League Graduation Season - The Arduous Task of CHANGING a LIGHTBULB

How many **Princeton** students does it take to change a lightbulb?
Two---one to mix the martinis and one to call the electrician.

How many **Brown** students does it take to change a lightbulb?
Eleven---one to change the lightbulb and ten to share the experience.

How many **Dartmouth** students does it take to change a lightbulb?
None---Hanover doesn't have electricity.

How many **Cornell** students does it take to change a lightbulb?
Two---One to change the lightbulb and one to crack under the pressure.

How many **Penn** students does it take to change a lightbulb?
Only one, but he gets six credits for it.

How many **Columbia** students does it take to change a lightbulb?
Seventy-six---one to change the lightbulb, fifty to protest the lightbulb's right to not change, and twenty-five to hold a counter-protest.

How many **Yale** students does it take to change a lightbulb?
None---New Haven looks better in the dark.

How many **Harvard** students does it take to change a lightbulb?
One---he holds the bulb, and the world revolves around him

How many **MIT** students does it take to change a lightbulb?
five ---one to design a nuclear-powered one that never needs changing, one to figure out how to power the rest of Boston using that nuked lightbulb, two to install it, and one to write the computer program that controls the wall switch.



Please stay healthy and stay young; be 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 PORSCHE tours this year and let's look forward to 2024. **I hope to see y'all soon.**

Peter