



Item: Fast Lane News #41 in 2023 (#188 since 2020) for Sat., Oct. 7th 2023
From: Peter from the Sacher Hotel in Vienna, the Graf Zeppelin in Stuttgart, and the amazing Interlpen Hotel in Austria.
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: Feedback from last week's 2023 PCA Fall TREFFEN PLUS; A CUSTOM trip to Vienna; Anticipating the INTERALPEN PORSCHE FEST; My Final Thoughts: Military/European Time Keeping.

I. Feedback from the 2023 PCA Fall TREFFEN Plus

A. From: Brian Shanahan

Sent: Saturday, September 30, 2023 3:27 PM

To: Peter Sontag <peter@fastlanetravel.com>

Subject: A heartfelt thank you!

Herzliche Grüße, Peter: After a relaxing trip home, I am sadly back in the US and wishing I was still in Germany. I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for another legendary Porsche experience in Europe. It was an adventure I could never, EVER replicate (nor would I want to!), on my own without you and your team leading the way.



Your seamless navigation afforded not only a stress-free journey but also allowed me to fully immerse myself in the moment and appreciate the breathtaking scenery along the way. Your narrations of interesting facts and stories about each place we visited added a special layer of depth and appreciation that I would have otherwise missed. As always, your "true stories" each evening at dinner were my favorite!

Even after the breathtaking mountain passes, exhilarating speeds on the German Autobahn, and the opulent 5-star dining and accommodations, surprisingly, the

Cannstatter Volksfest was my personal highlight of the trip! You were right when you remarked that we hadn't truly lived until we witnessed 10,000 slightly inebriated Germans singing "Take me home, country road" in unison. It was truly a special experience I feel very lucky to have been a part of.

If I had a magic lamp, my one wish would be to turn back time to relive the entirety of this incredible journey over and over again.

Please pass on my gratitude to Fabian, Johnny and Miro for their constant support and attention. What a team! Ich möchte mich recht herzlich bedanken, Bis zum nächsten Mal! **Brian Shannahan**

B. From: Mark Fischer, Founder Boats Direct USA

Sent: Sunday, October 1, 2023
To: Peter Sontag
<peter@fastlanetravel.com>
Subject: A heartfelt thank you and we agree!

Yes, Eileen and I also love the true stories. Another wonderful trip and looking forward to the next one! See you in Vienna tomorrow, Peter. Thanks **Mark Fischer, Founder, Boats Direct USA.**

C. From: Liz Constantopoulos

Sent: Saturday, September 30, 2023
To: Peter Sontag
<peter@fastlanetravel.com>
Subject: A heartfelt thank you!

Liz writes: "Hi Peter! Thank you for all your work on our trip! It truly was the trip of a lifetime! I thought you might like the following pictures. Best, **Liz**"



Peter's Comment: Roger and Susan picked up this beautiful **Panamera GTS** in Leipzig. **The Fast Lane Travel Euro Delivery Team** laid out a fabulous route for them from Leipzig to Stuttgart. They then joined the **PCA Spring TREFFEN Plus**. Above, you see their gorgeous new baby parked at the prestigious Grand hotel Villa Serbelloni in Bellagio on Lake Como next to one of our other TREFFEN Porsches.



It is a very gratifying experience picking up your brand-new Porsche in Stuttgart or Leipzig and driving it in Europe the way it was meant to be driven. On most of our European Porsche Tours we have at least one or two European Delivery Porsches.



Well over 95% of the new car buyers have never driven in Europe. Thus, the advantage of being part of one of our tours is that they get a driver's briefing, they are able to follow a guide connected with a walkie talkie, they don't need to speak the language, and most importantly, secure overnight parking is reserved at each hotel. I am currently on my 226th Porsche Tour – when you pick up a new car, please don't go at it alone!

II. A 2023 CUSTOM Tour to Vienna, Austria:

- **Saturday, September 30th 2023 continued:** I was promptly picked up at 12:30 pm at the Graf Zeppelin Hotel in Stuttgart and transferred to STR – Stuttgart's Degerloch International Airport. Austrian Airlines Flight OS 184 departed promptly at 15:15 (3:15 pm) and landed an hour later in VIE – Vienna. We had a beautiful view of Salzburg and the Steiermark Mountains on the way down. The area around the Vienna Airport is populated by a forest of wind turbines giving the landscape a futuristic appearance. I was met by Lukas Pfisterer, Hans' son and driver, in their new Tesla, to the Hotel Sacher adjacent to the renowned Vienna State Opera. I immediately set up my "office" and started to work. In the old days, when checking into a hotel, one first unpacked, perhaps went to the bathroom etc. these days, the first order of the day is: Internet access. Hans Pfisterer, our local business partner, then met me for dinner at the Sacher Bistro, sitting outside, enjoying the balmy fall evening.

The **Sacher Hotel** in Vienna has a fascinating history: in 1832 Prince von Metternich instructed the merely 16-year-old apprentice Franz Sacher to create a special dessert for his discerning guests. The sweet and sumptuous masterpiece was to be made with chocolate, apricot jam, and whipped cream, which became the tasty triad comprising the basis of the recipe for success that would become the Original Sacher-Torte. That very recipe remains the foundation for every Original Sacher-Torte baked by hand to this very day. Today, the Original Sacher-Torte stands out as one of Vienna's



cultural and culinary crowning symbols. Indeed, the hotel, which the son of the pioneering pâtissier opened years later, now similarly stands out as one of the most renowned hotels in the world! It is also the hotel where **Dave Hatch** invited my daughter Alicia and me, along with another dozen friends, in February 2009 to the legendary **Vienna Opera Ball**. The evening before we met Dr. **Wolfgang Porsche** at the Rote Bar. After meeting Dave, he said to him "Er ist ein kluger Mann!" It truly was an

amazing, once in a lifetime, event. Thank you, Dave, for your generosity and the wonderful memories.

- **Sunday, October 1st 2023:**



While having breakfast at the Sacher I picked up the local newspaper: **Die Kronen Zeitung** . . . what do you know . . . there was an article about several small, charming Austrian towns, including **Gmünd** in the Austrian State of Kärnten (Carinthia in English). I don't know why there is a balloon floating in the middle of the picture. It describes the great little shops; highlights the Porsche Museum, local culture and reminds the readers that the first Porsches were built there from 1944 to 1950. Of course, like some in the US, their facts are inaccurate. **This is a little more accurate:**

Produced between 1948 and 1951, the Porsche 356 was the first series production aluminum bodied sports car of

Porsche, after the creation of the 356-001 one-off prototype in Gmünd Austria. It was built in limited numbers, making it a highly sought-after collector's item today. Source: Wikipedia

COMMENT ON THE INTERALPEN TRIP . . . DON'T FORGET . . . On October 11th 2023 – our FREE day on the **Interalpen Porsche Fest**, I have offered an **optional day trip to Gmünd**. It'll be a pretty long day, but worthwhile, driving across the daunting Grossglockner Mountain Pass, the highest Alpine Road in Austria at 2,504 meters (8,215 ft.) surrounded by 12,500 ft. high peaks. We'll visit the compelling Pfeifhofer Porsche Museum, have lunch at the renowned Fallerhütte Restaurant in the Malta Valley and get a chance to visit the closed-to-the-public original Porsche Factory HQ. You'll be able to see Ferdinand Porsche's original drafting table, desk, and the original plans of the legendary Cisitalia Porsche Race Car.

- **Monday, October 2nd 2023** Back to our Vienna Custom Trip for Mark and Eileen Fischer. Today was a busy day getting ready for Mark and Eileen Fischer's arrival. Hans, our local executive, has arranged a **Rolls Royce Phantom** for the airport pick up and to be at our disposal for the balance of the week. I am flying back to Stuttgart on Thursday to conduct the Fast Lane Drivers' Briefing for the Inter Alpen Porsche Fest group arriving that morning at the Hotel Graf Zeppelin. Since it's Mark and Eileen's 10th Fast Lane Porsche trip, Mark and Eileen could conduct the briefing in their sleep, so they are heading back to Stuttgart on Thursday.

- **Tuesday, October 3rd 2023** We are exploring Vienna today and are visiting venues normal tourists don't get to see. We started out at the Naschmarkt, which is a permanent outdoor market with an amazing variety



of fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, seafood, and condiments from all over the world. It is more amazing than Whole Foods. From there we were driven to the Zentralfriedhof, Vienna's main cemetery. We first visited the musicians' section where we visited Beethoven, Brahms, Schubert, Mahler, Dumas, Gluck, Salieri and a memorial to Mozart. In April 1945 the area of the cemetery saw fierce fighting between the Russians invading Austria from the east and the conscripted Austrians and Hitler's German Wehrmacht. We visited the compelling Russian Cemetery with the graves of hundreds of Russian soldiers who died

there. Lastly, we visited my mom's grave. It touched my heart when Eileen picked some wildflowers and placed them on her grave. Thank you Mark and Eileen. We then took the scenic route back into town, past the Riesenrad and Prater amusement park. The day was crowned by a fabulous dinner on the roof terrace of the renowned DO & CO Restaurant right across St. Stephen's Cathedral. We returned to the Sacher Hotel in a horse-drawn carriage, a Fiaker. What a wonderful way to experience Vienna.



• Wednesday, October 4th 2023

A perfect sunny day to take them to a privately owned castle outside of Vienna on the North Shore of the Danube. **Castle Kreuzenstein** is a majestic medieval castle, with a moat, 2 draw bridges, a very pointed fall gate and an amazing collection of medieval armaments. This 12th Century fortress has an amazing history of wars and destruction over the last 1000 years or so. In the 18th century, the castle came into the possession of the Counts of Wilczek who had amassed a large fortune through their coal mines in Silesia. In 1874, Count Johann Nepomuk Wilczek, best known as a polar explorer, began reconstruction of the castle but in a style entirely different

from the original Romanesque-Gothic architecture. The existing ruins were incorporated into the new castle, in particular, parts of the outer wall, the east tower and parts of the chapel. Source: Wikipedia

We enjoyed a tour of the entire fortress, including the amazing underground kitchen with a 30' long kitchen table hewn from a tree trunk which is so large that the castle was built around it. One of the most fascinating places in the castle is the armory with its vast collection of medieval armor and weapons.

We then returned to the city for one of Austria's most pleasurable experiences . . . an Austrian pedicure. Pedicurist professionals have to work as an apprentice for 3 years, attend vocational schools and practically get a medical degree. I haven't danced in a while, but I guarantee you that you feel like dancing afterwards.

A beautiful day was crowned by a magnificent dinner in the private home of one of our executives in Austria, Hans & Gitti and their kids: Denise, Sophie, Lukas and Taifun (Sophie's boyfriend). It was a fabulous European table setting. The champagne and red wine flowed freely complementing an appetizer spinach strudel. It was followed by THE very best Wiener Schnitzel ever. By the way: Schnitzel by itself is not a dish, but the way the meat is cut. If you take a chateaubriand and cut it vertically you create a

series of Filet Mignons. If you cut it perpendicularly, the cut is called a Schnitzel Cut. It was a truly memorable evening and what a pleasant change from eating at a restaurant every night.

- **Thursday, October 4th 2023** This morning I had to get up at an ungodly hour of 5:00 am to catch my flight to Stuttgart. I arrived at the Graf



Zeppelin Hotel to be greeted by some of the folks who arrived already. We started the trip with a delicious lunch of the famous local specialty, the Maultaschen. We then went to a private conference room where I conducted our mandatory Drivers' Briefing about how to drive safely in Europe, and explain the very different rules of the road and demonstrated the use

of our longer-range walkie talkies. We also had everyone sign the PCA, Porsche and Fast Lane Releases. After some shopping we either dressed casually or donned our Lederhosen and Dirndls. We boarded our motor coach and headed to the renowned but raucous **Cannstatter Volksfest**, the amazing local beer festival that puts Munich to shame. Of course, we had four reserved tables for 10 each, upstairs in the special reserved area of the Empore, with its amazing view of the entire festival below and private rest rooms!! Johny, our local logistics executive, made sure our tables were already set with the necessary Vesperplatten. As we arrived, we were handed these huge mugs of beer, and red and white wine was already on the table. You haven't lived until you've danced on the benches, with 10,000 drunk Germans singing "take me home country roads."

Friday, October 5th 2023 The PORSCHE Factory and Museum Visit, plus picking up our rental PORSCHEs in Zuffenhausen.
To be continued next week.

III. **My Final Thoughts: No Sex Since 1955**

A crusty old Marine Sergeant Major found himself at a gala event hosted by a local liberal arts college. There was no shortage of lovely young, idealistic ladies in attendance, one of whom approached the Sergeant Major for conversation.

"Excuse me, Sergeant Major, but you seem to be a very serious man. Is something bothering you?" "Negative, ma'am. Just serious by nature"

"The young lady looked at his awards and decorations and said, "It looks like you have seen a lot of action." "Yes, ma'am, a lot of action."

The young lady, tiring of trying to start up a conversation, said, "You know, you should lighten up a little. Relax and enjoy yourself." The Sergeant Major just stared at her in his serious manner.

Finally the young lady said, "You know, I hope you don't take this the wrong way, but when is the last time you had sex?"

"1955, ma'am."

"Well, there you are. You really need to chill out and quit taking everything so seriously! I mean, no sex since 1955!" She took his hand and led him to a private room where she proceeded to "relax" him several times.

Afterwards, panting for breath, she leaned against his bare chest and said, "Wow, you sure didn't forget much since 1955!"

The Sergeant Major, glancing at his watch, said in his matter-of-fact voice, "I hope not, it's only 2130 now."

IV. Reminder: Fast Lane Luxury Travel, LLC: You are using a financial advisor or a CPA to handle your financial affairs, taking advantage of their knowledge – then please call our travel advisors to handle your travel: Flights, Cruises, Tours, Custom Trips & Your Private Jet Charter Flights. **For**

our coveted professional travel service: **Susan Sheridan** is here for you at Fast Lane Luxury Travel, LLC: **+1 813 475 5989**.



Once you have registered for one of our exciting tours, you will need to book your **flights** and **travel protection**. To assist you with these plans, please call our **Luxury Travel Manager, Susan Sheridan** at **813-475-5989**. We strive to

ensure THE best experience for our clients; our 24/7 emergency support desk is expertly serviced by in-house air specialists. Travel with ease as we have you covered in all locations, at all times. Susan can also counsel you on any pre-/post- private or small group tours, river, or Mediterranean cruises. Also, we highly recommend securing a travel insurance plan. Protecting your trip will give you peace of mind for any medical emergencies, cancellations, delays, or baggage issues.



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 will see you soon in Stuttgart. Can't wait. Peter**

V. I am just Sharing More Fond Random Memories With You.

