



Item: Fast Lane News #11 in 2024 (Issue #211 since 2020) on Mar. 16th 2024, I'm writing from my family's home in the "Pearl of the Ohio Valley" Steubenville and on WN 1396 PIT to TPA.



To: Our Fast Lane Travel Family in Australia, Canada, Dubai, Europe, Iceland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa and in the USA!

Subjects: Comfortable Europe; European Hotels; My Final Thoughts: A "true" St. Patrick's Day Story; and some random Tuscany pictures

I. Comfortable Europe: Our 50 years of practice shows when we create luxurious, you-don't-have-to-think, Porsche experiences. In planning our tours, we pay careful attention to minute-by-minute details. For example, when we try a new restaurant, of course we dine there incognito. Then when we make a reservation, I send them my "Restaurant Requirements" memorandum containing ten specific requirement topics. **Just an example for you:** It took me years to educate and train European restaurants that icewater is not a lonely cube doing a backstroke in a mug, but instead, this is what I demand:

A. In German:

„Genügend Krüge mit Eiswasser auf jedem Tisch. Eiswasser nach unseren Begriffen ist: daß ein Krug mit Eiswürfeln mindestens $\frac{3}{4}$ voll gefüllt wird und dann mit kaltem stillem Mineralwasser übergossen wird. Bitte genügend Zitronenscheiben für das Wasser am Tisch.“

B. English Translation:

“We require sufficient glass carafes with icewater on each table. Our definition of icewater is that you fill a carafe at least $\frac{3}{4}$ full with icecubes over which you then pour cold still bottled water over the ice. Please have sufficient lemon slices on the tables.

In fact, one of the ladies on last year's Tuscany Porsche Fest exclaimed: "I have been in Europe five times and I have NEVER seen icewater in a restaurant. Thank you!" My pleasure.

This is only one of dozens of examples of our expertise and attention to detail. Over the years we have established relationships with hotels, restaurants, attractions, parking lots in all key destinations. They all have appreciated our education in our American Porsche Travel business.

But just like in the US, restaurants get sold, staff quits, moves on and weather or holidays interfere. So it is a never-ending effort to maintain the high quality we expect and you deserve.

For example, on last year's 12 Alpine Passes Porsche Fest, we made a lunch reservation on the top of a Swiss Mountain Pass, next to a beautiful lake – a spectacular picture post card setting. When I called



ahead 15 minutes before our arrival – the restaurant manager showed no reservation for us. We handled it while one of our team ran into the place to get lunch set up ad hoc. I lined up the cars by the lake for an awesome photo opp. We then entered the restaurant, our table was set and we had a great lunch.

What happened? The restaurant was sold to a Swiss restaurant chain and their new policy required that all reservations had to be handled through

their Zürich headquarters. Thus, Zürich didn't convey the reservation to the mountain top. Of course, we now have the direct mobile number of the manager on top of the pass. Since then, we now call every restaurant the week before from the US, to double check that they have our reservation.



The European style of dining, positioning the silverware, the glasses, drinking wine and completing a meal is totally different than the US.

Occasionally, when we have a group that is interested, I do a

15-minute demonstration on European dining. It has become so popular customers have videotaped it.

The bottom line is that you are enjoying a fabulous European experience but with American comfort, quality and familiarity. I can't wait to see you in Stuttgart.

II. Designing a hotel room in Europe.

What I would really love to do, before I leave on the Porsche driving trip in the sky, is to chair a committee for any renowned hotel company in Europe that wants to design a convenient, practical, and safe hotel room. I'll even settle for membership on the committee.

Whoever designs hotel rooms has either never travelled, is 23 years old or doesn't understand the needs of a traveler who is now in an unfamiliar environment with comfort features that are different or absent.

The good news: The hotels that we reserve for you are **THE best**. You stay in 5-star properties, like the legendary **Interlpen Hotel** in Telfs, or the **Sacher Alpin Resort** in Seefeld, or the **Sheraton** in Salzburg, and the **Bayerischer Hof** in Lindau. What do they all have in common?

1. **Most importantly, safe, and convenient parking.**
2. Spectacular service.
3. Well-designed and thought-out accommodations.
4. A great location with amazing views.

We want you to have a comfortable, delightful, and memorable experience so that you come back for more of our amazing trips. Furthermore, we want you to have the “American” comfort you are used to, but in an “old world” environment.

It’s very difficult for me to write this article and not succumb to include “bad words” simply because a lot of things in some European hotels do not make sense to us Americans.

A couple weekends ago I stayed at the Hampton Inn at Fernandino Beach, Amelia Island, Florida. It’s a borderline 4-star property. On each floor by the elevator door is a phone. Great idea in case of an emergency. The shower has a safety bar you can hold on to – smart. The bathroom has a night light – essential. At the little desk was a power strip – I could plug in my cellphone, laptop and alarm clock I travel with. So, when I get up in the middle of the night to answer nature’s call, I notice it’s 3:40 am, the bathroom is gently lit, and I can hold onto a safety bar. Thank you very much.

Try this – when you go onto a European hotel’s website you typically see the lobby, bar, spa, pool, bedrooms, bathrooms, the Schnitzel, but few, if any, show you the parking. We arrive with a group of \$2.5 million worth of cars, and I’m thrilled that the bed looks nice, the bathroom is clean and the spa looks inviting . . . but where do we park?

Prior to your trip you receive our FYI document which details various elements of the trip, like the plug adapters you’ll get from us; our gas-stop methodology and dress code, if any. You have the benefit of our 50 years of experience.

III. TRIP of the Week – **Please register ASAP** – TUSCANY is **filling up** during THE very best time of the year: From Sunday, Oct. 6th to Saturday, Oct. 19th 2024 – **Please go to:**
<https://fastlanetravel.com/2024-tuscany-porsche-fest/>

This is our 15th wonderful trip to Tuscany. Since 2010 we have put this lovely estate: Casali di Bibbiano on the map. On this year's trip, as always, we start out in Stuttgart where we pick up our Porsches.

Traveling on our Porsche Fest to Tuscany is an **unforgettable experience**. The enchanting villages are sure to capture your heart, and you will enjoy simple, yet elegant meals and of course . . . fine wines.

The excursions will take your breath away and you will experience exceptional destinations. One of our favorites is the medieval wine capital dating back to Roman times, Montepulciano, where we have the “**unheard of**”



privilege of being allowed to park our Porsches on the **Piazza Grande** with a **police escort**.

Our special fun **photo rally** will take you to places and see sights you might not find on your own. We love to share the beauty of this part of the world with you and you will even receive “valuable” prizes at our “Rally Dinner”!

Please join us on this truly fascinating tour for the most memorable trip of a lifetime.

You'll also enjoy a **Tuscan cooking class** and **estate wine tasting**. *If you are in the mood, you can participate in the **wine harvest**, or at least pose for a photo opportunity. Furthermore, for you golfers, right across the valley below the hills of Montalcino is the renowned **Ferragamo Golf Course**, where we can arrange a round for you on this world-famous course. You'll be amazed by the parking privileges Vincenzo has organized for us in this most beautiful place on earth.



IV. My Final Thoughts:

A True St. Patrick's Day Story: Liam is coming up to Paddy and Brendas house. He knocks on the door and Brenda answers. Liam, cap in hand, says:

"Brenda, I'm a sorry but I have bad news. Today there was an accident at the Guinness Factory and Paddy didn't survive."

"Janey Mack . . . what happened?"

"Poor Paddy drowned in a vat of Guinness."

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph! I hope he didn't a suffer?"

"We don't think so, because he got out three times to pee!"



Please take care of yourself, stay young; be happy and remember those who love you...Let's look forward to the great times we will again have together on one of our



beautiful PORSCHE Tours this year.

V. SOME MORE HAPPY MEMORIES FROM TUSCANY









