



Item: Fast Lane News #21 in 2024 (Issue #221 since 2020) on May 25, 2024. I'm writing from my daughter Alicia's and grandson Lukas' Penthouse on E 87th Street in NYC and our offices in Oldsmar, Florida, along the shores of Tampa Bay & the Gulf



of Mexico with the whitest beaches in Florida.

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

Subjects: Town of the month: Mürzzuschlag; 50th Anniversary Tours are shaping up beautifully; My Final Thoughts: Old Farts; Plus: Some more happy memories!

I. The town of the month in Austria: Mürzzuschlag.

Dedicated to my grandparents' and my mother's memories and the Pairitsch Family.

What a hard name to pronounce... what does it mean? There is a clear crisp river, teeming with trout, flowing south out of the



Austrian Alps called the Mürz. When it reaches the first East-West valley, out of

the Alps, it makes a sharp 90° turn to the right, i.e., west.

Thus, the name literally means "where the Mürz River hits the town." The town was chartered in 1318 and has been an ironworking center

since the 14th century and from Roman times before that. Austria has 9 States. This little town is located in the one called "the green heart of Austria" because of the dense pine forests and its central location in the Alps.



Why am I writing about this town?

- A. One of my goals has always been to take you to places you'd never find on your own. This is a beautiful place, unknown to Americans.
- B. My mother was born there in 1917 and she and I spent the end of WW II in 1945 there to escape the bombings and killings in Vienna. As a little kid, I walked the forests with my grandfather, a fireman and handyman, collecting firewood, berries, and mushrooms plus repairing various machinery at mountain farms.
- C. It's also Gerald's hometown – many of you know him as one of our wonderful driving guides. In "real life" he is a police sergeant in that town. He'll be with us on the **12 Alpine Passes** and on both **50th Anniversary Porsche Tours**.



A little more about: Mürzzuschlag, Austria – this charming town is nestled in the heart of the Austrian Alps. With its picturesque landscapes, rich history, and vibrant culture, Mürzzuschlag is a destination that captivates travelers from around the world.

One of the first things that strikes visitors about Mürzzuschlag is its stunning natural beauty. Surrounded by towering mountains and lush forests, the town is a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. Hiking, skiing, and mountain biking are popular activities in the area, offering breathtaking views of the alpine scenery. The clean, crisp air and

peaceful atmosphere make Mürzzuschlag the perfect place to escape the hustle and bustle of city life.

But Mürzzuschlag is not just a haven for nature lovers - it also has a rich cultural heritage that is evident in its charming architecture and quaint streets. The town's historic buildings, such as the Schloss Obermurau castle and the Baroque-style St. Lambrecht's Church, tell the story of Mürzzuschlag's past. Strolling through the cobblestone streets, visitors can admire the elegant facades of traditional Austrian houses and shop for handmade crafts at the local markets.

It is also known that Johannes Brahms spent summers there until he passed in 1897. The Brahms Museum is a fascinating place, which displays his original piano. Perhaps his most famous composition was the Wiegenlied, better known today as Lullaby or Cradle Song. The town also has a Ski Museum – worth the visit. Lastly, one of the town's famous inventors was Viktor Kaplan, an Austrian engineer (1876-1934) who invented the Kaplan turbine in 1912, now used all over the world in every hydroelectric power plant.

The people of Mürzzuschlag are known for their warm hospitality and



strong sense of community. The town hosts numerous festivals and events throughout the year, celebrating everything from folk music to local cuisine. Visitors are welcomed with open arms and are encouraged to immerse themselves in the local culture, whether by sampling traditional Austrian dishes like Wiener Schnitzel and Apfelstrudel or by joining in the lively folk dances that are a staple of Mürzzuschlag's social scene.

In addition to its natural beauty and cultural richness, Mürzzuschlag is also a hub of innovation and creativity. The town is home to a number of artists, musicians, and writers who draw inspiration from the stunning landscapes and vibrant community of Mürzzuschlag. The local art galleries and music venues showcase the talent of these creative individuals, offering a glimpse into the unique artistic spirit of the town. Today all hydro-electric dams in the world use the turbine, with adjustable blades, developed and patented in 1913 by Victor Kaplan, a local citizen.

But perhaps the most enchanting aspect of Mürzzuschlag is its sense of tranquility and peace. In a world that is constantly on the move, Mürzzuschlag offers a welcome respite from the chaos, allowing visitors to slow down and appreciate the simple joys of life. Whether it's sipping a cup of coffee at a cozy cafe, taking in the sunset from a mountain peak, or simply wandering through the charming streets, Mürzzuschlag encourages mindfulness and reflection, reminding us of the importance of living in the present moment.

As the sun sets over the mountains, casting a golden glow over the town, visitors to Mürzzuschlag can't help but feel a sense of gratitude for the beauty and tranquility that surrounds them. In a world that is often hectic and stressful, Mürzzuschlag serves as a peaceful sanctuary, a place where one can reconnect with nature, community, and oneself. It is a town that embodies the true spirit of Austria - a land of beauty, culture, and serenity.

In the quaint little town of Mürzzuschlag in Austria, there is a small cemetery that holds a hidden secret. Amongst the rows of neatly kept graves, there lies a section dedicated to Russian soldiers who lost

their lives during World War II. These graves stand out amongst the others, adorned with traditional Russian symbols and decorations. The story of these Russian graves in Murzzuschlag's cemetery is one of honor, sacrifice, and remembrance.

The origins of the Russian graves in Murzzuschlag's cemetery date back to the final days of World War II. As the conflict in Europe came to a close, Russian soldiers were called upon to help liberate towns and cities from Nazi occupation. Many of these brave soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice, laying down their lives to secure victory for the Allied forces. In recognition of their courage and service, a decision was made to bury these fallen soldiers in a special section of the cemetery in Murzzuschlag.

The Russian graves in Murzzuschlag's cemetery are a solemn reminder of the price that was paid for freedom. Each grave is marked with a simple headstone, engraved with the name of the soldier and the date of their death. Some of the graves are adorned with fresh flowers, placed there by locals who wish to pay their respects to these fallen heroes.

One aspect of the Russian graves in Murzzuschlag's cemetery that stands out is the presence of traditional Russian symbols and decorations. Many of the headstones are adorned with images of the hammer and sickle, a symbol that was once synonymous with the Soviet Union. These decorations serve as a reminder of the soldier's homeland and the country they fought so bravely to defend.

In addition to the Russian symbols, the graves in Murzzuschlag's cemetery also feature religious icons and decorations. Many of the soldiers buried here were devout followers of the Russian Orthodox Church, and their graves reflect this aspect of their faith. Crosses and images of saints can be seen adorning the headstones, providing a sense of peace and comfort to those who come to pay their respects.

Visitors to the Russian graves in Murzzuschlag's cemetery are often struck by the quiet dignity and solemnity of the site. The rows of

headstones stretch out before them, a stark reminder of the cost of war. Despite the passage of time, these graves continue to evoke a sense of reverence and respect from all who visit.

As the years pass, the Russian graves in Murzzuschlag's cemetery serve as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by those who came before us. They stand as a silent testament to the courage, bravery, and selflessness of the soldiers who gave their lives in the fight against tyranny and oppression. Each headstone tells a story, a story of a life cut short in the pursuit of a noble cause. In a world that often seems consumed by conflict and turmoil, the Russian graves in Murzzuschlag's cemetery serve as a beacon of hope and remembrance. They remind us of the importance of honoring the past, of never forgetting those who came before us. And they urge us to strive for peace, understanding, and unity in a world that so desperately needs it.

II. The two VERY SPECIAL PORSCHE Trips of the Year for our 50th Anniversary!

My apologies if I repeat myself, but we have **TWO** fabulous truly **once-in-a-lifetime 50th Anniversary PORSCHE Tours** this year. We will only have this year as our 50th Anniversary and while I have a very positive outlook on life, I won't be around for the 75th. Fast Lane will continue to grow and fulfill our Leitspruch (motto): **"It's our business to do pleasure."** The fact that well over 40% of our customers have been on multiple trips; that we have an amazing compendium of accolades; and that we see an increase in customers from the next generation – most of whom who have been on a trip together earlier – is a welcome harbinger of Fast Lane's Future. We have also seen an increase in incentive travel for the high achievers in a corporation.

I have space left for two or three more couples on each trip. On September 11th both trips overlap in Stuttgart where I have planned a wonderful evening with a renowned choir to remind us what beauty there is in life and

friendship. We will also visit Zell am See, which is the home of the Porsche Family. Of course, Salzburg, the beautiful “Sound of Music” City is included; We’ll drive across Austria’s highest Alpine Road: The Grossglockner to Gmünd, the birthplace of Porsche after WW II. You’ll be able to stand at the drafting table where the 356 was designed and view the ledger of the first couple dozen of the lucky buyers. You’ll learn the role Ruprecht von Senger played in post-WW II Porsche’s ability to start building sports cars. So, please pick the dates that work for you and **register now please.**

Trip #1 <https://fastlanetravel.com/flt-50th-anniversary-trip-1/>
Sun. Sep. 1st to Fri Sep. 12th 2024

Trip #2 <https://fastlanetravel.com/flt-50th-anniversary-trip-2/>
Tue. Sep. 10th to Sun. Sep. 22nd 2024

Note that, on Wednesday September 11th the trips overlap in Stuttgart, when I have a very special celebration with PORSCHE executives and wonderful entertainment planned for both of our PORSCHE driving “teams.” I have planned some spectacular drives, luxurious hotels, and special events such as a performance of **La Traviata** at the **Staatsoper in Vienna** with champagne and canapés in the Marmorsaal reserved for us during intermission.

I would love to have three more couples on each trip – these celebratory trips will never be repeated. And yes, we will visit that little gem in Austria that I wrote about: Mürzzuschlag!

III. My Final Thoughts: Old Farts

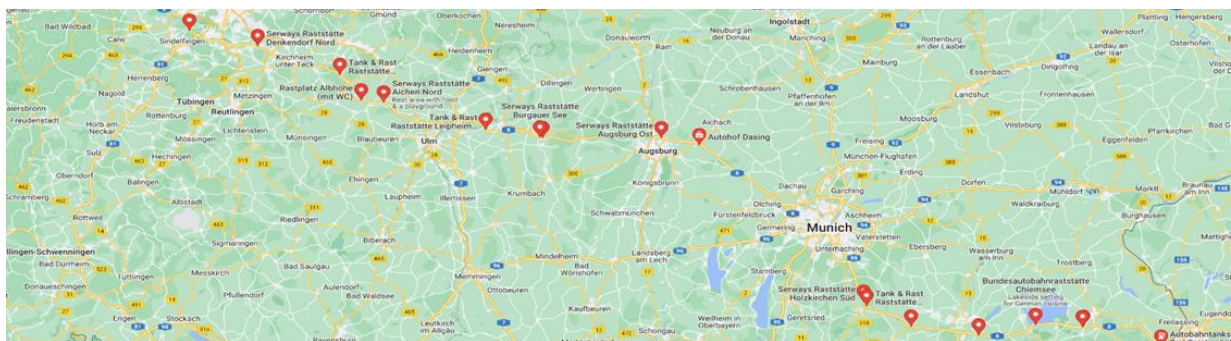
Contributed by Archie Hubbard III and forwarded by Dr. Wes Adams, a good Fast Lane friend and alumni.

I never really liked the terminology "Old Farts"? And if you ain't one, I bet ya, you know one! I got this from an "Old Fart" friend of mine! I'm passing this on as I did not want to be the only old fart receiving it. Actually, it's not a bad thing to be called, as you will see. Old Farts are easy to spot:

1. At sports events; during the playing of the National Anthem. Old Farts remove their caps and stand at attention and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them.
2. Old Farts remember World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy, and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, The Cold War, the Jet Age, and the Moon Landing. They remember the 50-plus Peacekeeping Missions from 1945 to 2005, not to mention Vietnam.
3. If you bump into an Old Fart on the sidewalk he will apologize. If you pass an Old Fart on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady. Old Farts trust strangers and are courtly to women.
4. Old Farts hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection.
5. Old Farts get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like any filth or dirty language on TV or in movies.
6. Old Farts have moral courage and personal integrity. They seldom brag unless it's about their children or grandchildren.
7. It's the Old Farts who know our great country is protected, not by politicians, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country.

This country needs Old Farts with their work ethic, sense of responsibility, pride in their country, and decent values. We need them now more than ever (except one).

IV. Some more of my happy memories: Why am I inserting this virtually unreadable map here? Because when I lead a group in Europe, my life revolves around **three key elements**: Parking, peeing, and dining, in that order. This is a priceless map of country road pee-stops developed over 50 years.













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**

