



Item: Fast Lane News #23 in 2024 (Issue #223 since 2020) On June 8, 2024, I'm writing from the Delta Sky Club in ATL and DL 116 ATL – STR and the Le Meridien Hotel in Stuttgart
To: Our Fast Lane Travel Family in Australia, Canada, Dubai, Europe, Iceland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa and USA!



Subjects: Stuttgart in the Spring, Euro Delivery Group Tour, the 15th Twelve Alpine Passes and don't forget the 50th Anniversary Tours; My Final Thoughts on a Lighter Note:

I. If you need to get to Stuttgart, and you depart from east of the Rockies, THE best option is DL 116 from ATL to STR. You avoid changing planes in Europe and you're there where you're supposed to be. From the Rockies and west, FRA is THE best option with a car transfer to Stuttgart, which takes about 1½ hrs. There are also flight connections FRA – STR but there is usually a 2-hour lay over – not worth the wait for the ½ flight to STR. This is my favorite signage in ATL.



The DL116 Boeing 767 ER left ATL at 18:00 (6:00 pm) and landed promptly nine hours later at 09:00 in STR. It was a smooth relaxing flight with the expected superb Delta service. A nice, surprising touch was also a handwritten welcome note: "Mr. Sontag, Thank you so much for flying with Delta – we really appreciate your business and are looking forward to serving you tonight. Your Atlanta Crew." This is my 233rd trip to Stuttgart! You know you are ready to retire when you come on board and the pilot turns around, from the cockpit, and says, "Hey Peter, good to see you back" and I respond "Thanks Frank, good to see you too. I brought you a few more 150 mph decals." They are prized by the flight crews.



And, yes, I am checking 6 pieces of luggage TPA - ATL – STR for \$570.00. Why do you ask? Because each night every one of our

customers, while at dinner, has a good night note card with a present placed on their pillow. This is not only a pleasant surprise, but also gives them another outline as to what enjoyment they can expect the next day. This reinforces the information on their abbreviated itinerary and underscores the exemplary customer experience we are known for.

Arriving on this beautiful, sunny, 70°, morning in Stuttgart was a joy. The



driver was waiting with a van that could accommodate all the luggage. This time I checked into the Le Meridien – THE best parking in town and an a good location right across from the Schlosspar. Johnny and Miro, from our wonderful Stuttgarter Staff were ready to help sort through the luggage and get everything ready for the nightly room deliveries and preparations for driving to the Alps in a couple of days. I will keep daily notes and have you participate vicariously in our wonderful excursion through the Alps, and, of course have some fun on the German Autobahn.

II. TRIP of the Week – TUSCANY – Please register ASAP –
<https://fastlanetravel.com/2024-tuscany-porsche-fest/>



We're there during the wine harvest – the perfect time of the year.

My favorite village in Tuscany: Buonconvento right on the Mille Miglia



Guess who parks a dozen Porsches in the Pedestrian-ONLY Zone in medieval Montepulciano on Piazza Grande, right in front of the Cathedral and City Hall?







IV. My Final Thoughts: On a lighter note,

- I took my suit to the cleaners, who wanted to charge me \$40, so I gave it to the charity shop next door. They cleaned and pressed it and put it in the window. I bought it back for \$15.
- My wife and I decided to never go to bed angry. We've been awake since Tuesday.
- Someone just gave me half a peace sign. Weird.
- Growing up, we knew Dad had had enough when we heard the recliner slam down. Kids these days will never know that fear.

- My wife said: "That's the 4th time you've gone back for dessert! Doesn't it embarrass you?" I said: "No, I keep telling them it's for you."
- When I was in elementary school we learned about a shape called a rhombus and that was the last time I ever heard about that shape.
- My wife and I started role-playing in the bedroom. Her favorite is The Sexy Librarian where I have to sit quietly while she reads a book.
- Being old is when you don't care where your spouse goes, just as long as you don't have to go too.
- I now know how it will all end for me, one of my kids will unplug my life support to charge their phone.
- At a wedding reception, someone yelled: "All married people please stand next to the one person that has made your life worth living." The bartender was almost crushed to death.
- I met my wife at a singles night. I was surprised because I thought she was home with the kids.
- I want someone I can share my entire life with who will leave me alone most of the time.
- As I walk through the valley of the Shadow of Death, I remind myself that you can't always trust Google Maps.

