



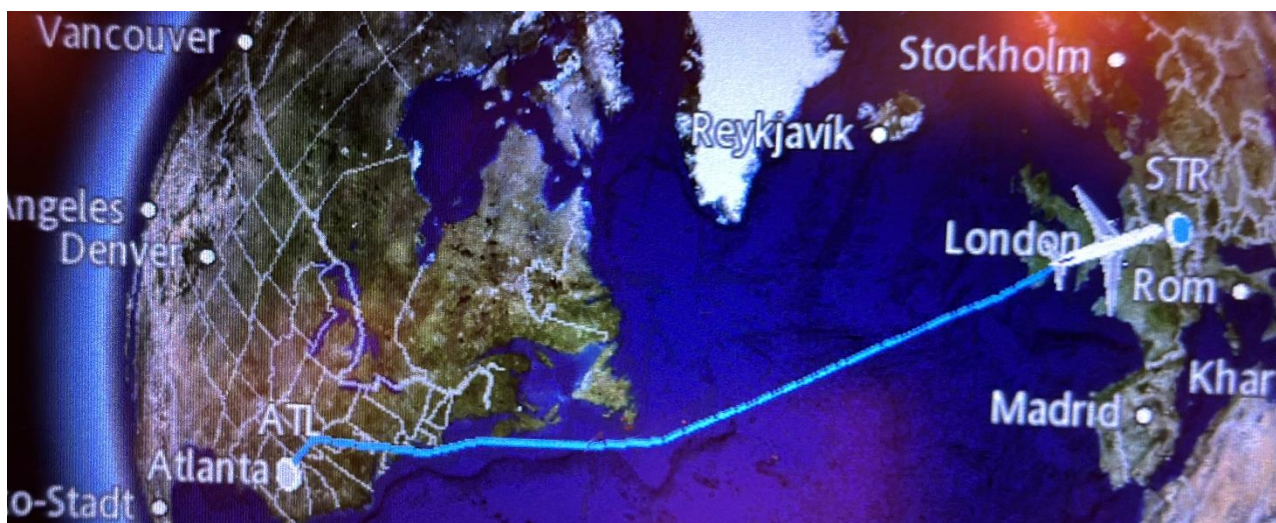
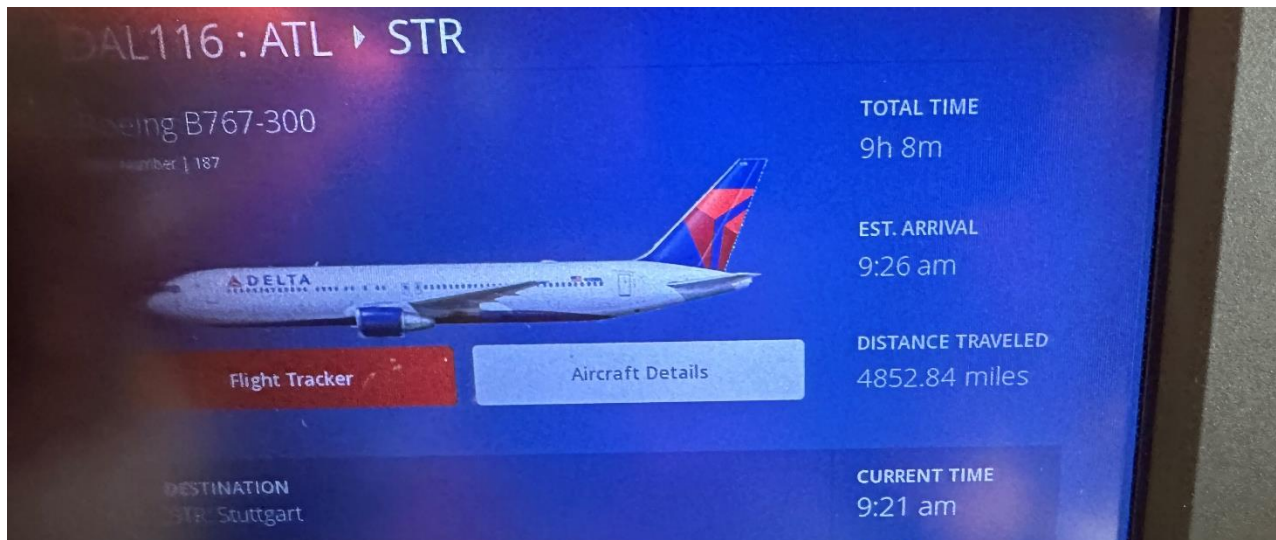
**Item:** Fast Lane News #36 in 2024  
(Issue # 236 since 2020) On September 7<sup>th</sup> 2024, I'm writing from Room #420 at the Graf Zeppelin Hotel in Stuttgart; starting the 1<sup>st</sup> of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary PORSCHE Fests Trips  
**To:** Our Fast Lane Travel Family in Australia, Canada, Dubai, Europe, Iceland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand,



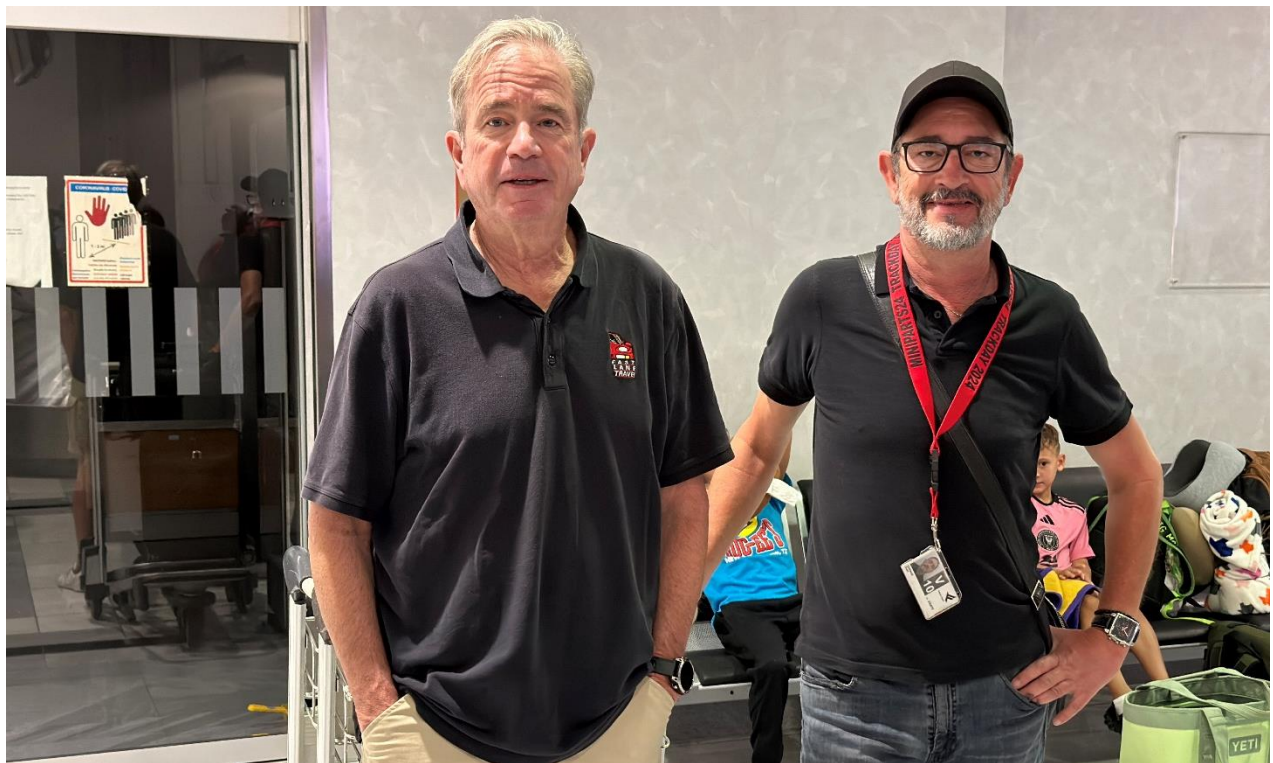
Singapore, South Africa and in the USA!

**Subjects:** Boeing 767-300 ER & landing in STR; DELTA News today; Weindorf; 2025 Dates; My Final Thoughts: Fishing outside a bar in a puddle; More of my fond memories.

### I. DL 116 – Boeing 767-300 ATL-STR: Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup> 2024



- **Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup> 2024:** It was a relaxing and smooth 9-hour flight to Stuttgart. Don Rogers was on the flight with me and, thankfully, Ralph picked us up inside the luggage belt area.





Ralph has special access to the customs area. For us, a pickup inside is essential because it's impossible for one person to manage 6 monster bags. I had called Miro and he and Sonja were there also. The transfer to downtown Stuttgart was quick.

I checked in and showered . . . felt like a human again. I spent the afternoon walking up with Miro to the Schlossplatz and looking at the activities at the Weindorf.

We met Birgit and Ralph Grupp at their **Stadtlaube Weindorf Restaurant**, which is very rustic. We decided to cancel the Lautenschlager Restaurant on Monday and instead join the local festivities at the Weindorf (wine village). This village is a traditional September event and is set up in the middle of town on the Rathausplatz. It's a big party that concludes everyone's summer; allows the vintners to show off their new wines; and signals "last party" and let's get back to work . . . until the Oktoberfest break, of course.





Miro and I took the U-Bahn, for €2.00 each, one stop from the Schlossplatz to the Hauptbahnhof and the Graf Zeppelin. I skipped dinner and went to bed. Jet lag really hit me hard this time. I guess I was so incredibly busy with the trip's preparations and my usual prep work for a six-week absence from the US, that I needed 12 hours of sleep.

- **Sunday morning, September 1<sup>st</sup> 2024:** At breakfast, I read the local paper the **Stuttgarter Zeitung** and came across this article:



## Delta Airlines verdirbt das Flughafen-Jubiläum

Nach fast 40 Jahren wird die prestigeträchtige, einzige Langstreckenverbindung von Stuttgart in die USA endgültig gestrichen.

Von Andreas Geldner

Mitten in die Jubiläumsveranstaltungen zum 100-jährigen Bestehen des Stuttgarter Flughafens platzt für die Betreiber und die Region eine schlechte Nachricht: Der einzige echte Interkontinentalflug von Stuttgart nach Atlanta, dessen Anfänge in das Jahr 1986 zurückreichen, steht endgültig vor dem Aus. Dies hat eine Sprecherin der US-Fluggesellschaft Delta Airlines bestätigt. Darüber berichtet hatte in Deutschland zuerst das Flugverkehrsfachportal Aero-Telegraph. Offenbar ist man mit der Auslastung nicht mehr zufrieden: „Wir passen unseren Flugplan der Verbrauchernachfrage an“, sagte die Sprecherin.



Eine Boeing 767 von Delta – dieses Bild ist bald Geschichte.

Foto: Flughafen Stuttgart/Bianca Renz

Ende Oktober hätte die Flugverbindung in der Wintersaison sowieso pausiert. Nun kann man allerdings auch im kommenden Sommer keine Flüge mehr buchen. Erst im vergangenen Frühjahr war die Verbindung nach einer dreijährigen Coronapause wieder feierlich in Betrieb genommen worden. Die Flugzeuge landeten und starteten in Stutt-

gart jeweils morgens jeden Montag, Dienstag, Donnerstag und Samstag. Auch dem Publikum fielen die Flugzeuge vom Typ Boeing 767 wegen ihrer Größe im Vergleich zu den am Flughafen üblichen Kurz- und Mittelstreckenmaschinen auf.

Auch Düsseldorf verliert seine direkte Flugverbindung in die USA. Nur die beiden

großen Drehkreuze Frankfurt und München und saisonal Berlin werden weiter bedient. Atlanta, der Heimatflughafen von Delta, war 2023 mit knapp 105 Millionen Passagieren der größte Airport der Welt. Er erschließt ein großes Netz an Anschlussflügen vor allem in den Süden und den Westen der USA.

Diese Ziele lassen sich mit Umstiegen an den Drehkreuzen der Delta-Partnerfluggesellschaften KLM und Air France in Amsterdam und Paris weiterhin mit zahlreichen Flügen erreichen. Für die Fluggäste bedeutet das meist zweimaliges Umsteigen, wenn man nicht nur in ganz große Städte will. Auch andere Airlines bieten keine komfortableren Verbindungen. Mit dem zweiten Umsteigen verlängert sich nicht nur die Reisezeit, auch das Risiko eines Anschluss- oder Gepäckverlusts verdoppelt sich. Delta streicht den Flug, obwohl weiter viel US-Militär in Stuttgart stationiert bleibt, und viele Unternehmen aus der Region mit engen Verbindungen in die USA eigentlich für einen verlässlichen Bedarf sorgen. Vom Flughafen gab es am Sonntag zunächst noch keine Reaktion.



Loosely translated: “Delta Airlines spoils the STR Airport’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. After 40 years the only (trans-Atlantic) long-distance direct flight to the US, will definitively be cancelled.” Flying to Stuttgart, from the US, from now on, will be via FRA, AMS, MUC, or ZHR. It’s basically the same one-plane change to STR from the US except instead of ATL It’ll be one airport transfer in Europe.

**My advice:** Whatever you do, just avoid CDG – **please call Susan Sheridan**, in our office, for all your flight arrangements – she is your secure answer to a well-planned flight schedule with a 24-hour safety net: **just call Susan: +1 813 475 5989.**

- **Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024:** It’s too early for the Oktoberfest yet the Stuttgarters do not want to be deprived of a party. The solution is the annual Weindorf. Thus, the center of town’s Schillerplatz and Marktplatz





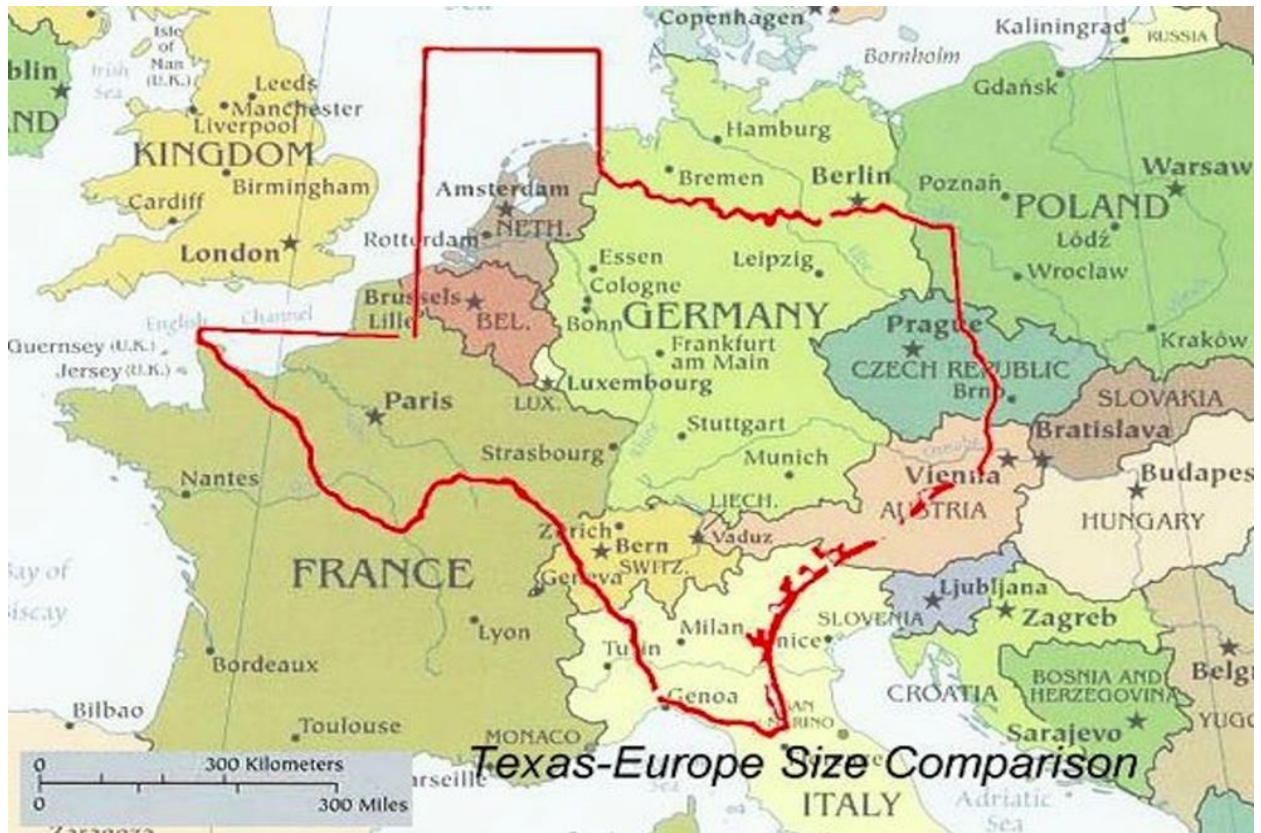
are transformed into a rural village where the new wine harvest is celebrated and consumed. There are stalls that sell gingerbread hearts and sweets. Tonight, we will join the festivities in the Stadlaube – our favorite Wine Village Restaurant owned by Birgit and Ralph Grupp.

- **Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024:** This morning everyone attended our **mandatory Safety Drivers' Briefing**. At that meeting everyone also signs the various necessary paperwork, like liability releases and Porsche rental information. Of course, everyone had already received our Copyrighted Booklet "Driving is Different in Europe". The key topics covered at that meeting are:



- "Was ist anders in Europa?" What's different?
- How do we do it and what is your part in it.
- Driving on the German & other Autobahn.
- What NOT to do!
- Importance of pit stops & re-fueling.
- Driving mountain passes and country roads.
- "Incoming" vs. "clear" notice, but you're responsible.
- Role of the "wing team"
- Various important signage.
- You'll be joining a prestigious Club!
- About a half hour + Q & A.

Attendees particularly enjoyed the geography element of the presentation, such as comparing Germany's size to Texas.



Source: Johny Varsami, Fast Lane Travel, Inc. EU Team.

The meeting was followed by a delicious lunch of Maultaschen or a salad with grilled salmon. No alcohol was served because this afternoon we



are picking up our Porsches at Porscheplatz. But first a visit to the stunning baroque **Castle Ludwigsburg** – better than Versailles.





After touring this magnificent “Schloss” we headed to Porscheplatz eagerly anticipating the lineup of our beauties.



Laura’s Team was able to fulfill every one of our customers’ driving dream, as conveyed by Wendy. Furthermore, Gerald brought all the walkie-talkies so that the first drive to the Graf Zeppelin Hotel would go smoothly. Gerald, Miro and Johnny immediately went to work to program the navigation into all the cars’ NAVI systems in English. This is extremely valuable in that it also gives all the participants the option of driving independently.



This is my 238<sup>th</sup> Porsche Tour – yet every time we start in Stuttgart, I still find this view breathtaking. What do you think?



If any of your fellow PCA Region member and/or friends haven't been on one of our fabulous tours – they are missing one of life's greatest and most rewarding pleasures. Come on . . . get a group together. We'll offer a financial advantage to your Region for larger groups because we can





amortize the fixed costs of a trip, like advertising, drive guides, route design, or the luggage van & driver, for example, over a larger number of participants. We have also had several Regions raffle off one of our PORSCHE Fest Trips to raise funds for a particular charity.

## II. The planned 2025 Fast Lane dates are:

SUN	18-May	FRI	23-May	STR	Fast Lane Spring PORSCHE Fest
SUN	18-May	TUE	27-May	STP	Fast Lane Spring PORSCHE Fest <b>PLUS</b>
FRI	30-May	TUE	10-Jun	AMA	<b>Amazing Hidden Austria</b> - Off the Beaten Tourist Path
SUN	8-Jun	MON	16-Jun	LEM	2025 102nd 24 Hour <b>Le Mans Race</b>
SUN	15-Jun	TUE	24-Jun	FAA	Fast Lane Adrenaline Adventure (TAP)
THU	10-Jul	FRI	18-Jul	COM	<b>USA Colorado Rocky Mountain High</b>
SUN	31-Aug	SAT	13-Sep	FDA	Fast Lane Dolomites & Alps Exclusive PORSCHE Tour
TUE	16-Sep	SUN	21-Sep	FTR	Fast Lane Fall PORSCHE Fest
TUE	16-Sep	WED	24-Sep	FTP	Fast Lane Fall PORSCHE Fest <b>PLUS</b>
TUE	30-Sep	SUN	12-Oct	TPF	Tuscany PORSCHE Fest
THU	23-Oct	THU	30-Oct	SMR	<b>USA 58th Dawsonville, GA Moonshine Festival</b>
FRI	5-Dec	FRI	12-Dec	CHR	<b>Christmas</b> in Vienna, Austria

We are still working on ironing out some the details but mark your calendars. The challenge is always to get the commitment from the various hotels for rooms without having to pay a fortune upfront; avoiding various European and/or regional holidays or events etc. You get the picture.

## III. My Final Thoughts: *Fishing outside a bar in a puddle*

The rain had stopped and there was a big puddle in front of the bar just outside the American Legion Post.

A rumpled old Army ground-pounder was standing near the edge with a fishing line in the puddle.

A young Marine fighter pilot came over to him and asked what he was doing.

"Fishing," the old sergeant answered.

"Poor old loon," the pilot thought to himself, and invited the old sergeant into the bar for a drink.

As they were sipping their spirits, the young pilot asked, "How many have you caught today?"

"You're number 14" the old sergeant answered, taking another sip from his double shot of 12-year-old Scotch, "2 Air Force, 3 Navy and 9 Marines."



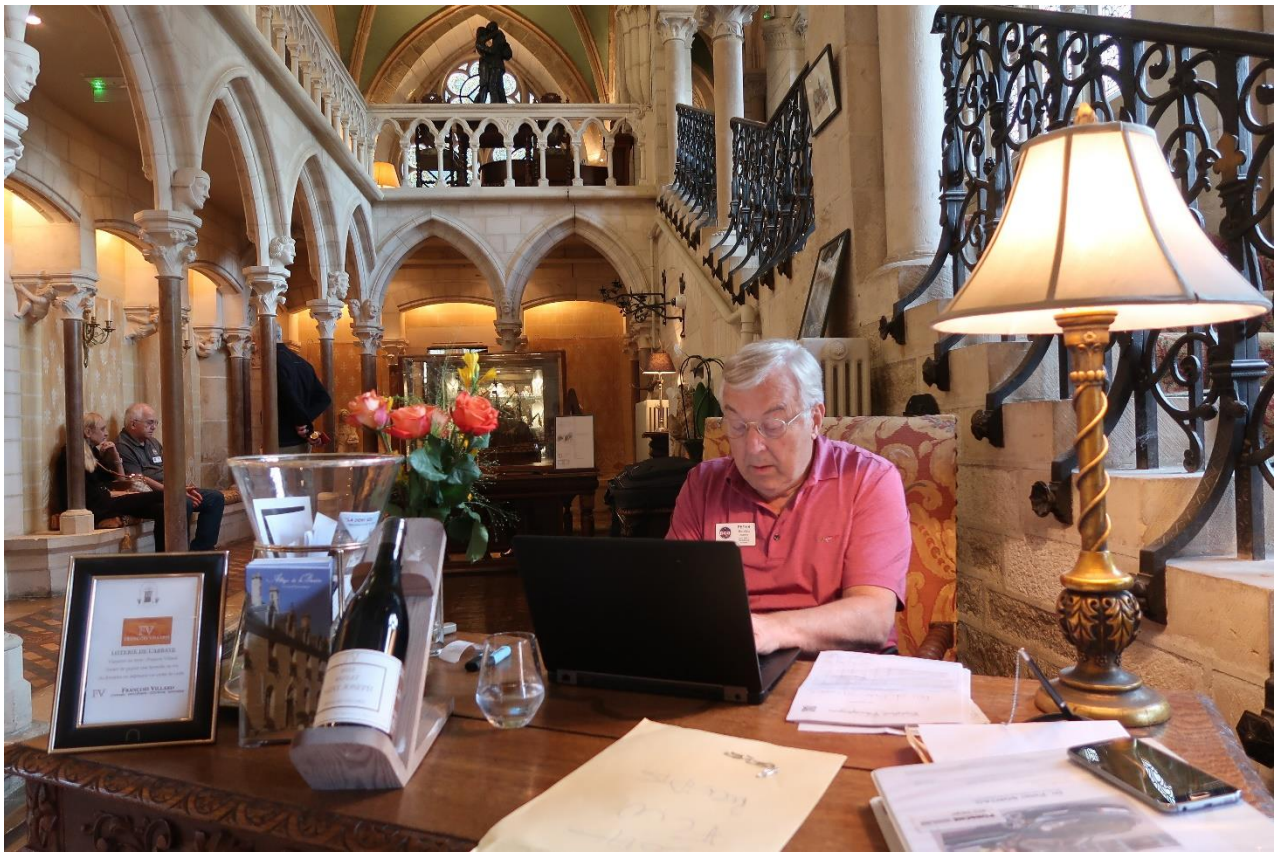
#### IV. SOME MORE OF MY HAPPY MEMORIES











I couldn't think of a more beautiful place to get some work done....





**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 2025. I will see you soon in Stuttgart. Can't wait. - Peter**

