



**Item:** Fast Lane News #41 in 2024 (Issue # 241 since 2020) On October 12, 2024, I'm back in our offices in Hurricane Milton's Ground Zero, in Oldsmar, Florida along the currently very stormy Gulf of Mexico. **To:** Our Fast Lane Travel Family in Australia, Canada, Dubai, Europe, Iceland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa and in USA!



**Subjects:** Hurricane Milton; Flood Damaged Car Solution; Luxury Hotels Pricing Dynamics; Fall PORSCHE Trips Feedback; Spring 2025; My Final Thoughts: How much time in each country do people spend to eat and drink each day?

### **I. We Survived Hurricane Milton in Florida:**

The storm made a 60-mile turn to the south and hit Sarasota and Port Charlotte directly with 12' high (4 Meters) storm surges causing massive damage and flooding. Winds peaked at 155 mph (250 km/hr). Looks like everyone in Florida is now a member of the **150 mph Club**.

#### **Tampa, Florida**



All of our staff is safe and, as of Thursday, after a 3-day hiatus, we are back in full operation at the office. The damage to our homes was minimal. There was some flooding in some neighborhoods, but our office was safe.

Thankfully, I just had a new ceramic tile roof installed on my house which



worked superbly. The old grey leaky roof on my house needed to be replaced. This beautiful red tile roof was just completed the week before



the hurricane. We dodged that proverbial bullet.



My grandfather's suitcase also survived Milton. It was safely ensconced in my garage. The garage doors have hurricane bars, preventing them from getting sucked off the door tracks. This is a normal garage door precaution in Florida. No problem, we were prepared. My house is 60ft. (~18 m) above sea level, thus, not in a flood zone. All is well.



## II. Flood Damaged Cars Appraisals Help:

Has one of your cars suffered flood damage either from Helene or now Milton? One of our staff members is also an independent licensed **automobile damage appraiser** to represent you vis a vis the insurance companies, as needed.

In the wake of recent catastrophic flooding in Florida, vehicle owners are



**FLOOD DAMAGE ALERT!**  
**DON'T LET INSURANCE COMPANIES SHORTCHANGE YOU**  
Get the full replacement value for your  
flooded / totalled car, truck, SUV, motorcycle or boat  
**GET A DIMINISHED VALUE OR TOTAL LOSS REPORT**  
**GULFSTREAM MOTORSPORTS**  
Appraisals - Consulting - Valuations - Pre-Purchase Inspections  
40+ Years Experience | [gulfstreammotorsports.com](http://gulfstreammotorsports.com)

advised to exercise caution when dealing with insurance claims for storm-damaged automobiles. While insurance policies typically cover the full retail replacement value for totaled vehicles, including cars, trucks, SUVs, motorcycles, and boats, insurers may attempt to offer settlements based on lower wholesale values.

**Gulfstream Motorsports**, a Florida-based company with over four decades of experience in automotive salvage and appraisal, offers expert assistance in navigating these complex claims. As licensed independent car dealers and rolling stock appraisers, their team possesses the expertise to advocate for fair market replacement values on behalf of policyholders.

It's important to note that the claims process can extend up to 90 days, and vehicle owners are cautioned against hastily accepting initial offers. Once a settlement is agreed upon, further negotiation becomes impossible. For those seeking to maximize their insurance payouts and ensure equitable compensation for their losses, **Robert** at Gulfstream Motorsports can be reached at **727-541-1741** for professional guidance throughout the claims process.

Robert's Face Book Ad:

<https://www.facebook.com/gulfstreammotorsports/posts/pfbid0qiGXugdtwE56vWLGQf3JWAcku8yot17KrHGgQbA8hZZs84SQvVhVeEv83hr5oWrUI>

### III. **Luxury Hotels Pricing Power – More hotels are exceeding \$1,000 per night.**

Source: Travel Weekly. October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, by Christina Jelski.

The number of hotels **in Italy** with average daily rates over \$1,000 went from 20 in 2019 to almost 70 in 2024. The luxury hotel market appears to be undergoing an upmarket shift, as the number of properties setting their average room rate at \$1,000 or higher has grown substantially across the globe. **Peter's Comment:** Thus, Lake Como, Lake Maggiore, in fact the entire Italian Lake District has seen as much as a 60% spike in prices from pre-Covid levels. Our preferred Hotel on Lake Como now charges \$1,400 per night. Hence, we are staying at a much better location, in Ascona, on Lago Maggiore. We are still visiting Lake Como and Bellagio and enjoy a wonderful James Bond Photo Rally Luncheon at the renowned Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni in scenic Bellagio (the real one, not the fake one in Vegas).

According to data from CoStar, the U.S., Italy and France have seen the biggest increases in the number of hotels with an average daily rate (ADR) that reaches or surpasses the \$1,000 threshold in recent years. In the U.S., for example, hotels able to sustain an annual \$1,000-plus ADR grew from 22 in 2019 to approximately 80 by the first half of this year.



In Italy over the same period, that number went from less than 20 properties to close to 70. And France has grown its ranks of \$1,000-plus ADR properties from just over 20 to nearly 50. (And it's worth noting that these numbers likely underestimate the true count, as CoStar omits many smaller, ultraluxe hotels from its reporting. If those numbers seem surprisingly high to you, you're not alone: A columnist at the Wall Street Journal who wrote an article earlier this month about the trend, titled "The rise of the \$1,000 a night hotel room," said she was "gobsmacked" by the U.S. stats.

Jan Freitag, STR's senior vice president of lodging insights and national director of hospitality analytics for CoStar Group, suggests that this trend is reflective of a broader "bifurcation" occurring across the hospitality sector. "In general, this means that the upper end of the market is still doing quite well, but the lower end of the market is not," he said.

But according to Freitag, there's yet another level of bifurcation happening at the high end. "There's luxury, then there's ultraluxury," he said. "Clearly, for the ultraluxury properties, there is no limit. There's just the customer saying, 'I want what I want, when I want it, and yes, I'm willing to pay for it.'"



Next Spring - Lunch at Villa Serbelloni in Bellagio

## IV. 2024 Fall PORSCHE Trips FEEDBACK:

- 2024 PCA Fall TREFFEN to Stuttgart:

**Peter, *What an awesome trip!***

Your hospitality was incredible. The meals and lodging were 5-star. The scenery was breathtaking. We made new Porsche friends! We will definitely do another tour. **Randy and Cindy Rutherford, Bogart, GA.**



- 2024 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour #2:

**We were very impressed** with the way the team was able to make changes "on the fly" when the storm hit Austria. It was seamless, and kept us on schedule and safe. Your organization is very efficient and extremely well organized. The best I have ever seen or experienced. We still have not gotten over what a great time we had and enjoyed the others on the trip. Five stars all around to you all and our driving leaders, Fabian and Gerald. **Bill & Angela Fetter, Dublin, OH**





- **2024 PCA Fall TREFFEN to Stuttgart:**

**Wendy**, Great trip! Considering doing more with Fast Lane. Peter is absolutely incredible, loved the stories. **Steve Scott. Mesa, AZ** p.s.. lunch at Christophorus was superb – THE best steak!



Catching a ride from the Factory with Rick





**V. More Reflections of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trips Highlights:**

This is REAL onion soup how it's served in Stuttgart – in an onion!



Start your engines please.





The first pit (pee) stop on the Autobahn after departing from Stuttgart.





## VI. 2025 NEW and very SPECIAL: Cruising Croatia:

Planned dates: Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 2025

The luxurious ship I mentioned last week is \$14,500 per person, double occupancy, all-inclusive. I need 13 couples to secure the ship. It's a truly exclusive and spectacular ship sailing to several magnificent destinations in the Adriatic Sea. I have been there, and **I will be there with you next May!**



This cruise includes all superb dining & beverages onboard, private transfers to and from the airport, private guided tours of ports, hotel, taxes, dockage fees, our 24/7 concierge service and fuel for the duration of the charter and full WiFi. We will have another great trip together.



Please contact Susan, our manager of Fast Lane Luxury Travel, LLC. **1 813 475 5989** for more information. **IMPORTANT: SPACE IS LIMITED!** I now need your indication of participation. No obligation at this point until I have the 26 participants to secure the charter. **Molim** (in Croatian means: please) let me know by **Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>** that you're "in" with me on the cruise in Croatia, **Hvala puno** (means: Thanks a lot or Havala means: Thank You).

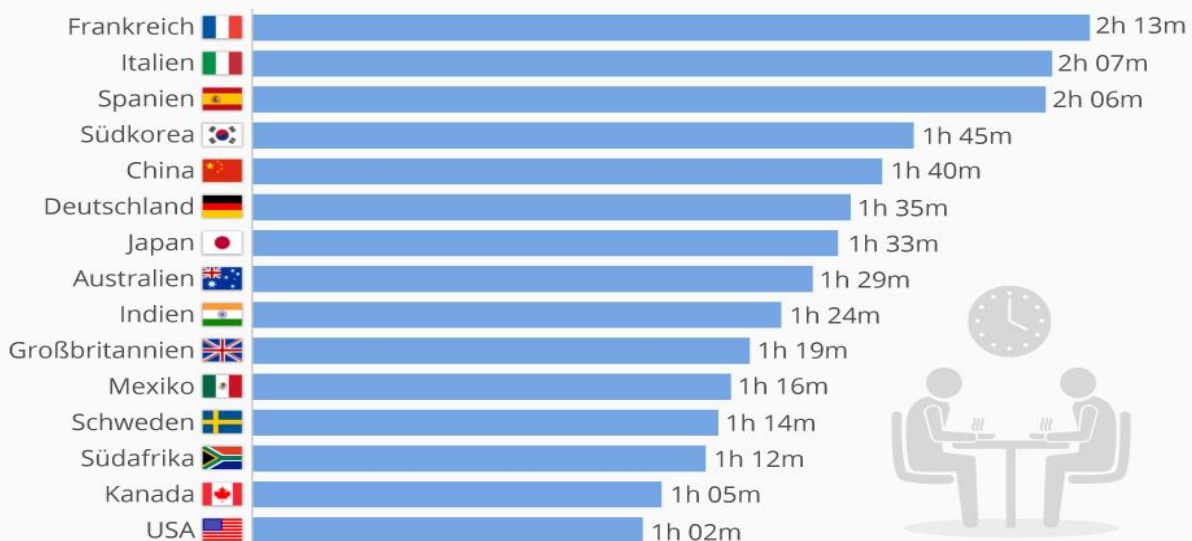
**Please** shoot me an e-mail to [peter@fastlanetravel.com](mailto:peter@fastlanetravel.com) "We're in!"

VII. **2025 TRIP of the Week – Please register ASAP – Spring Porsche Fest PLUS** to Lake Como, Italy; Bellagio; Valle Verzasca; the legendary Fast Lane James Bond Photo Rally with "valuable" prizes; and the Interlpen above Innsbruck, Austria. **Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> 2025.** Please call us at **+1 813 343 3001 for details** – some key elements are still being finalized as some very attractive tour options are available to us.

VIII. **Final Thoughts: Bon Appetit by Country Survey** - How much time each day respondents spend to eat and drink:

### Mahlzeit!

Zeit, die die Befragten pro Tag mit Essen und Trinken verbringen





## V. SOME OF MY HAPPY MEMORIES



The awesome European Team





**This is where it all started! What a treat!**



**Mr. Wonderful on his 15<sup>TH</sup> Fast Lane PORSCHE Trip with lovely Rian.**





**What a magnificent choir at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner.**



**Our favorite Cappuccino and Apple Strudel Stop high up in the Alps.**







**PORSCHE TraumWerk – it is truly a dream work.**



Meet the power horse at the **Traumwerk** railway exhibition.









Now that's a Garage!



Let's go to Zuffenhausen: PORSCHE Museum & Factory





**Bring all the luggage you want; I'll have it in your next room before you get there ...**







We had a successful 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year!  
Thank you very much. All of us are looking forward to being together again next year in 2025. Please take good care of yourself and stay healthy, happy and young. I will be with you with new “true stories”, innovative trips, tons of good cheer, superb cuisine and places and roads you will always remember. Yours Truly, Peter

