

GEMÜTLICHKEIT

The Travel Letter for Germany, Austria, Switzerland & the New Europe

THE BEST OF '93

HOTEL OF THE YEAR

Naming the best hotel of 1993 is about the toughest call we've ever had to make. So we're going to duck the issue and let the Austrian country hotel, **Grüner Baum**, and Interlaken's **Grand Hotel Victoria-Jungfrau** share *Gemütlichkeit* "Hotel of the Year" honors.

The latter takes its place with the **Beau Rivage Palace** in Lausanne and Leukerbad's **Les Sources des Alpes** as our all-time favorite Swiss hotels, and the former is simply the best country hotel we've ever seen.

An immense and extravagant new Art Deco spa, two top-notch restaurants, various intimate little corners for relaxing with a book, a drink - or both - impeccable guestrooms and a sure, smooth staff, place the Victoria-Jungfrau about as close to perfection as any hotel we've experienced. Plus, on a clear day the windows of your room are likely to frame that awesome peak, the Jungfrau.

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ANNUAL "G" AWARD WINNERS

Once again we devote part of the year-end issue to our annual "G" awards. That untranslatable term, *gemütlichkeit*, is so much a part of this newsletter's travel philosophy that each year we recognize those places — hotels, restaurants, museums, coffee houses, theaters and wide spots in the road — that in our opinion best epitomize it.

Beginning on page three is the 1993 list of places where we felt something a little extra, a caring management, a special warmth or coziness, a sincere friendliness. In other words, *gemütlichkeit*.

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FAVORITE HOTELS: 1987-1993

Favorite Country Hotels

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Grüner Baum | Badgastein, Aus. |
| 2. Benen Diken Hof | Westerland/Sylt, Germ. |
| 3. Les Sources des Alpes | Leukerbad, Swit. |
| 4. Wald und Schloss Friedrichsruhe | Öringen, Germ. |
| 5. Albergo Giardino | Ascona, Swit. |
| 6. Schloss Haunsperg | Oberalm bei Hallein, Aus. |
| 7. Hotel Geiger | Berchtesgaden, Germ. |
| 8. Hotel Anker | Marktheidenfeld, Germ. |
| 9. Romantikhôtel Tennerhof | Kitzbühel, Aus. |
| 10. Le Grand Chalet | Gstaad, Swit. |
| 11. Rote Wand | Lech, Aus. |
| 12. Albergo Gardena | Caslano, Swit. |
| 13. Hotel Tümmelerhof | Seefeld, Aus. |
| 14. Park Hotel | Bürgenstock, Swit. |
| 15. Waldhotel Doldenhorn | Kandersteg, Swit. |
| 16. Schloss-Hotel Chastè | Tarasp, Swit. |
| 17. Hotel der Bär | Ellmau, Aus. |
| 18. Romantik Hotel Bierhütte | Hohenau, Germ. |
| 19. Hotel Bavaria | Pfronten, Germ. |
| 20. Grandhotel Giessbach | Brienz, Swit. |
| 21. Hostellerie Bon Accueil | Château-d'Oex, Swit. |
| 22. Gutshotel des Weingutes | Neumagen-Dhron, Germ. |
| 23. Landhaus Hubertushof | Altausee, Aus. |
| 24. Hostellerie Débarcardère | St. Sulpice, Swit. |
| 25. Hotel Alpenrose | Wildhaus, Swit. |

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DEAR SUBSCRIBER:

The question in the fall of 1986 was how many people are sufficiently interested in travel to Germany, Austria and Switzerland to spend upwards of 50 bucks a year on eight flimsy pages of info a month, no photos? The next question was could we find them? Well, we located enough that we're still around more than seven years later and eager to get on with year number eight. Thank you.

So how did *Gemütlichkeit* get started? Here's a little background. Since the mid-'70s Liz and I had made a yearly European trip, almost exclusively to Germany, Austria and Switzerland. I was a front office executive with the Golden State Warriors of the National Basketball Association, a team that had begun to slide quickly downhill after winning the NBA championship in 1975. As miserable season followed miserable season, our light at the end of the tunnel each spring was the annual escape to the restful Bavarian countryside or the old-world charm of Vienna. Perhaps not financially prudent but therapeutic. Then, the day we returned home from the 1984 trip, a note was waiting for me. It was an invitation to breakfast the next morning from the team's owner. Before I could finish my orange juice I was fired. A great way to start the day.

Later that year I opened a small marketing and public relations company. One October afternoon in 1986 my youngest brother Tom (he

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DEAR SUBSCRIBER

Continued from page 1

was then 29, I was 49) showed me a *Money Magazine* article about a successful newsletter on travel to France. He also told me about a new development in the publishing field called "desktop publishing." One didn't need typesetters or an art department, all that was necessary was a Macintosh computer and the proper software. Tom already had a Mac and we bought the software, a program called Pagemaker. A travel newsletter was something I had been thinking about for years and away we went.

Though he was and is a Francophile, Tom joined me in the venture. At the time he was a free-lance video script writer by day and an aspiring fiction writer by night. Some nights, though, he did gigs as a stand-up comedian at such San Francisco comedy clubs as Cobb's Pub and the Holy City Zoo. Tom gets around. In the early 80s, when United began to promote its service to all 50 states, the airline offered a year of free, unlimited first-class travel to anyone who would fly to all 50 states within 50 days. Tom, who then worked in the public relations department of GTE Sprint (then U.S. Sprint), convinced his bosses that the promotional benefit to the company would be worth their paying his airfare to accept the United challenge. He completed the journey in an exhausting three week itinerary that included something like 30 plane changes at Chicago's O'Hare Airport and flying everyday from dawn to midnight. The year of free travel?

Well, there was at least one Hawaii vacation and various short trips to visit friends. And then one Saturday he left on the earliest flight out of San Francisco to Boston where he stayed just long enough to buy a dozen live lobsters which he brought back for a family dinner that night.

After a couple of years of *Gemütlichkeit*, Tom decided his writing interests and aspirations extended well beyond travel newsletters and anyway he was more interested in France. It was the right move, because today he is a successful writer and creative consultant with a client list that includes Apple Computer, Sun Microsystems, Johnson & Johnson and The Gap. You'll also see his byline in such magazines as *Wired* and *Skiing*.

About the time Tom decided he'd rather be rich and famous than a newsletter publisher, Roger Holliday and Claudia Fischer hove into view. Their speciality at first was eastern Europe but recently their savvy and European travel expertise have been employed to cover more conventional travel destinations like Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Würzburg and Stuttgart. Between trips last summer they got married.

Other major players in the *Gemütlichkeit* support team include:

- Liz Bestor. Wife of publisher for 32 years, voice of reason and road manager. Her trip diaries and note-taking are essential. Keeps remarkably cool when publisher loses boarding passes, passports, keys to rental cars, etc.

- Laura Bestor, Nancy Badely, Rob-

ert Bestor III and Andrew Bestor. All have filled orders, answered phones, sent faxes, stuffed envelopes and slaved for hours over a hot database. Employee Bestor III recently married employee Badely and in early 1994 they will open **Travel Essentials** in Ashland, Oregon, a retail store for travel books, maps and accessories. Laura Bestor now works in the marketing department of Boston's Beth-Israel hospital and Andrew Bestor is the incumbent *Gemütlichkeit* dogsbody.

- Lois Troop Bestor. Mother of publisher, 1930 champion speller of Cass County, Nebraska, and first queen of the Kass County King Korn Carnival in 1935. As evidenced by a recent rash of typos and misspelled words, an ambitious travel schedule has curtailed her work as a *Gemütlichkeit* proof-reader. Bob Bestor, father of publisher and just turned 80, keeps low profile, does occasional electrical and plumbing work around *Gemütlichkeit* offices and confides the secret of success in his 57-year marriage to the Korn Queen is in the repeated use of two simple phrases, "Whatever you want to do" and "I'll take care of it."

- John K. Bestor. Uncle of publisher and semi-retired partner of Kansas City law firm of Stinson, Mag & Fizzell. The first of the above to travel regularly to Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Inspired the *Gemütlichkeit* travel philosophy of backroads exploration with an open-ended itinerary.

- Paul Merschorf. Peerless graphic design and computer consultant.

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Rating Key - Hotel

- I Basic accommodations or a hotel that underachieves. Suitable only for stays of one or two nights.
- II Good hotel, typical of its class. Suitable for a longer stay.
- III A cut above other hotels in its price category.
- IV Excellent accommodations.
- V A great hotel, world-class, could be a memorable experience.

Restaurants

- ❖ Acceptable meals, but *only* if the price is right.
- ❖❖ Good food but not good value, overpriced.
- ◆ Serves good, plain food, typical of the region.
- ☆ A cut above other restaurants in its price category.
- ☆☆ Outstanding food and service.
- ☆☆☆ A great restaurant in every respect

Special Designations

- G By virtue of location, decor, special charm, warmth of management, or combination thereof, an especially pleasant establishment.
- Ⓢ Offers significant value.
- Ⓢ Stay away.

1993 "G" WINNERS

Continued from page 1

Hotel Atlas Pontresina, Switzerland

The Pontresina stop for families with young children. Though the rambling, relaxed Atlas is a little worn at the edges, its cheerful staff obviously enjoys a hotel full of kids.

Atlas Hotel, CH-8024 Pontresina, phone 082/663 21, fax 082/679 92. Least expensive double room 140 Sfr. (\$98), including breakfast and dinner. Major Cards. **Rating: II**

Schlosshotel Castell Zuoz, Switzerland

A special children's dining room, game room, child care facilities and a warm welcome from Ernst and Sylvia Wyrsh rate the resurrected Castell a 1993 "G." But there are things for grown-ups, too, such as a grand salon with a pianist at the cocktail hour and a fireplace that is always lit.

Castell Zuoz Alpen Schlosshotel, CH-7524, Zuoz, phone 082/7 01 01, fax 082/7 31 20. Least expensive double room 152 Sfr. (\$103), half board included. Major cards. **Rating: III**

Falken-Hotel Wengen, Switzerland

Always alert to the presence of things ersatz, we stooped to sneak a whiff from a small bouquet on a table in the Falken's dining room. Owner Andrea Cova immediately noticed us and said, rather sharply, "They are fresh, this is not a plastic hotel." Such a philosophy merits a "G."

What the Falken lacks in luxury, it makes up for in character. The wonderful nostalgic (but well

preserved) lobby, dining room and other public rooms don't look like they've changed much since 1885. Falken-Hotel, CH-3823 Wengen, telephone 036/56 51 21, fax 036/55 33 39. Least expensive double room, 190 Sfr. (\$131), including breakfast and dinner. Major cards. **Rating: II**

Albergo Gardenia Caslano, Switzerland

A special hotel in the sunshine and tropical vegetation of the Italian-speaking Swiss canton of Ticino. This beautifully restored villa near Lugano offers 25 tastefully decorated and furnished bedrooms and two excellent restaurants. Breakfast or dinner in the lush garden can be memorable.

The hotel is also noteworthy for the distinctive contemporary art that enlivens every room.

Albergo Gardenia, Via Valle, CH-6987 Caslano (Lago di Lugano), telephone 091/711716, fax 091/

712642. Least expensive double room 220 Sfr. (\$146). Major cards. **Rating: IV**

Grüner Baum Badgastein, Austria

See Hotel of the Year story on page one.

Grüner Baum, Kötschachtal, A-5640 Badgastein, telephone 06434 25 160, fax 06434 25 16 25. Least expensive double room 1500 AS (\$127), including breakfast and dinner. Major cards. **Rating: V**

Romantik Hotel Guardaval Scuol, Switzerland

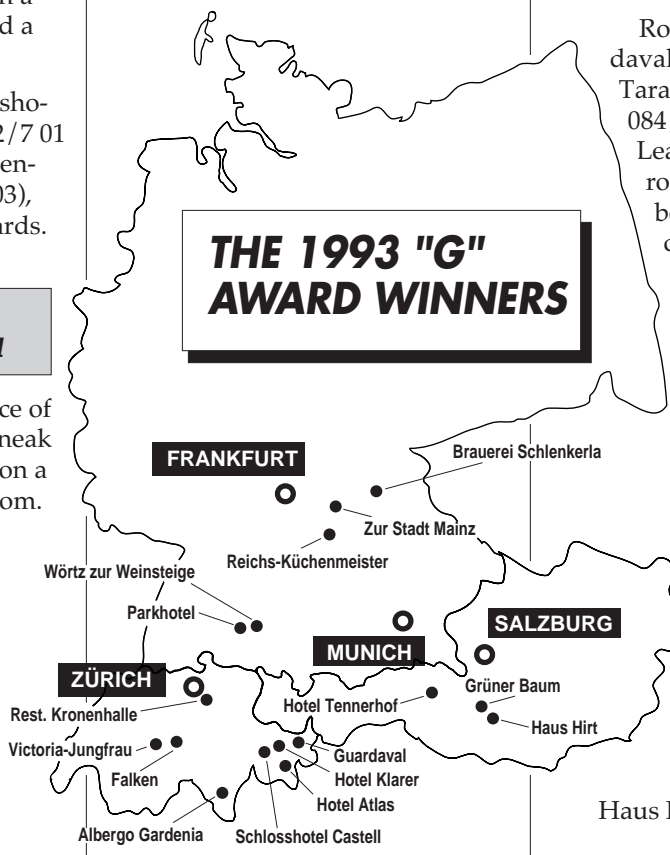
The two former farmhouses which comprise the Guardaval are typically Engadine with arched doorways, deeply recessed windows and the unique plaster designs known as sgraffito. The interior charm is supplied by vaulted ceilings, antique furnishings, splendid views and the Regi family's enthusiastic welcome.

Romantik Hotel Guardaval, CH-7550 Bad Scuol-Tarasp-Vulpera, phone 084/91 3 21 22, fax 99 7 67. Least expensive double room 230 Sfr. (\$156), half board included. Major cards. **Rating: III**

Haus Hirt Badgastein, Austria

A perfect hideout. Homey, yet elegant. Far from auto traffic and thus absolutely quiet. Most rooms have excellent views of the Gastein Valley. An easy 10-minute walk to the center of town via the Kaiser Wilhelm Promenade.

Haus Hirt, An der Kaiser-



1993 "G" WINNERS

Continued from page 3

promenade, A-5640 Badgastein, telephone 06434 27 97, fax 06434 27 97 48. Least expensive double room 1400 AS (\$119), including breakfast and dinner. **Rating: III**

Hotel Klarer Zuoz, Switzerland

This simple combination hotel-café-bakery is remarkable for its huge, arched entry, its vaulted public rooms and the friendliness of its owners, the Klarer family.

Hotel Klarer, CH-7524, Zuoz, phone 082/7 13 21, fax 082/7 12 14. Least expensive double room 140 Sfr. (\$95), half board included. Major cards. **Rating: II**

Restaurant Kronenhalle Zürich, Switzerland

The Kronenhalle earned its "G" when, in the middle of a Saturday night full-house, as we started a rather bold, unescorted tour to examine close-up some of the restaurant's famous art, a waiter took us in tow and for a few minutes guided us past priceless paintings by Picasso, Latrec, Monet, Matisse, Klee, Cézanne, Chagall and others. Through the years, this elegant restaurant has been able to count among its regulars such swells as Yves St. Laurent and Igor Stravinsky. Nevertheless, it is still down-to-earth enough to make a couple of tourists from California feel at home.

Restaurant Kronenhalle, Rämistrasse 4, CH-8001 Zürich, telephone 01/251 02 56 or 01/251 66 69. Expensive. Major cards. **Rating: ☆**

Parkhotel Stuttgart, Germany

Personal, friendly and very professional is the description used by contributing editors Roger

Holliday and Claudia Fischer for this 80-room Stuttgart hotel.

Owner Hans Karr is a concerned, affable presence.

Parkhotel, Villastrasse 21, D-7000 Stuttgart 1, phone 0711/28-01-0, fax 28 43 53. Least expensive double room 260 DM (\$154). **Rating: II**

Hotel Reichs-Küchenmeister Rothenburg o. d. T., Germany

A hotel since 1455, the Reichs-Küchenmeister is operated by the fifth generation of the Niedner family and their warmth and enthusiasm permeate the whole operation.

Enjoy the view of St. Jacob's Church and the chapel of St. Michael from the hotel's beautiful stone terrace.

Hotel Reichs-Küchenmeister, Kirchplatz 8, D-8803 Rothenburg-ob-der-Tauber, phone 09861/2046, fax 09861/86965. Least expensive double room 120 DM (\$71). Major cards. **Rating: III**

Brauerei Schlenkerla Bamberg, Germany

We found a spot at one of the Schlenkerla's long tables one busy night and waited to order a couple of their distinctive "smoky" beers. For perhaps three or four minutes nothing happened. No waitress. No order. We were obviously tourists and a man sitting next to us, just as obviously a local out for an evening walk and a beer, began to crane his neck and look nervously around. Anxious about our not being served, he was trying to get the attention of the waitress. Of course, in a moment someone bustled over in a friendly, apologetic way and we soon had what we had come for. Our neighbor, who never was able to make eye contact with the waitress, relaxed and returned to conversation with his friends. He simply wanted visitors to be well treated. We were.

The fresh beer is poured the old-fashioned way directly from small, dark barrels and costs 2.8 DM (\$1.65) for a half-liter.

Brauerei Schlenkerla, Dominkanerstrasse 6, D-8600 Bamberg. **Rating: ☆**

Gasthof Zur Stadt Mainz Würzburg, Germany

Simple, plain but loaded with genuine hospitality and charm. Seldom have we had a more gracious reception.

The hotel dates to 1430 but the 15 rooms were all redone three years ago. Its *stube* is loaded with atmosphere. During our visit, a Japanese cook was called out of the kitchen to help two of his fellow countrymen order their meals. As travelers themselves, the Schwarzmänn family know what it's like to be strangers in a foreign land.

Gasthof Zur Stadt Mainz, Semmelstrasse 39, D-8700 Würzburg, telephone 09 31/5 31 55, fax 09 31/5 85 10. Least expensive double room 180 DM (\$112). Major cards except Diner's. **Rating: III**

Romantik-Hotel Tennerhof Kitzbühel, Austria

The Pasquali von Campostella family, who have owned the Tennerhof since 1927, operate one of the two or three finest country hotels in Austria. Here one finds vaulted ceilings, marble floors, good pictures and rugs and a staff that exudes an air of quiet confidence and competence. Guest-rooms are a perfect meld of traditional Tyrolean ambience, top-class luxury and comfort.

Romantikhotel Tennerhof, Griesenauweg 26, A-6370 Kitzbühel, phone 05356/31 81, fax 05356/31 81 70. Least expensive double room 1,580 AS (\$133). Major cards. **Rating: IV**

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**Grand Hotel Victoria-Jungfrau
Interlaken, Switzerland**

See Hotel of the Year story on page one.

Grand Hotel Victoria-Jungfrau, CH-3800, Interlaken, telephone 036/271111, fax 036/273737. Least expensive double room 310 Sfr. (\$203), not including breakfast. **Rating: V**

**Hotel Wörtz zur Weinsteige
Stuttgart, Germany**

Cozy charm, warm Swabian hospitality and a fine restaurant are the attractions of Richard and Renata Scherle's Wörtz zur Weinsteige.

Don't miss the house speciality, trout, or something from the hotel's 14,000 bottle wine cellar.

Hotel Wörtz zur Weinsteige, Hohenheimer Strasse 30, D-7000 Stuttgart 1, phone 0711/236-7001, fax 0711/236-7007. Least expensive double room 155 DM (\$92). Major cards. **Hotel Rating: III**
Restaurant Rating: ☆

Continued from page one...

FAVORITE CITY HOTELS

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Victoria-Jungfrau | Interlaken, Switzerland |
| 2. Beau Rivage Palace | Lausanne, Switzerland |
| 3. Abtei | Hamburg, Germany |
| 4. Sacher | Vienna, Austria |
| 5. Ville Principe Leopoldo | Lugano, Switzerland |
| 6. Vier Jahreszeiten | Hamburg, Germany |
| 7. Imperial | Vienna, Austria |
| 8. Dolder Grand | Zürich, Switzerland |
| 9. Hirschgasse | Heidelberg, Germany |
| 10. Opera | Munich, Germany |
| 11. Brandenburger Hof | Berlin, Germany |
| 12. Hotel de la Cigone | Geneva, Switzerland |
| 13. Le Richmond | Geneva, Switzerland |
| 14. Savoy Baur en Ville | Zürich, Switzerland |
| 15. Erzherzog Johann | Graz, Austria |

BEST BARGAINS OF '93

Yes, there are still good deals in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Please note the headline says "bargain" rather than "value." The Grüner Baum, for example, is an excellent value but not quite a bargain. Here are some of the better deals we came across in 1993. We only wish the list were longer.

Hotels

**Kur-und-Sport Hotel Adam
Bodenmais, Germany**

Woody, rustic charm but up-to-date guestrooms with separate sitting areas. Doubles are about \$85. The Adam has its own brewery. Hotel Adam, Bahnhofstrasse 51, D-8373 Bodenmais, phone 09924/7011, fax 09924/7219. No cards. **Rating: II**

**Hotel Atlas
Pontresina, Switzerland**

This 1993 "G" winner specializes in families with small children. Doubles with breakfast and dinner for as little as \$100. Atlas Hotel, CH-8024 Pontresina, phone 082/663 21, fax 082/679 92. **Rating: II**

**Hotel Alpenruhe
Wengen, Switzerland**

Simple but beautifully maintained rooms from about \$63 to \$80 per person including breakfast and dinner. In a country of extraordinarily clean hotels, this one stands out. Hotel Alpenruhe, CH-3823 Wengen, telephone 036/55 27 44, fax 036/55 27 77. Credit cards. **Rating: II**

**Villa Eva
Prague, Czech Republic**

Ten minutes from the city center, with eight clean and comfortable guestrooms, each with toilet and shower, for about \$30 per night double, including breakfast. Villa Eva, Franty Kocourka 14, 150 00 Praha 5, Smichov, CSFR, phone 00422/534776. **Rating: II**

**Landhaus Gletschermühle
Badgastein, Austria**

Sixteen well-furnished, spotless, spacious guest rooms, most with balconies with views, cable TV and a private bathroom. Excellent location. Prices \$24 to \$35 per person. Landhaus Gletschermühle, Gletschermühlestr. 7, A-5640 Badgastein, telephone 06434 20 970, fax 06434 23 80 30. **Rating: III**

**Hotel Haus Christophorus
Kitzbühel, Austria**

In a residential area, no more than a five-minute stroll from village center or ski lifts. Features family management, quality guestrooms, pretty grounds and prices from \$21 to \$55 per person.

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1993 Bargains

Continued from page 1

Hotel Haus Christophorus,
Marchfeldgasse 3, A-6370
Kitzbühel, phone 05356/27 83, fax
05356/27 85. No cards. **Rating:**
III

Haus Hirt **Badgastein, Austria**

1993 "G" winner. Style,
solitude for about \$120 double,
with breakfast and dinner. Haus
Hirt, An der Kaiserpromenade, A-
5640 Badgastein, phone 06434 27
97, fax 06434 27 97 48. **Rating:** **III**

Hotel Post Hardermannli **Interlaken, Switzerland**

Twenty-two recently refur-
bished rooms in the older section
of Interlaken for as little as \$80
double. Hotel Post Hardermannli,
CH-3800 Interlaken, telephone
036/228919, fax 036/220028.
Rating: **II**

Gasthof Zur Stadt Mainz **Würzburg, Germany**

Rooms all redone three years
ago. Best doubles for less than
\$120. 1993 "G" winner. Excellent
restaurant. Gasthof Zur Stadt
Mainz, Semmelstrasse 39, D-8700
Würzburg, telephone 09 31-5 31
55, fax 09 31-5 85 10. **Rating:** **III**

Hotel-Gasthof Wilde Rose **Bamberg, Germany**

Solid comfort and good value
in the heart of the old town.
Double rooms from about \$75 to
\$85. Hotel-Gasthof Wilde Rose,
Kesslerstr. 7, D-8600 Bamberg,
phone 09 51/2 83 17, fax 09 51/
22071. Major Cards. **Rating:** **II**

Restaurants/Taverns

Restaurant Backöfele **Würzburg, Germany**

A 500 year-old Würzburg
institution serving hearty, ample

meals for from \$6 to \$20. Try the
excellent marinated lamb chops
served rare on a bed of ratatouille.

Gaststätte Backöfele, Ursulin-
ergasse 2, D-8700 Würzburg,
telephone 09 31-5 90 59. No cards.
Reservations essential. **Rating:** ☆

Bürgerspital Weinstube **Würzburg, Germany**

The main attraction is an array
of Franconian wines available by
the glass from about \$2.50 to \$3.50.
Ample, moderately-priced meals
are served.

Bürgerspital Weinstube, The-
aterstrasse 19, D-8700 Würzburg,
telephone 09 31-1 38 61. No credit
cards. **Rating:** ◆

Juliusspital Weinstube **Würzburg, Germany**

Smaller, slightly less expensive
and similar to the Bürgerspital
above. Fresh tulips and a candle
graced our table as we dined on
bratwurst with sauerkraut for a bit
more than \$5.

Juliusspital Weinstube, Julius-
promenade 19, D-8700 Würzburg,
telephone 09 31-5 40 80. No cards.
Rating: ◆

Kispipa Vendeglo **Budapest, Hungary**

A typical meal of, for example,
venison filet or paprika veal stew,
including pre-dinner cocktails,
appetizers, wine and dessert, costs
less than \$30 for two persons.
Friendly bistro atmosphere. Kispipa
Vendeglo, Akacfa u. 38, Budap-
est, Hungary. **Rating:** ☆

Rheinfelder Bierhalle **Zürich, Switzerland**

Slightly disreputable looking
little bistro in heart of Zürich's old
town serves good food and beer at
low prices. Daily specials for around
\$10. Rheinfelder Bierhalle, 19
Marktgassee, Zürich. **Rating:** ◆

"G" Winners at a Glance 1987-1993

Expense Code:

| | | |
|------|---|-----------------------|
| INX | = | Inexpensive |
| MOD | = | Moderate |
| MEXP | = | Moderate to Expensive |
| EXP | = | Expensive |

These are subjective assessments made
within the context of 1993 costs for European
hotels and restaurants.

Hotels

Albergo Gardenia, Via Valle, CH-6987
Caslano, Switzerland, phone 091/711716,
fax 091/712642. EXP.

Albergo Giardino, CH-6612 Ascona,
Switzerland, phone 093/35 01 01, telex 846
223, fax 093/36 10 94. EXP.

Atlas Hotel, CH-8024 Pontresina,
Switzerland, phone 082/663 21, fax 082/
679 92. MOD.

Berghotel Latscheneck, Kaffeefeld 1, D-
8102 Mittenwald, Germany, phone 088/23
14 19. MOD.

Falken-Hotel, CH-3823 Wengen,
Switzerland, phone 036/56 51 21, fax 036/
55 33 39. MOD.

Gartenhotel Tümmelerhof, A-6100
Seefeld/Tirol, Austria, phone 05212/2571-
0, telex 3522350. EXP.

Gasthaus and Hotel Zur Weserei,
Hauptstrasse 70, D-7842 Kandern,
Germany, phone 07626/445, fax 07626/
6581. INX-MOD

Gasthof Bammes, Bucher Hauptstraße 63,
D-8500 Buch 90, Germany, phone 0911/
38 13 03. EXP.

Gasthof Fraundorfer, 24 Ludwigstraße,
D-8100 Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Ger-
many, phone 08821/21 76. INX.

Gasthof Zur Stadt Mainz, Semmelstrasse
39, D-8700 Würzburg, Germany, phone 09
31-5 31 55, fax 09 31-5 85 10. MEXP.

Grand Hotel Victoria-Jungfrau, CH-3800,
Interlaken, Switzerland, phone 036/
271111, fax 036/273737. EXP.

Grüner Baum, Kötschachtal, A-5640
Badgastein, Austria, phone 06434 25 160,
fax 06434 25 16 25. EXP.

Gutshotel des Weingutes, Balduinstraße
1, D-5507 Neumagen-Dhron, Rheinland-
Pfalz, Germany, phone 06507/ 20 35.
MOD.

Haus Hirt, An der Kaiserpromenade, A-
5640 Badgastein, Austria, phone 06434 27
97, fax 06434 27 97 48. MOD.

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Hostellerie Bon Accueil, CH-1837
Château-d' Oex, Switzerland, phone 029/4
63 20. MOD.

Hostellerie du Débarcardère, CH-1025
Saint Sulpice, Switzerland, phone 021/691
57 47, fax (021) 691 50 79. MOD.

Hotel Abtei, Abteistraße 14, D-2000
Hamburg 13, Germany, phone 040/442905,
fax (040) 449820. EXP.

Hotel Alpenrose, CH 9658 Wildhaus
(Obertoggenburg), Switzerland, phone 074/
52121, fax 074/51052. MEXP

Hotel Andrea, Hölzweg 10, D-8373
Bodenmais, Germany, phone 09924/3 86.
MOD.

Hotel Anker, Obertorstraße 6, Postfach
106, D-8772, Marktheidenfeld, Germany,
phone 09301/4041. MOD.

Hotel Bären, CH-3812 Wilderswil,
Switzerland, phone 036/22 35 21, fax, 036/
22 35 44. MOD

Hotel Bavaria, Kienbergstraße 62, D-8962
Pfronten-Dorf, Germany, phone 08363/50
04. MOD

Hotel Benen Diken Hof, Süderstraße,
Postfach 20, D-2280 Keitum/Sylt, Germany,
phone 04651/31035. MOD-EXP

Hotel Brandenburger Hof, Eislebener
Strasse 14, W-1000 Berlin 30, phone 030/
21405 607, fax 030/21405 100. EXP

Hotel Cappella, 39030 Colfosco, Val Badia
(Prov. BZ) Italy, phone 04 71/83 61 83.
MOD-EXP

Hotel de la Poste, CH-1936 Verbier,
Switzerland, phone 026/7 71 81. MOD.

Hotel der Bär, A-6352 Ellmau, Tirol,
Austria, phone 53 58/23 95, fax 53 58/23
95-56. EXP

Hotel Des Vignes, CH-1958 Uvrier-Sion,
Switzerland, phone 027/311671, fax 027/
313727. MEXP

Hotel Domus, Umlandstrasse 49, D-1000
Berlin 15, phone 030/88 20 41, fax 030/882
0410. MOD

Hotel Erzherzog Johann, Sackstraße 3-5,
A-8011 Graz, Austria, phone (0316) 81 16
16, fax (0316) 81 15 15. MOD.

Hotel Exquisit, Pettenkoflerstraße 3, D-
8000 Munich 2, Germany, phone 89/551 99
00, fax 89/551 99 499. MOD-EXP.

Hotel Florhof, Florhofgasse 4, CH-8001
Zürich, Switzerland, phone 0147/44 70.
MOD.

Hotel Geiger, Stangas, D-W-8240
Berchtesgaden, Germany, phone 08652/
5055, fax 08652/5058. EXP

Hotel Goldfassan, Stauffeneggstr. 2, A-
5020 Salzburg, Austria, phone 0662/
431436. MOD

Hotel Hecht, CH-9050 Appenzell, Switzer-
land, phone 071/87 10 25-26. INX-MOD.

Hotel Hirschen, CH 3350 Langnau im
Emmental, Switzerland, phone 035/2 15 17.
INX-MOD.

Hotel-Pension Heim, Aufmberg 8, D-8959
Seeg, Germany, phone 08364/258. INX

Hotel Klarer, CH-7524, Zuoz, Switzerland,
phone 082/7 13 21, fax 082/7 12 14. MOD.

Hotel Kronprinz, Kronprinzendamm 1, D-
1000 Berlin 31, phone 030/89 60 30, fax
030/893 1215. MOD

Hotel Opera, St.-Anna-Strasse 10, D-8000
Munich 22, phone 089/225533, fax 089/
225538. EXP

Hotel Petrisberg, Sickingenstraße 11, D-
5500 Trier, Germany, phone 0651/4 11 81.
INX-MOD.

Hotel Reichs-Küchenmeister, Kirchplatz 8,
D-8803 Rothenburg o.d.T., Germany, phone
09861/2046, fax 09861/86965. INX-MOD.

Hotel Rheinfels, CH-8260 Stein am Rhein,
Switzerland, phone 054/41 21 44. INX-
MOD.

Hotel Römischer Kaiser, Annagasse 16, 3,
A-1010 Vienna, phone 0222/ 51 227 51-0.
MOD-EXP.

Hotel Sacher, Philharmonikerstraße 4, A-
1015 Vienna, phone 0222/ 51 456. EXP.

Hotel Trumer Stube, Bergstrasse 6, A-
5020 Salzburg, Austria, phone 0662/74776,
fax 0662/74326. MOD

Hotel-Pension Wolf, Kaigasse 7, A-5020
Salzburg, Austria, phone 84/24 230. MOD.

Hotel Wörtz zur Weinsteige, Hohenheimer
Str. 30, D-7000 Stuttgart 1, Germany, phone
0711/236-7001, fax 0711/236-7007. MEXP.

L'Auberge De Chernex, CH-1822 Chernex,
Switzerland, phone 021/ 964 41 91. MOD.

Landgasthof Ruedihus, CH-3718
Kandersteg, Switzerland, phone 033/
751580, fax 033/751828. INX

Landhaus Hubertushof, Puchen 86, A-
8992, Altaussee/Steiermark, Austria, phone
06152/71280. MOD

Landhaus Sommer am See,
Weidachstrasse 74, D-8958 Füssen,
Germany, phone 08362/2481, fax 08362/
2074. INX-MOD

Parkhotel, Villastrasse 21, D-7000 Stuttgart
1, Germany, phone 0711/28-01-0, fax 28 43
53. EXP.

Romantik Hotel Bierhütte, D-8351
Hohenau, Germany, phone 08558/3 15.
MOD.

Romantik Hotel Guardaval, CH-7550 Bad
Scuol, Switzerland, phone 084/91 3 21 22,
fax 99 7 67. MEXP.

Romantik Hotel Lindner, Marienplatz 5,
D-8202 Bad Aibling, Germany, phone
08061/4050, fax 08061/30535. MOD

Romantik Hotel Löwen, Engisteinstrasse
3, CH-3076 Worb bei Bern, Switzerland,
phone 031/83 23 03. fax 031/839 58 77.
MOD

Romantikhotel Tennerhof, Griesenauweg
26, A-6370 Kitzbühel, Austria, phone
05356/31 81, fax 05356/31 81 70. EXP.

Savoy Hotel Baur en Ville, Am
Paradeplatz, CH-8022 Zürich, phone 01/
211 53 60, telex 812845, fax 01/221 14 67.
EXP.

Schloß Haunspberg, A-5411 Oberalm bei
Hallein, Austria, phone 62 45/26 62, fax 62
45/56 80. MOD.

Schlosshotel Castell, CH-7524 Zuoz,
Switzerland, phone 082/7 01 01, fax 082/7
31 20. MOD.

Waldhotel Doldenhorn, CH-3718
Kandersteg, Switzerland, phone 033/
751818, fax 033/751828. MEXP

Restaurants/Taverns

Alt Hamburger Bierstube, Gerhofstrasse
near the Gänsermarkt, Hamburg, Germany,
INX.

Bratwursthäusle, Rathausplatz 1, D-8500
Nürnberg, Germany, phone 0911/22 76 95.
INX.

Brauerei Schlenkerla, Dominikanerstrasse
6, D-8600 Bamberg, Germany. INX.

Café Hengstler, Karlstraße 45, D-0771
Donaueschingen, Germany, phone 07/71
22 32.

Gasthof Hirsch, Kirchplatz 3, D-8959
Seeg, Germany, phone 08364/353. INX

Heurigen Restaurant, 47 Rennweg, A-
1030, Vienna. INX.

Hotel Bahnhof Restaurant, CH-3792
Saanen, Switzerland, phone 030/4 14 22.
INX.

Käpt'n Hahn, Trift 10, D-2280 Westerland/
Sylt, Germany, phone 04651/54 61. MOD-
EXP.

Le Gitan, CH-3920 Zermatt, Switzerland,
phone 028/67 10 98. MOD-EXP.

Smutny, Elisabethstraße 8, A-1015 Vienna,
Austria. INX.

Ratskeller Restaurant, Markt 1, D-3509
Spangenberg, Germany, phone (05663) 3
41. INX to MOD.

Restaurant Kronenhalle, Rämistrasse 4,
8001 Zürich, telephone 01/251 02 56 or 01/
251 66 69. EXP.

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"G" AWARD DATA

Continued from page 7

Ristorante Stazione, CH-6655 Intragna (near Ascona), Switzerland, phone 093/81 12 12. MOD.

Other

Betten Rid, Theatinerstraße 47, D-8000 Munich 2, phone 089/21 11 0. (Shopping)

Höllrigl, Sigmund-Haffner Gasse, A-5020 Salzburg, Austria. (Shopping)

Ka De We, 21-24 Tauentzienstraße, Berlin, phone 24 01 71. (Shopping)

Raimund Theater, Wallgasse 18, A-1060 Vienna.

Swiss National Museum, Museumstraße 2, CH-8023 Zürich, phone 01/221 10 10. Open every day but Monday from 10 a.m. to noon and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.



HOTELS OF THE YEAR

Continued from page 1

While the V. J. is chic and elegant the Grüner Baum is more homey and country, though no less luxurious. Its several buildings are clustered in a private Alpine meadow just outside the old Austrian spa town of Badgastein. Craggy, forested peaks look down on the setting and a pristine mountain stream tumbles through the 175-acre grounds.

Naturally, there are tennis courts, indoor and outdoor pools, a beauty treatment center and indoors a huge fireplace where a whole pig is occasionally spit roasted.

Guests at both establishments are assured a hotel experience that is the finest Europe has to offer.

Though we reported on a number of other excellent hotels in 1993, the Victoria-Jungfrau (double rooms from about \$225 to \$375, breakfast not included) and the Grüner Baum (doubles from about \$140 to \$325, including breakfast and lunch or dinner) were in a class by themselves. Here are some of the other outstanding hotel properties we reviewed this year:

Hotel Kronenhof

A very grand, five-star hotel in a small mountain village. Less expensive than the top hotels of nearby St. Mortiz. Stunning views across the river. Beautifully decorated and furnished with Neo-Rococo paintings, Gobelin valances, Art Nouveau ceilings, priceless antique furnishings. Has its own winery. Grand Hotel Kronenhof, CH-7504 Pontresina, phone 082-6 01 11, fax 082/660 66. Least expensive double about \$235. Major Cards. **Rating: V**

Golf-Hotel Ramushof

Lovely, varied guest rooms, several with fireplaces, highlight this outstanding mid-priced golf resort hotel. Most have good views of the pretty little nine-hole golf course. Play golf from May to October. Golf-Hotel Ramushof, Ried-Ecking 16, A-6370 Kitzbühel, phone 05356/52 52, fax 05356/5252-49. Least expensive doubles are about \$200. Major cards. **Rating: III**

Villa Solitude

One of Austria's newest castle hotels and registered as an historic

monument. Site of the signing of the Gasteiner treaty between Bismarck and Count Andrassy. Owned by the Blumschein family, owners of the Grüner Baum. The six-room Solitude's Brasserie serves excellent food. Villa Solitude, Kaiser Franz Joseph Strasse 16, A-5640 Badgastein, telephone 06434 5101/5102, fax 06434 5101-3. Least expensive doubles are about \$200. Major cards. **Hotel Rating: IV Restaurant Rating: ☆**

Schloss-Hotel Chastè

Knotty pine walls and ceilings, hardwood floors, in-room fireplaces and luxurious bathrooms make several of the Chastè's guestrooms some of the most richly attractive we have ever seen. The "Panorama Suite," is absolutely stunning with a cathedral, beamed ceiling, fireplace, and big marble bathroom with under exposed wood joists and wide a skylight.

About 15 minutes by car up the mountain from Scuol beneath Tarasp Castle. Run by the Pazeller family for 500 years. The restaurant is among the country's top 100 according to *Weltwoche*. Schloss-Hotel Chastè, CH-7553 Tarasp-Sparsels, phone 081 864 17 75, fax 081 864 99 70. Least expensive double 250 Sfr. (\$170), including breakfast and dinner. Major cards. **Rating: IV**

Also among the best of 1993 were the Romantikhof Tennerhof in Kitzbühel and the Alberg Gardenia, near Lugano. Please refer to "G" Awards on page 1.

DEAR SUBSCRIBER

Continued from page 5

When hard disks and software go south, Merschdorf brings them back.

One person outside our organization who must be mentioned is Joe Lustenberger of the Swiss National Tourist Office. I suppose it can now be told that when we started *Gemütlichkeit* seven years ago we included Switzerland in our coverage area almost as an afterthought, chiefly because it is, at least in part, German-speaking. We had very little Swiss travel experience. From the beginning Joe treated *Gemütlichkeit* with a respect it probably did not deserve and his advice and guidance about his marvelous country kept us from embarrassing ourselves. We used to get letters complaining about our lack of stories on Switzerland but these days we hear beefs that there's too much Swiss coverage. The guy is a dynamo and a marvel of information and contacts. The San Francisco SNTTO closes on December 31, 1993, and Joe moves to the Chicago office. We'll be in touch.

And we'll stay in touch with you, too, as issues #85 through #96 take us through 1994. For starters, we'll return to Vienna for a look at several wonderful pensions, report on the charming Austrian town of Steyr, checkout the German ski resort of Oberstdorf, relate a drive to three magnificent Baroque churches in southern Germany, devote an issue to the old Swiss town of St. Gallen and venture north to Bremen.

Incidentally, the map enclosed with this issue comes compliments of the now closed Swiss Tourist Office in San Francisco. — RHB

