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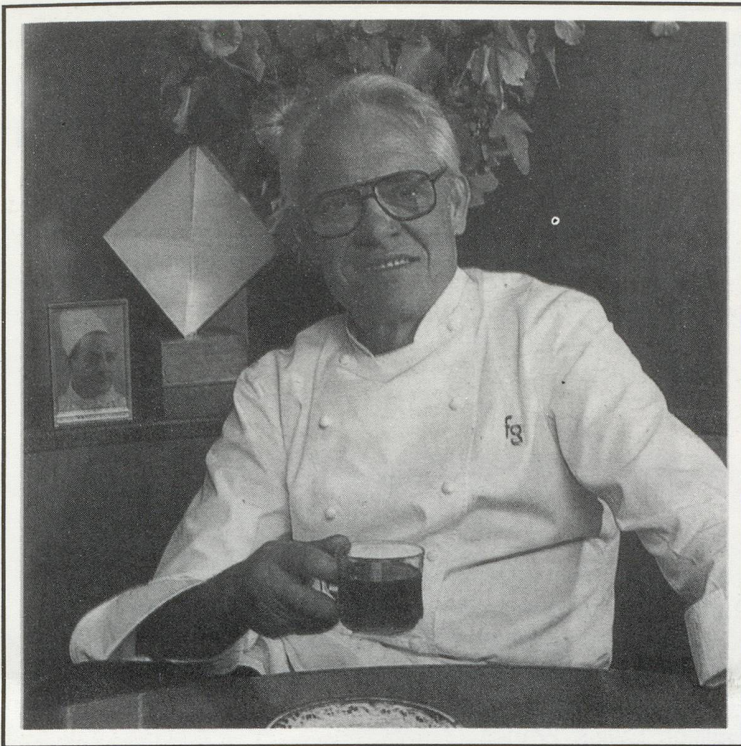
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WORLD RENOWNED CHEF RETIRES.

For many years the "Hôtel de Ville" in Crissier (Waadt) near Lausanne has been recognised as the best restaurant in Switzerland thanks to his owner and chef extraordinaire, Fredy Girardet.

For more than 15 years, Girardet held the number One position amongst all the well known Swiss chefs. His restaurant is the first and only restaurant in Switzerland which was allocated 19.5 points (out of a maximum of 20) by Gault Millaut. Even Paul Bocuse, one of the greatest and best known chefs worldwide considered Fredy Girardet as the "best chef in the world".

Girardet, born in 1936, would have loved to become a veterinary surgeon but ended up in the printing business. Since he did not like this trade, he became a kitchen hand at the age of 20. When his father died in 1965, he took over his late father's family restaurant business in Crissier which he then built up over the years into the best restaurant of Switzerland.

Amongst his many well known clients, Girardet can name Richard Nixon, Charlie Chaplin, singers Jacques Brel and Johnny Halliday along with quite a number of Federal Councillors who often held banquets in his restaurant for the benefit of foreign Heads of States on visits to Switzerland.

However, upon his departure, the famous restaurant will not close, since Girardet has given over the control to his trusted employee and colleague Philippe Rochat who has been with him for 16 years and who will continue to run the business in the "Girardet tradition".

So next time you are in Switzerland and in the mood for the best meal in the country, go to Crissier (it is just outside Lausanne near Renens on the road to Yverdon) and tell them that you come from New Zealand and that you read all about them in the Helvetia magazine. You might be in for a nice surprise.

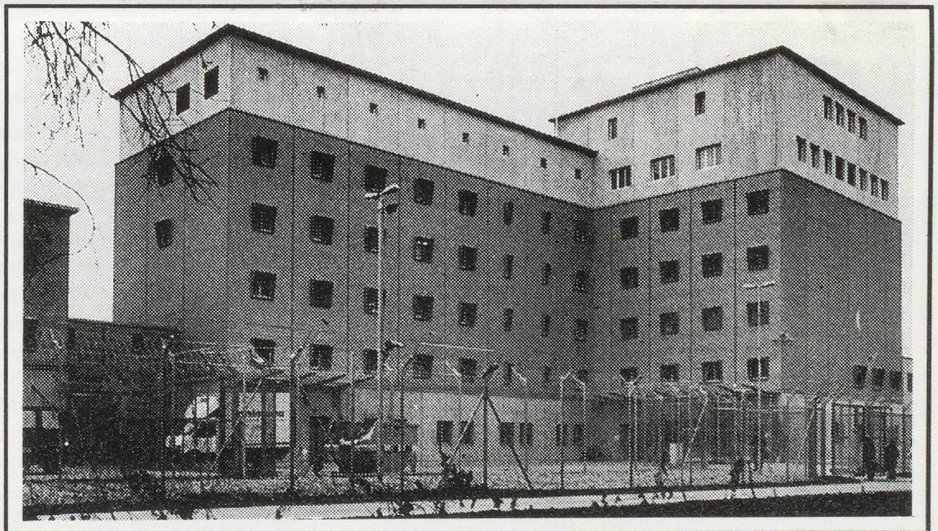
FROM AIRCRAFT TO PRISON

A new "service" has been introduced at Zurich Airport. Unwelcome visitors can now be taken directly from the aircraft to a new nearby prison that was specially designed and built for that purpose at a cost of some 21 million SFR. Opened last December, the new prison has room for 106 inmates who will mainly be persons of various ethnic origins who try to enter Switzerland illegally or as refugees.

For this reason, the prison was designed in such a way as to allow inmates of similar ethnic backgrounds to be housed together with the possibility for them to be able to prepare and cook their own food if they want to.

Special rooms have been provided for inmates to meet with their lawyers and various government and welfare officers to arrange the repatriation to their respective home countries.

Although the chances are probably very slim for any of us to ever see the inside of this new prison, especially if you travel on a Swiss passport, it is still worthwhile to remember that it is there. Maybe the Swiss Tourist office should put a big sign on top of the building with "Welcome to Switzerland" on it. For one thing, it would make the building a bit less forbidding to look at.



According to the saying "First impression counts", a block with six floors of prison cells surrounded by a barbed wire fence right by the Airport is not exactly the nicest tourist attraction to see when you step off your aircraft.