

News from Switzerland

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This and That Corner

Canton Schaffhausen

Schaffhausen, the capital of the canton of the same name and enclosed on three sides by Germany, is also on the Rhine, and the most attractive approach is by boat from Lake Constance. The Munot, the medieval city fortress which has walls more than 5 metres thick, comes slowly into view; the hill on which it is built is planted with vineyards, testifying to the mild climate of this area in the northernmost corner of Switzerland. Schaffhausen, like Basle (also on the Rhine) has been part of the confederation since 1501.

Switzerland's biggest waterfall is not in the Alps but near Neuhausen on the border between canton Schaffhausen and Zurich. Here, we are looking up at the seething flow of water. The drop is 21 metres and the flow of water can reach 1080 cubic metres per second, making the 150 metre-wide Rhine Falls the biggest waterfall in continental Europe.

The city of Thayngen is the home of product Knorr, which makes the delicious assortment of soups, and of course the famous Aromat.

Like all cantons in Switzerland, the people of Schaffhausen speak many different dialects - however some of their dialects are very close to the high German.

Schaffhausen Zungli

125 gr grated almonds
120 gr sugar
20 gr flour
4 egg whites

Beat egg whites until stiff. Add almonds, sugar and flour. Butter an oven tray, sprinkle with flour. Cut oval "Platzli" like a Zungli about 50mls long and 2mls thick. Bake until golden brown at 150°C. Remove from tray as you take them out of the oven. Let cool down on a flat surface.

Filling

100 gr butter
80 gr icing sugar
1 egg yolk
vanilla essence

Beat butter until creamy and add all remaining ingredients. Spread filling on half of the Zungli and cover with the other half. Sprinkle with icing sugar.

Schaffhausen Bolledume (onion pie)

Line oven tray with puff pastry or make your own pastry. Rub 100 gr butter in 200 gr of flour. Add 10mls of water, salt and one tablespoon of oil. Mix well and leave in a cool place for one hour. Butter a pie dish, sprinkle with flour, and line with pastry.

Filling

In one tablespoon of oil, fry 500gr onion and 50gr bacon until golden. Spread on top of pastry. Mix 2 eggs, 30mls cream, 1/2 tsp caraway seed, salt, pepper and nutmeg and put over onion mixture.

Bake for about 45 minutes at 180°C.

*Bon Appetit
Lisette*

News from Switzerland

Swiss Post

The Board of Managers of Swisspost has announced a radical rationalisation of the country's mail centres, reduced to three main centres situated in Zurich-West, Olten and Lausanne, and six sub-centres in St Gallen, Lucerne, Bern, Basel, Geneva and one in the Ticino region. When fully operational, it should result in an annual saving of 170 million francs (CHF). The downside is that over the next six years 3130 postal employees in all departments will lose their positions, but because of normal retirements and resignations, it is expected no one will need to be 'fired'. Any such vacancies will simply be filled by surplus staff from nearby areas and no new staff will be hired until the necessary staff reductions have been reached.

Tourism in Switzerland

The Director of Swiss Tourism, Jurg Schmid, expects a lower gross tourism income of 300 million francs for the whole country this year compared to the 2002 year. The end of 2002 had already been a poor year compared to the pre-9-11-01 disaster. He fears many hotels will not survive another year.

Recession in Switzerland

Switzerland is in recession. The government office of Economic Affairs has admitted that their forecast of a slightly positive GDP result for the past two quarters were too optimistic. For the last quarter of 2002 the forecast increase of 1.4% actually never eventuated and instead the GDP decreased by 0.7%. Unfortunately the GDP for the first quarter of 2003 showed a decrease of a full 1.0%. Although government economists are trying to be cautiously optimistic for a 1.6% economic growth for the year 2004, they admit that for this current year they foresee a zero result - in other words, no economic growth at all for 2003!

Heute ist der Tag, um glücklich zu sein!!! Gestern : schon vorbei!!!

Morgen : kommt erst noch.

Heute : der einzige Tag, den du in der Hand hast. Mach daraus deinen besten Tag!!!

Phil Bosmans

Mein lieber Bruder, nicht lange mehr kann ich die Reise von Land zu Land tun. Alter wird mein Schritt, schwerer der Stab.

Schau den schonen See, das weite Tal, die vielen Hutten und Dorflein.

Hier mochte ich bleiben und den Menschen, Die hier wohnen, ein gutter Hirte sein.

Fande ich nur eine Hohle, sie ware mir das rechte Haus.

So sprach Beatus zu seinem Grund Justus auf dem Weg vom Brienzer- zum Thunersee.

YOUR SWISS CHEF, BERTA

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