

BOLZANO CITY

Mountains



JOURNAL 2018

urban-alpine

With kith and kin: hiking with children
The New Bolzano, a city in transition
A Declaration of Love to Autumn



< The Monzoccolo Mountain is ideal for a riding tour with a blond Haflinger horse during any season of the year: in autumn, when the larches shine in a golden colour, in the enchanting winter landscape, between the white-purple crocus blossoms, yellow dandelions or lush green summer meadows.

The Journey is Over |

No, the journey – at least yours – has not yet begun, but it is over for the **Bolzano and Mountains Journal**, which you are currently holding in your hands. It was a long, intense, and beautiful journey that started in 2006 and went on for 12 years. At that time, my team and I often felt annoyed that official tourism marketing materials included only glossy magazines with glossy models and glossy texts. We wanted something different and decided to tell **real stories with real authors, real journalists, and real people**. At that time, nobody in the tourism advertisement sector knew about the term 'authenticity', but we have made this term into reality. Sometimes ironically, sometimes unexpectedly, and sometimes (self)-critically, but always with a great portion of humour, a wink, and joy, we have introduced our wonderful region, with all its facets and hidden stories.

Follow us for one last time and accompany us on easy, carefree, and pleasant family hikes. We will take you on a tour and one thing is for sure – mountain-biking has never been this much fun before. Or perhaps it is autumn in South Tyrol that amazes you? Enjoy a very special and different discovery tour of the regional capital Bolzano, which is currently experiencing a major change. We also present Italy's most traditional Christmas Market (the one in Bolzano). TV presenter Fabio Bolzetta – famous in Italy – will introduce you to the Christmas Market in Bolzano. Those who love the quiet side of winter will find their paradise only a stone's throw away from the capital.

The goal of our journal has always been to provide joy to our readers with true stories and to inspire them to **visit our region** in order to discover all this (and much more).

Yours,
Hansjörg Mair

Hansjörg Mair

Tourism in every fibre of his body: manager of the Bolzano and environs Tourist Board for the past 16 years, former director of the Appiano Tourist Office, and also part of Jeunes Restaurateurs d'Europe (as a general secretary for Italy and delegate for Europe) for 10 years, Hansjörg Mair is now moving to Freiburg i. Breisgau to start his new job as a manager of the Schwarzwald Tourismus GmbH.



Südtirol Bolzano

WINE AND DOLOMITES IN THE ITALIAN ALPS

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Chief editor | Hansjörg Mair; Co-ordination | Roswitha Mair; Texts | Roberta Agosti, Hannes Kröss, Luca Laudati, Hansjörg Mair, Roswitha Mair, Peter Righi, Peter A. Seebacher;

Photo frontispiece | Achim Meurer; Photos | IDM Südtirol/Alex Filz (4), Shimano E-Bike/Harald Wisthaler (4), Achim Meurer (3), Hufeisentour/Martin Rattini (2), Reinswalder Lift GmbH/Marion Lafogler (2), Luca Guadagnini (2), Tappeiner (1), Renon/Tiberio Sorvillo (1), Geoparc Bletterbach (1), Tiberio Sorvillo (1), IDM Südtirol/Helmuth Rier (1), Renon/Manuela Tessaro (1), Val Sarentino/Othmar Seehauser (1), Südtirol Ultra Skyrace/Harald Wisthaler (1), Laives (1), Renon (1), Dub Love/Rodrigo Buás (1), Renon/Frieder Blickle (1), Stefania Casellato (1);

Concept and Layout | tagraum.it; Print | atesiadruck.com; Translations | Cizeta Studio, Merano; Date of publishing | November.

Editor's remark: Despite careful selection of sources, we cannot accept any responsibility for the correctness of this content.

South Tyrol WINE ROAD



Even more South!

Discover the Mediterranean flair of the Bolzano and environs holiday region in the JOURNAL South Tyrol Wine Road and join us on our journey along the South Tyrolean Wine Road.

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JOURNAL 2018

mediterranean

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With kith and kin

A close-up photograph of two children, a girl on the left and a boy on the right, blowing on a dandelion seed head. The boy is wearing a bright green, fuzzy jacket with a blue strap and a backpack with orange and blue sections. The girl is also wearing a green jacket. They are outdoors, and the background is a soft-focus landscape.

Not too long, not too steep, not too demanding; no danger, harmless and entertaining. These are the characteristics a hiking route with children should have: there are plenty of those in the Bolzano and environs region! >



About 10 years ago, any hike could have a few more metres difference in the altitude and any trail could have been a little more dangerous. However, since my son Sebastian was born three years ago, the weekend excursions are chosen based on completely different criteria: short travel times, plenty of entertainment along the tour, and a playground at the end of the hike, which was ever better. Other criteria are also the huts, which offer good food and drinks – to reward the parents after the hike.

Most parents who love discovering the South Tyrolean mountains with their children probably have the same thoughts as I. Luckily, Bolzano and its surroundings offer plenty of such hikes without having to drive for hours. It starts with the renowned promenade walk in the capital of Bolzano, namely the Guncina, and the Sant’Osvaldo promenades. Both promenades gently wind up the mountain from the valley basin and amaze hikers with rare Mediterranean plants and lush green vineyards along the route. The views of the Catinaccio Mountain shining in a splendid red colour in the evening sun, the fertile orchards in the Oltradige and Bassa Atesina regions are truly impressive. Here you can escape the hustle and bustle of the city from February to late autumn. Both promenades do not take longer than 60 to 90 minutes, even with a buggy, the perfect family trip!

Hiking with a buggy is also possible on some parts of the Trail Urlesteig in the Reinswald

excursion area and ski resort. This nature experience trail in Val Sarentino attracts young water lovers, climbers and nature scientists alike. Water, animals, history and culture, plants, forces of nature, and alpine pastures are the topics of the six sections of the trail with interesting information provided for children. The cable-cars at the Reinswald valley station offer a comfortable journey to Pichlberg, the starting point of the Urlesteig trail, which can be planned as a short hike or a day tour.

The heavenly Cieloronda tour and the circular tour of Corno del Renon both start and end at Corno del Renon. The must-see panoramic mountain in South Tyrol can be reached with the Corno del Renon cable cars that start in Tre Sentieri. The highlights on this themed path are the round table with the Dolomitoscope, a stone garden near the Unterhorn, the idyllic alpine pastures on the high-plateau, and the information boards on stone pine and mountain pine; especially, the unique panoramic view of the Dolomites and not less than 40 mountains of 3,000 metres of height.

Europe’s biggest high-alpine larch plateau, the Salto, can be ideally discovered with children on the legends trail, which was realised by the primary school of San Genesio. All of the 12 legends are based in San Genesio and its surroundings that will definitely amaze you and your children. The legends trail in Trodena also tells the stories of different local

Hannes Kröss

At 36 years of age, he lives in Bolzano with his family. Starting from his hometown he discovers the local mountains – but in a completely different way. The sports journalist manages his own press agency called hkMedia.



Hiking paths for families | Earth pyramids, fossils, streams and cliffs are sure to make a hiking day with kids fun and interesting. A ride on the cable car or the little train on Renon's historic railway will definitely make unforgettable memories for the little ones. They will also be amused by the various Trails of Legends in the region, where hiking and fairy tales are combined to guarantee a fun day outside.
www.bolzanosurroundings.info

High-alpine plateau Tschöggberg | Europe's biggest larch meadow is located about 1000 metres above the Val d'Adige on the Montezoccolo high-alpine plateau and is ideal for extended hikes, legendary walks, panoramic bike tours, and a horse riding tour on Haflinger horses. Tip: take the cable cars from Bolzano to San Genesio or from Vilpiano to Meltina in order to reach your goal quicker. www.tschoeggberg.it

Holidays in the saddle | Discovering the holiday region Bolzano and environs in the saddle, gently trotting along or cantering with gusto. But on what type of horse? We recommend our local Haflingers, who have their origin at Monzoccolo in the holiday region Bolzano and environs. Also on offer are magical horse-drawn carriage rides... in summer and winter.
www.bolzanosurroundings.info

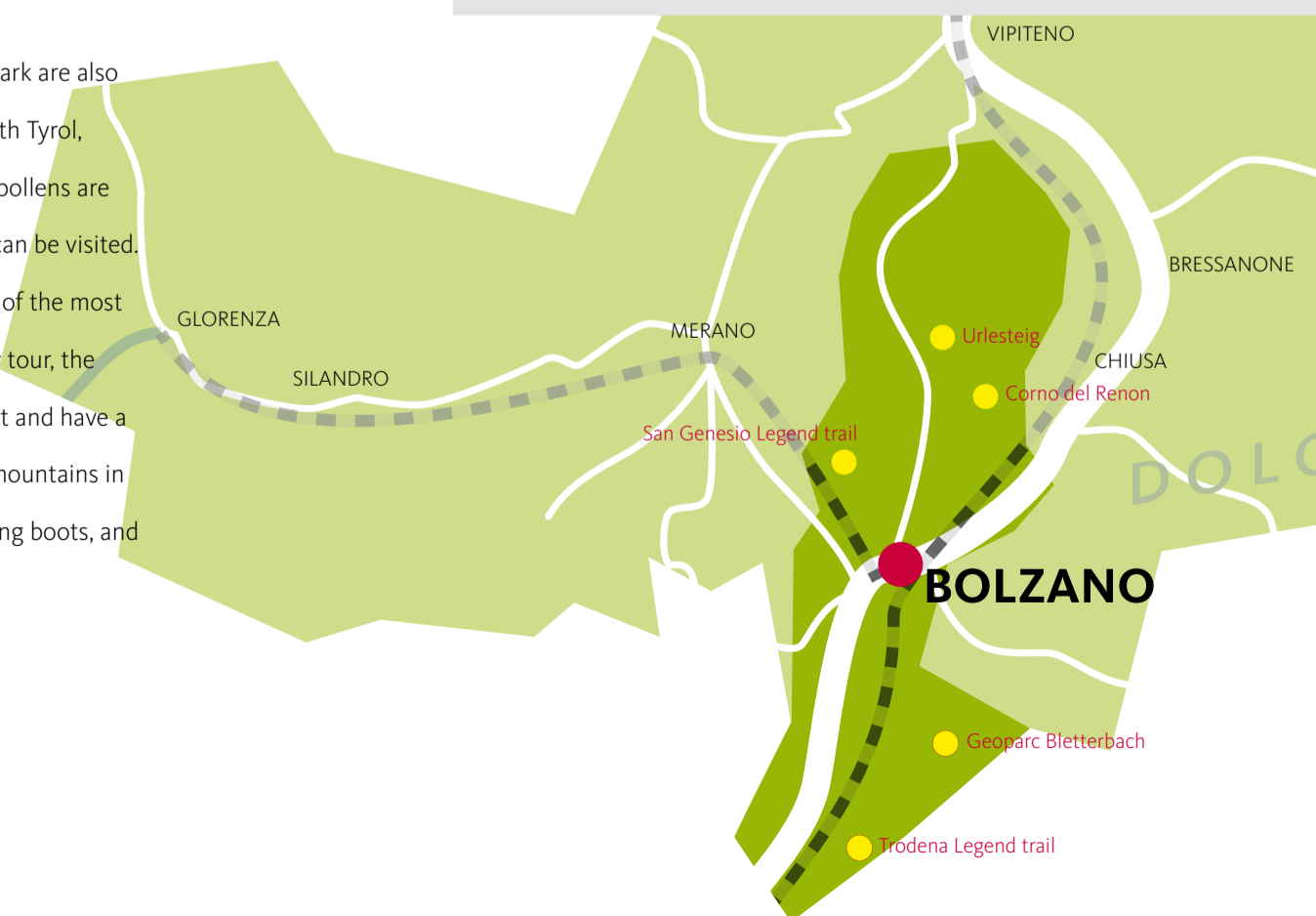
Nature for kids | Enjoy nature with all senses at 'Bletterbach for kids' in the Geoparc Bletterbach where children can explore the inner part of the mountains and learn from experts while hiking through the ancient Bletterbach gorge. www.bolzanosurroundings.info

Exciting novel | The young author Luca D'Andrea from Bolzano has received global recognition for his first novel 'La sostanza del male' (The Mountain). The crime thriller has 470 pages that revolve around the Bletterbach gorge. In no time, it has made it to the top ten Italian bestsellers and has already been published in 36 different languages.

< A true paradise for families for entertaining hikes and excursions: the Reinswald hiking area with the Urlesteig trail (left) and the Geoparc Bletterbach near Aldino.

legends such as 'Steffa Mandl', 'Nächtlicher Hobler' or the 'Wächter am Stuppner Tor', which will for sure catch your children's attention.

Family excursions to Geoparc Bletterbach and the Monte Corno nature park are also highly recommended. The Bletterbach Canyon, the Grand Canyon of South Tyrol, guarantees action, knowledge and fun. In the Nature Park House, flower pollens are examined under the microscope, fresh bread is baked and a historic mill can be visited. Above the Bletterbach Canyon, thrones the Corno Bianco mountain, one of the most rewarding panoramic summits in South Tyrol. Despite being a rather easy tour, the parents and children should have some hiking experience, be physically fit and have a sure step. After arriving at the top, a 360° panorama of the most known mountains in South Tyrol can be enjoyed. Don't wait: pack your rucksack, lace your hiking boots, and bring your children out on a hike! ■ Hannes Kröss





Uphill with Power

First, they were mocked at. Then, they were admired.

Yet, they are nothing special on the mountains. We are talking about e-bikes. One thing is for sure: Biking in the mountains has never been so much fun!

Almost no other bike type has been as successful as bikes with an electric motor. These are the so-called pedelecs, which are now called e-bikes. Mocked at in the beginning as bikes for seniors and the non-athletic, e-bikes have now become a trendy toy for every age. Actually, they are more than just toys. Especially in the mountains, these bikes have had incredible success and the numbers of buyers are constantly rising. The supportive push of the electric motor on flat terrain is comfortable for the cyclist and allows him to overcome more challenging cycling paths. Often, the 'pushing hand' decides whether a goal can be reached or not when cycling uphill. However, this does not mean that the cyclist can lay back and relax, he still has to activate his own power since the motor is only supportive. Depending on the selected speed, the motor may sometimes be more or less supportive. If you do not pedal, the electric motor does not work either.

The advantages of an e-bike are obvious. If two or more people in a group are not equally fit, the motor can reduce this difference to a minimum. In this matter, friends, families,

and couples can enjoy tours together, regardless of their personal physical fitness.

Furthermore, longer tours can be planned due to the higher cycling speed. Also the difference in altitude becomes almost irrelevant and even the elderly and convalescent people can enjoy the longer tours. Especially cyclists who do not enjoy the uphill part of a tour as much as biking downhill, have completely new possibilities without having to use cable cars. Speaking of downhill, e-bike beginners should be careful during their first downhill run. The e-bikes weigh more than regular mountain bikes. Therefore, the cycling technique needs to be adapted to the heavier weight.

There are plenty of bike paradises in South Tyrol. Val Sarentino, for example, is known for its varied mountain bike routes with various tracks that range from easy to demanding. The forest path network includes 200 km of exciting bike routes with numerous trail options for every taste. Should your e-bike's battery get weak, do not worry. You can even find charging stations on the mountains – for example, at the Pichlberg cable car mountain station, in the Reinswald ski and hiking area, and in near future, also at Meraner Hut. These were the prerequisites for the organizers of the Shimano E-Mountainbike

Peter A. Seebacher

State-certified journalist, communicative, trained political scientist, wine & food enthusiast, print lover, new media junky and twitterer, and deeply rooted South Tyrolean with great wanderlust. He loves to hike the mountains with his family in summer and winter, and actually wants only one thing: up to the top. Except in those moments, when he is in a wine cellar.



Rent an E-Bike | Bolzano and surroundings offer many bike rentals where you can choose between sporty E-Bikes and E-Mountain-Bikes, all in great shape for you to enjoy the advantages of an easy and comfortable e-bike tour on the mountains or in the valley! www.bolzanosurroundings.info

Unique E-Bikes | Leaos is a young company in Bolzano, which specializes in designing and creating 100 % hand-made E-Bikes. Their unique design has been given the 'Reddot Award' in 2015. There are many features to choose from: wood, leather, special colours and much more. Even a Solarbike is in development. Enjoy customizing your own E-Bike any way you like! www.leaos.com

Base Camp Dolomites | From the classic Dolomites round trip to an enchanting snow-shoe tour, from the luggage and bike depot to sports and leisure time equipment rental or a rental car with driver: in the information office directly located at the train station of Bolzano you can book a variety of services and activities. www.basecampdolomites.com

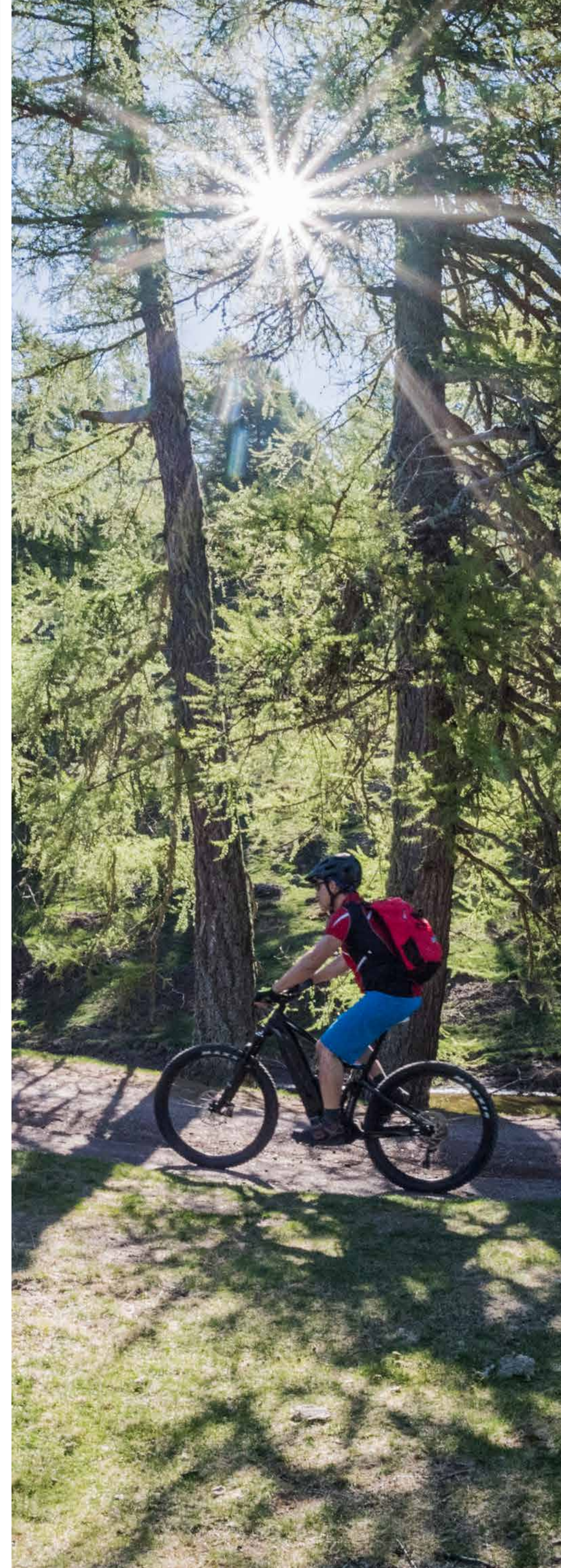
Mike's Bike Park | The Bikepark just above the hamlet of Bundschen offers an interesting sports and exercise area for beginners, as well as experienced bikers. All of this comes with a unique backdrop. On 1.5 hectare, they built a 4 cross/dirt route, as well as a pump track. Dirt bikes and protective gear can be hired at the park. www.mikes-bike-park.it

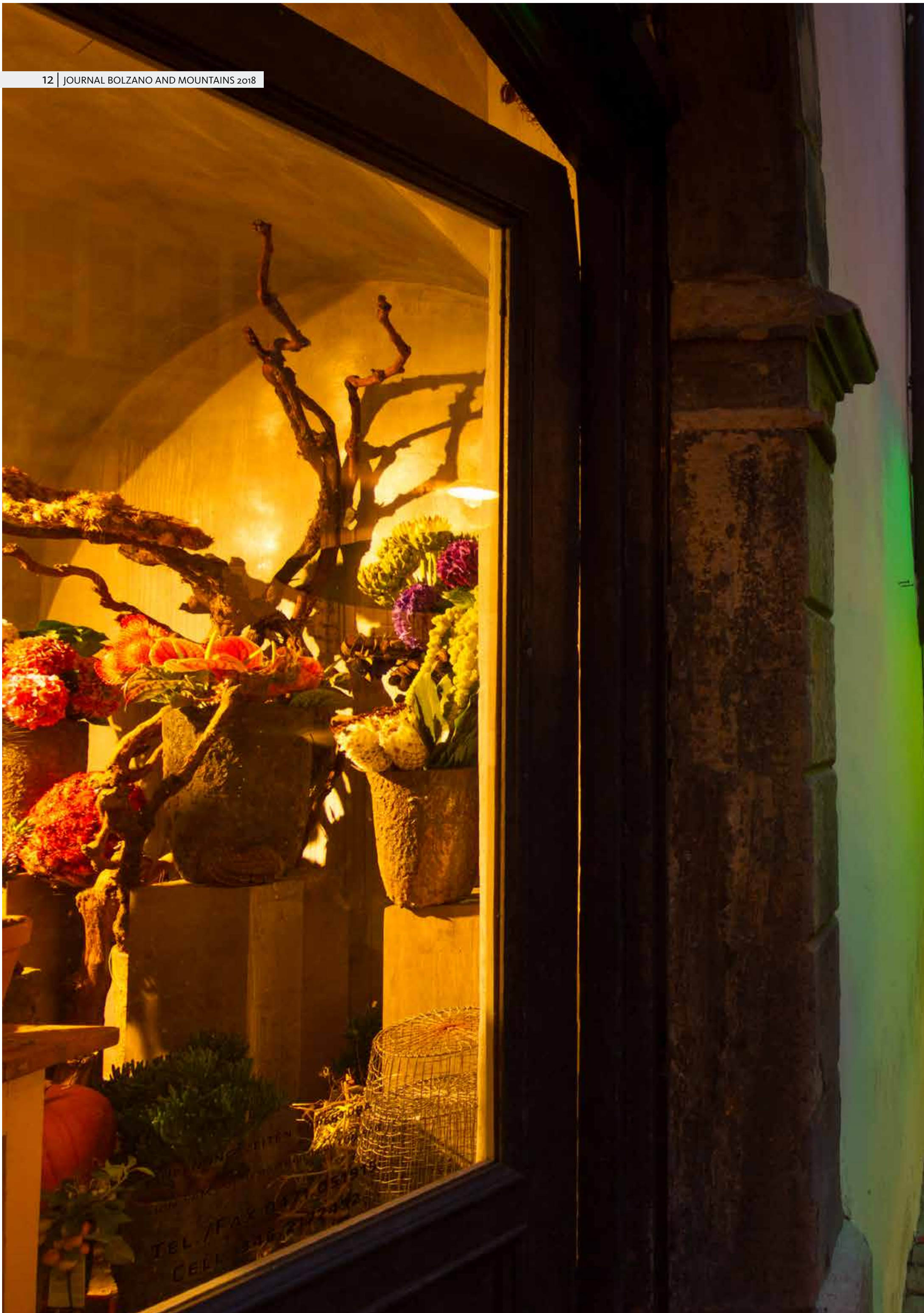
Shimano E-Mountainbike Experience | Experience a real adventure and be a part of the Shimano E-Mountainbike Tour, which goes over three exciting stages from Naturno to Sarentino and Sesto. Cycle with experienced bike-guides over amazing trails and enjoy the beautiful landscape on your way. In addition, every day you can test one of the newest E-MTB Highlights out of the nine leading bike-partner-brands. www.emountainbike-experience.org

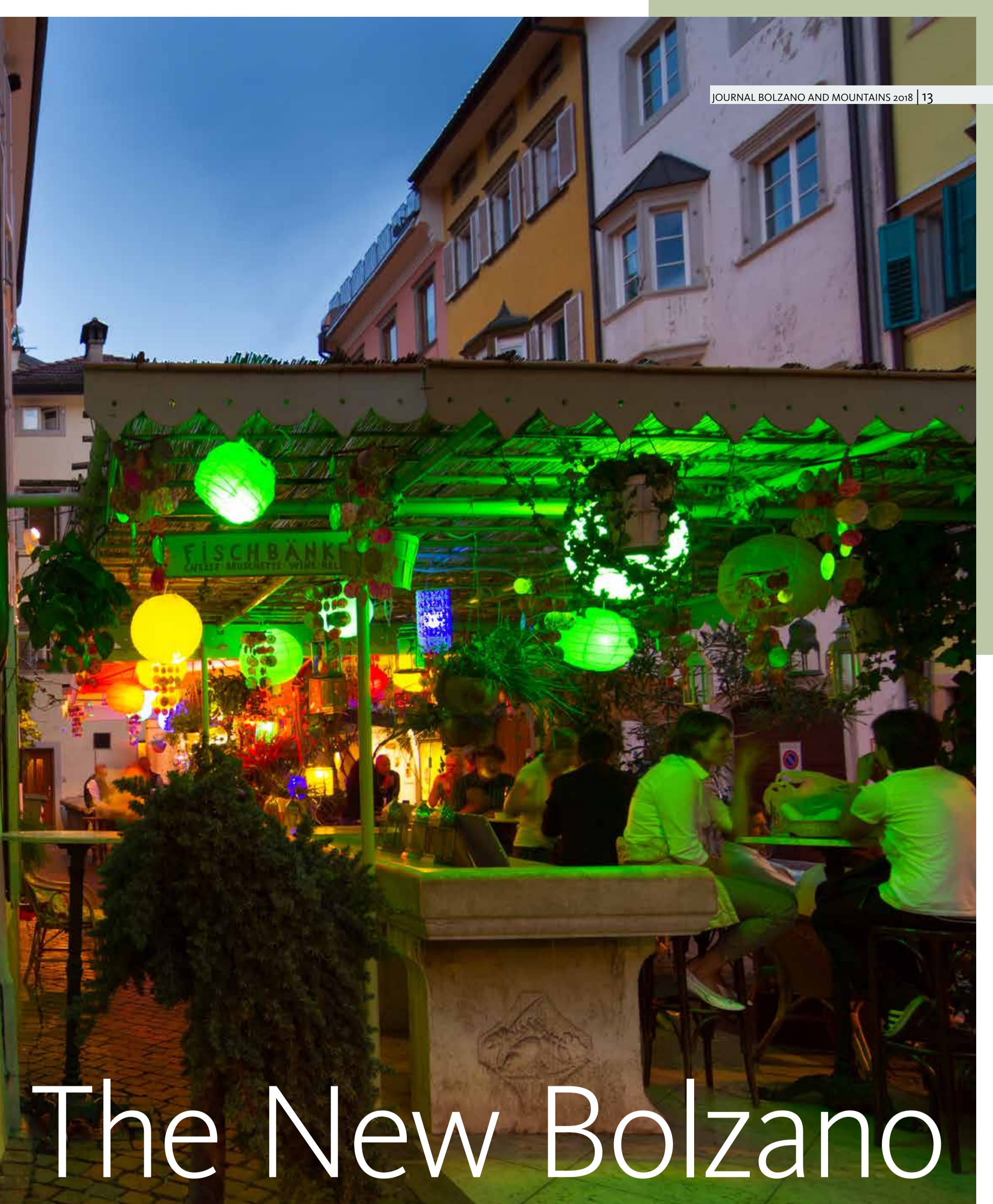
< An e-bike will not make you a better cyclist, but you will ride longer! The 'Stoanerne Mandln' (Stone Men) in the Sarentino Alps bike paradise (left) remain a challenge even with an e-mountain-bike.

Experience event to choose Val Sarentino as a finishing stage next year. The Shimano E-Mountainbike Experience is a new event combining cycling, alpine experiences, fine food and good company, which will be held from 30 May to 2 June 2018.

The areas around Aldino Redagno and the Monte Corno Nature Park are also ideal for bike tours, whether for pleasure cyclists or experts. Best of all, there are several rental stations that provide a great variety of e-bikes. Cycling on the former railway route of the Val di Fiemme railway is a special highlight for bike fans. The 21-km-long route involves a difference in altitude of about 1,000 metres. But this poses no problem even for less-experienced bikers, if supported by an electric motor. Do you prefer steeper and longer routes? There are several sign-posted mountain bike trails. Combine them with your regular route plan to your heart's content. ■ Peter A. Seebacher







The New Bolzano

Try to find another city like Bolzano – so charming, so inviting, and so magical. It has the perfect mix of advantages. This people-friendly metropolis is small, yet cosmopolitan. >



Natural beauty and a rich history add to its appeal. Nature has granted the city a stunning landscape that seems majestic from sunrise to sunset, on sunny and on rainy days; the mountain chain that surrounds the city changes colour every hour. This provides the ideal starting point for numerous excursions to other beautiful landscapes, which seem almost like paintings. The history of the city is mirrored in its bilingualism, which is noticeable not only in the architecture or cuisine of the city but also in its people: different cultures, traditions, and people with different origins and parental education meet here. Bolzano, as said is also a mosaic of different styles of architecture; yet, this could not be more in harmony. Everywhere in the streets, the aroma of fantastic dishes and the taste of noble wines greet you. Indeed, nature's embrace of Bolzano has made it a city of great wines. Again, it is the history that explains the amazing theatre shows and musical events taking place here. Bolzano is a fine metropolis and appears like the centrepiece of a museum.

The magic of Bolzano is also the outcome of the city's continuous development, its urge to change and create a long-lasting and sustainable future. Its ongoing transformation helps the city become even more valuable as time wears on. In 2018, expect a great deal of construction dust – Bolzano is poised to become even more tempting, while preserving

its history, its centuries-old physiognomy, and its varied roots and values, all of which contribute to the city's magical atmosphere.

With the lightness of a scalpel, the city will witness a cut in its historic centre. This cut will involve the streets and buildings in the surroundings of the train station. The plan is a radical one and a long required redesign of the area. The new design will feature shops, offices, apartments, and a new cable car – the fourth of this type in the city – to transport passengers up to the Virgolo Passage to the south-east of Bolzano. This area on an altitude of 500 metres has been neglected for too long. It will now receive the honour it deserves owing to the unmistakable view of the Bolzano valley basin. The new plan for the area includes shops, a café, and a restaurant to attract all those visitors who wish to immerse themselves in nature, yet stay only a few minutes from the city. The change in the city centre will also affect the Palais Campofranco – a palace that speaks of the rich history of the Belle Époque in Bolzano. The architects have planned a restaurant from where guests can enjoy a fantastic view of the city all the way to Walther Square. Apart from the city centre, Corso della Libertà and the Gries city district will also be included in the redesign plans. Guided tours will be offered so that visitors can discover the expedient architecture. These plans will make a considerable contribution to the urban

Roberta Agosti

Born in 1967 in Merano. Lives with her family in Bolzano where she heads the Tourist Office since 2010. At the end of her childhood years in Lana, she moved to Bolzano and discovered the extraordinary tourism potential of the Provincial capital and its surrounding area.



Italia & Amore | In the heart of Bolzano it is all about authentic Italian cuisine. On six floors you can find a variety of restaurants, a café, the 'mercato', which offers more than 4000 products from all around Italy and not to forget an 'Enoteca' with 3500 different wines – all under one roof and for sure, a paradise for connoisseurs. www.italiaamore.it

Flower market in Bolzano | Once a year the Piazza Walther in Bolzano transforms itself into one giant field of flowers – and this since 130 years. On 30th April and 1st May the gardeners of Bolzano gather in the city centre to present the newest flower trends and offer them for sale. But not only that, they also offer many tips and tricks in order for you to get that green thumb yourself. www.bolzano-bozen.it

JOSEF Bolzano Bozen | It is a trilingual and over all unique travel book about Bolzano. Reading it allows you to discover South Tyrol through the eyes of its insiders. Innovative and visionary people from Bolzano give 120 tips on which favourite spots and products they recommend to check out – because there is more to see in South Tyrol than just cows and apples! www.joseftravelbook.com

Museum at the Monument to Victory | The documentary exhibition 'BZ '18-'45 – a monument to one town with two dictatorships' reflects on the history of the Bolzano Monument to Victory. This Exhibition also covers the period of 1918–1945 from a regional, as well as outer region point of view and focuses on Italian fascism and the period of Nazi occupation. www.monumentofvictory.com

Kneipp at Laives | Water treating promotes circulation, stimulates the circulatory system and strengthens the immune system. After an exhausting hike, it helps relieve hot legs and promotes sleep when performed in the evening. The Kneipp facility is large 300 square metres and situated at the sports zone Vallarsa. Free entrance. www.leifers-info.it

Moving up | There are three lift facilities which carry holidaymakers from Bolzano to an altitude of more than 1,000 metres above sea level. You have the choice between the Renon lift facility that is the longest tri-cable lift in the world with a length of 4,565 metres, the Colle lift facility, which in its original existence was the world's first people monorail or the San Genesio lift facility, which carries its passengers to the larch tree meadows up on the Salto mountain. www.bolzano-bozen.it

Bolzano Wine City | A wide, sun-spoiled valley basin, two prestigious vines, and temperatures up to 40°C are the beneficial ingredients for the Bolzano wine-growing region to create aromas like dark berries of the forest, cherries, and violet. The Bolzano city district is the home to Lagrein, while more to the north-east of Bolzano on the hills and steep slopes the St. Magdalener vine matures. www.altoadigewines.com

< Bolzano through the ages (left): Get to know the past along the Guncina promenade. The 700-m long Via della Libertà (right) connects Piazza Gries with Piazza Vittoria and the old town.

and social appearance of the new and flourishing city. The milestone for a new district is laid in the southernmost part of Bolzano around the so-called NOI. These three letters tell the story of the place where Bolzano and the entire region will invest for the future. A laboratory for innovation and start-ups will be set up here, which will open up many opportunities for entrepreneurs, researchers and students to create new innovative ideas in the research fields of Alpine Technology, Green Technology, Food Technology and Automation. A new district means new infrastructure, bars, cycling paths, and more. NOI will soon be integrated into the city and may contribute to the city growing livelier. As mentioned, wine remains one of the best-known symbols of Bolzano. The wind of change will also affect the Bolzano Winery, which will be rebuilt. This winery is a historic treasure for the Lagrein and St. Magdalener wines, which are among the top wines in South Tyrol. The building will become a symbol of the modern technologies that are being used to preserve ancient traditions and the knowledge of wine-making, which has been handed down from generation to generation. ■ Roberta Agosti



A Declaration of Love to Autumn

Coloured Landscapes, Warm Sun, and Tasty Wine.

When talking about autumn in South Tyrol, the tradition of Törggelen, the origins of which are often discussed, is definitely an important part of it. Some sources say that a long time ago the inhabitants of Valle Isarco used to visit one wine farmer after the other to try their new wine. Only after the tasting tour would they purchase wine for their annual requirements. In the area around Bolzano, it is believed that after the harvest, the farmers invited all their helpers to enjoy a good meal on the farm, which was mostly organized in the cellar, where the so-called 'Torggl' (wine press) was located. Thus, the name Törggelen soon developed. This tradition is very popular amongst both, old and young. During Törggelen, everything is about drinking wine and eating roasted chestnuts, which is an integral part of a traditional 'Törggele' snack, along with tasty, typical bacon from the region, smoked sausages, and boiled potatoes. Over the years, innovative hosts began to combine the new wine with hearty and creative food, usually homemade or simple dishes from South Tyrol's rural cuisine. Part of every 'Törggele' menu is the sweet doughnut served at the end of the meal. Worth trying are also the doughnuts with Kloazn filling (dried pears), which are mainly served on the Renon high plateau.

New Wine and Törggelen. In order to preserve the Törggelen tradition, about a dozen traditional inns have started the 'Törggelen at its Origins' initiative. What they have in common is the celebration of this ancient tradition in its original way – at the right time of the season, at the places where the delicious grapes and chestnuts grow, and where the farmers make the best of wines out of the grapes. The criteria the inns need in order to participate are for at least 30% of their products to be grown out of their own farms and the wine to be 100% out of their own production. The 'Authentic Törggelen' initiative takes place during a limited period of time, starting in October with the lighting of the 'chestnut fire' and an attractive program.

Autumn Hike and Cosy Get-Together. Usually, Törggelen takes place in a convivial gathering in vineyards and in areas where the large chestnut trees grow, and where farmers open their traditional wood-panelled 'stube' rooms and cellars to visitors from the start of October to the beginning of Advent. Törggelen stands for culinary delights, warm hospitality and good company, and for a hike through the autumn landscape. The main focus though is on hiking, combined with a visit to one of the many ancient

Peter Righi

Born in 1965, Peter is a publicist and experienced tourism expert, scenery discoverer, and passionate South Tyrol aficionado who is constantly on the lookout for new things. He has been climbing prominent and less prominent summits in the Eastern Alps for the past 30 years. He loves going on adventures in the most beautiful natural landscapes on earth. He avidly pursues publication activities for renowned publishers and journals. Journalist in the press relation office in Bolzano.



< Enjoy a special 'Törggele' experience. An easy autumn walk or an extended autumn hike and roast chestnuts form an integral part of the Törggelen tradition.

Authentic Törggelen | 23 so called 'Buschenschänke' (tavernas) are located along the chestnut trail of Val d'Isarco as well as along the wine-growing areas of South Tyrol and correspond with these quality criterias: every single bottle of wine has to be produced at the own wine-farm, as well as 30% of the products. South Tyrolean chestnuts are offered and authentic dishes are served. www.redrooster.it

Thanksgiving at the inn | In autumn the 'Südtirol Gasthaus' inn hosts have a lot of South Tyrolean specialties to offer and welcome everyone into their inns to enjoy delicious plates with fresh fruit and vegetables mixed with healthy grains and tasty meat. From end of September until mid-November hosts will spoil your taste buds with not only traditional recipes but also new innovative creations. www.gasthaus.it

Farmer's Autumn | Home-made juices, wines, schnapps, vinegar, milk products, herbs, eggs or vegetables all together form one culinary delight. Taste and buy these wonderful products at the colorful farmers market which takes place mid-October at Piazza Walther in Bolzano. Also, get to learn more about how the products are made by asking the farmers on site. www.redrooster.it

The chestnut trail | The 63 km long chestnut trail in the Valle Isarco connects the monastery Abbazia di Novacella in Bressanone with Roncolo Castle in Bolzano and can be hiked in a three-stage-hiking tour. All year long this trail will spoil your eyes with wonderful scenic landscapes. www.eisacktal.com

A delightful break | Experience nature, appreciate the view, enjoy local delicacies. In an alpine hut, whether rustic or stylish, bacon and 'Knödel' (dumplings), applestrudel and 'Kaiserschmarrn' (sugared pancake with raisins) taste even better! www.bolzanosurroundings.info

Home-grown vegetables | Make unique nature experiences, immerse in the rural life, get in touch with locals and in the meantime, cultivate vegetables: all this promises the new project 'die Berggärtner - alpine gardening' in Aldino. Help and advice from the farmers, which rent the gardens, is guaranteed. www.aldein-radein.com

castles or one of the many artistic and historic treasures that can be found along the Törggele hiking trails. One of the most famous is the Chestnut Trail, which leads from Valle Isarco via Renon to Roncolo/Runkelstein Castle. Artistic and natural sights along the Chestnut Trail bear witness to a century-old culture; magical places speak of the legends of witches, fairies, and spirits. The Chestnut Trail is 63 km long and can be completed in several stages. The landscape is dominated by the majestic chestnut trees, all of which are meticulously registered in a tree registry. Over the past years, they have become an important part of various economic sectors. You can also feel the power of the chestnut trees between Rafenstein Castle and Cologna, on the sunny slopes of San Genesio, the community with the most chestnut trees in all of South Tyrol. They radiate tranquillity and strength, and create places of contemplation and meditation. ■ Peter Righi



Two Pearls

in the Heart of South Tyrol

Val Sarentino and Corno del Renon: ideal for skiing in a quiet and breath-taking landscape; great for snowshoe hiking and sledging, too.

The two spots are just a few kilometres away from each other. Their location is ideal if you wish to visit the renowned Christmas market in Bolzano after a day on the ski slopes. The two family-friendly and snow-laden holiday hotspots await you far away from the usual crowded tourist attractions.

The Reinswald ski resort in Val Sarentino has about 20 km of sunny slopes up to altitudes of 2,500 m to which comfortable ski lifts will bring you. There are two slopes you should definitely try: First, there is the 3,7-km-long Pichlberg-Plankenhorn slope, which starts at an altitude of 2,460 m and ends at an altitude of 1,570 m at the valley station and is known to be the longest slope in the resort. Second, you have the Joch slope, a 1,5-km-long slope with an inclination of 58%. This one is ideal for expert skiers and has also been host to many European Cup skiing races. It starts at Sattelle and ends at the Pfnatsch-Alm hut. There is also something for the youngest skiers: In the previous season, the 600-m-long Anger ski lift near the valley station was specially constructed for children. However,

holidays in Val Sarentino are not only about skiing but also culture, tradition, and lots of fun. Wish to return to your childhood? Simply try one of the two toboggan runs. The 4,5-km-long Reinswalder Wiesn run from Pichlberg-Alm to the cable car valley station and the Sunnolm run. The new Alpinrestaurant Pichlberg is a must for foodies. It was built with natural stones and the finest larch wood. The restaurant is located directly on the slopes and offers a panoramic view of the valley. The chef Armin Tobanelli spoils his guests with South Tyrolean and other specialties.

The sunny Renon is a very special area and can be discovered by taking the tram, which dates back to 1907. This historic tram operates on the Collalbo-Soprabolzano-Maria Assunta route. The wooden railway wagons are still the originals. The Corno del Renon ski area is a high-alpine plateau spoiled by the sun. It is home to interesting slopes (about 15 km in length) and you can enjoy it all at affordable prices. There is a cable car for eight people and two pull lifts transport skiers up to Corno del Renon at an altitude of 2,270 m. Here, it is recommended to take a break to watch the sun setting beautifully behind the mountains. The slopes are long and technically demanding, and they will bring you to the

Luca Laudati

Professional journalist since 1992. Chief editor and publisher of Scimagazine, a magazine focusing on ski tourism. Laudati has always been a passionate hiker and photographer. He has participated in competitions right from childhood and through his college years. He studied political science and has served for many years as the chief editor of other magazines, writing about the sea and underwater sports.



< Of course they are all suitable for skiing and snowboarding, with easy beginners' slopes and difficult slopes for ski experts. Away from the slopes the idyllic winter landscape awaits you for all kinds of winter pleasures.

Skiing regions | In the middle of the Sarentino Alps, marvellous 360-degree view from Renon and snow guarantee until April at Passo Oclini: the three skiing regions in the holiday region Bolzano and environs convince beginner as well as families with their simplicity/forwardness, kindness and soft winter delight. www.bolzanosurroundings.info/ski

In love at Bolzano | The 10th and 11th February 2018 offer a special event: "Places of Love" show you atmospheric places in and around Bolzano. The tours are guided from artists, historians and writers, who lead you to old walls, massive castles and enchanting churches. www.bolzano-bozen.it

The world elite as a guest | From 19th to 23rd February 2018 Reinswald is the location of the Ski European Cup races. The traditional ski descent starts at 2400 m a.s.l., 200 metres lower the Super G begins. The two disciplines are 3,4 kilometres and 2,2 kilometres long. The slalom for the super combined begins at the last metres of the ski slope. www.sarntal.com

Award-winning cuisine | Who could have imagined that in Val Sarentino, in the middle of nowhere at 1,622 m a.s.l., is one of the most innovative restaurants of South Tyrol? Chef Heinrich Schneider indulges you with his culinary skills in his Michelin two-star restaurant TERRA in front of a unique mountain scenery. www.terra.place

Actively through winter | The holiday region Bolzano and environs offers non-skiers plenty experiences in the fresh winter air. The spacious high plateaus above Bolzano offer the possibility for short or long winter hikes, ice skating, sledding or magical riding tours through the winter landscape. www.bolzanosurroundings.info

cable cars at Pemmern/Tre Sentieri (1,530 m). If you keep to the left of the cable car, you can ski down an alternative slope. There are wide turns and you can ski 5 km through the forests, but it is rather steep especially at the start. There is a connection from Corno del Renon to the Pennleger slope, a classic red slope with wonderful turns, which ends at the pull lift. If you prefer to not ski for a day, Corno del Renon offers plenty of other options, too. Why not enjoy a snow-shoe hike on the Premium Panorama Tour, the first certified winter-trail in Italy? The starting point is the Cima Lago Nero mountain station. From here, you can hike up to Corno del Renon and return via Corno di Sotto. This 2,5-hour-long walk is suitable for all, even children. You could also try sledging from the middle station of the cable cars down to the valley station that is 2,5 km away. Fun guaranteed!

■ Luca Laudati



delightful | **Renon cuisine on snow.** Six local maitre-du-cuisine... six different huts and restaurants... six regional delicacies. This is the motto of our extraordinary culinary event, which will run on 27th January 2018 in the Corno del Renon ski region. Hungry winter hikers, snowboarders or sledge drivers welcome!

www.ritten.com



culinary | **Specialty weeks.** For 31 years the restaurants of San Genesio have organized the speciality weeks 'Sunnseitn' at the beginning of spring. You can find delicacies like fawn, lamb or foal, light dishes with herbs or Mediterranean starters on the menu. New in October: chestnut-weeks with delicious chestnut-dishes.

www.jenesien.net



international | **Festivals.** Whether film or jazz, music festivals or Bolzano danza, classic music and piano concerts or contemporary culture: from April to September the festivals bring an international atmosphere into the concert halls, to the historic squares and unexpected locations in and around Bolzano and turn the capital city into the cultural centre of South Tyrol.

www.bolzanosurroundings.info



historic | **Castelronda.** On the 9th and 10th June 2018, six renowned castles around Bolzano and Appiano open their doors and enchant visitors with an exciting and varied programme. The event focuses on living history and invites visitors to enjoy a fascinating time journey. Step inside! For two days you can visit historic walls from various eras, get to know the different construction styles and stories during the many special events, and join experts in the exciting world of legends and myths.

www.bolzano-bozen.it



10 great moments

IN BOLZANO AND IN THE MOUNTAINS

musical | **Rudy Giovannini Köfele Festival.** A folk music



star to be celebrated and to be touched: Once a year, the native South Tyrolean Rudy Giovannini returns to his homeland and entertains his fans at the 'Rudy Giovannini Köfele Festival'. On the 15th and 16th of June 2018, the 'Caruso of the Mountains' presents his most successful songs from his career in his hometown Laives.

www.leifers-info.it

pleasurable | **Gastronomic night journeys on the**



Renon. On hot summer days, the people from the valley like to go up to Renon to enjoy the cooler air and also this event highlight: five times in June and July, the restaurateurs from Renon serve a course at each of the five stops of the railway with a matching wine of course, and finally, a traditional schnapps for digestion. During the journey you can listen to the music ensemble playing some traditional and classic music. www.ritten.com

traditional | **Sarntal Church Day.** Traditional, with



costumes and unconventional: The Sarntal Church Day takes place from 1st to 3rd of September 2018. This 3-day folk's festival is known far beyond the borders for its colourful costumes. On the last day, on Monday, its market day: people observe, bargain and laugh – and contracts are made by handshake.

www.jenesien.net

extreme | **South Tyrol Ultra Skyrace.** 121 kilometres



and 7,554 metres of difference in altitude... and all of this combined in a time limit of 40 hours. This is South Tyrol Ultra Skyrace. All participating athletes will reach their physical and psychological limits. The extreme mountain race runs from 27th to 29th July 2018.

www.suedtirol-ultraskyrace.it

ancient | **Advent customs in Val Sarentino.** When spine-



chilling tones, bells and noise are heard in the quiet winter nights, the people in Val Sarentino know what this means: It's time for 'Klöckeln'! The bell ringers move from house to house and sing their songs according to ancient melodies. The old custom originally derives from a German fertility rite: just before the upcoming winter solstice, the way must be prepared for the fertility god Donar.

www.sarntal.com

magical | **Sunrise.** It is recommended to be an early bird



because in July and August you start your day at 4 am with a hike. Accompanied by a guide of the Geoparc Bletterbach, you walk from Passo Oclini to Corno Bianco to admire the magical sunrise at 2,317 m a.s.l. During the descent, you will learn about the geological features of the Bletterbach Gorge and the Dolomite UNESCO World Heritage. Finally, you will enjoy a typical breakfast.

www.bletterbach.info



Advent in Bolzano

A talk with Fabio Bolzetta

Fabio Bolzetta is one of the faces of Tv2000. He is a presenter who travels the world as a special correspondent to cover important events that will go down in history. Bolzetta received the Premio Internazionale Bonificacio VIII award recently for his new book about the devastating earthquake Voci del terremoto ('Voices of the Earthquake'). He will be participating in the 'Reading at the Christmas Market' event. We spoke to him about the meaning of Advent for the inhabitants of Bolzano and about the Christmas market.

The inhabitants of Bolzano live the meaning of Advent like few others.

Visiting the city during Advent means being immersed in a unique atmosphere. I have experienced this myself and am now in love with the city. Christmas in Bolzano simply embraces you. Ancient traditions have been preserved and handed down to the younger generations. I appreciate the local handicrafts being sold to visitors who carry these back

home and enjoy them throughout the Christmas period. These visitors are all witnesses to Bolzano's Christmas atmosphere.

The Christmas market in Bolzano mirrors the importance of Advent for the inhabitants of the city. The atmosphere warms up the hearts of visitors to the Christmas market. There are colours, music, fragrances, handicraft items, and culinary delights. Advent is celebrated here with all five senses. I truly value the excellent organizational efforts, which are responsible for the selection of exhibitors, the initiatives, and the different locations. I especially like the offers that are dedicated to families with young children and newborns.

You did a report about the Christmas market on TV. Did you feel the difference?

I have travelled a lot as a journalist and I still do. Coming to South Tyrol and preparing a report about the Christmas market in Bolzano was a wonderful surprise for me. I was able to convey the joy of Christmas in Bolzano to the audience of Tv2000. I conducted an interview with families who had come all the way from Apulia to visit the Christmas market. I was truly touched by the welcome reception, which made me come back here again. My only reason for not holding a TV camera or a notepad in my hands now is that I want to hold the hands of my family, who I am happy to bring to Bolzano.

The difference can also be felt in Christmas markets outside Bolzano, like in Val Sarentino, Renon, and Carezza – all villages that would make great postcard motifs...

People should respect nature because they understand that nature is part of them. Only then will nature turn into a rare beauty and shine in harmony with the people and their life paths. Each visit here leaves you with impressions of the mountains, water streams, bell towers, and alpine huts. This is a spectacular panorama – white in winter and green in summer. A fairytale. You have carefully preserved and respected the gift of nature. And thanks to the creation of a network, there is no competition between the different Christmas markets. Rather, all I see is cooperation.



Awarded for pleasure

High-quality food, handicraft art and creativity are the ingredients of South Tyrolean gastronomy, which receive

high praise in the best Restaurant Guides. The gastronomy has an equal partner in local wine producers: Italian and international wine guides test the quality of South Tyrolean red, white and sparkling wines on a regular basis, and honour the best of them with valuable awards.

WINE GUIDES

FALSTAFF WEIN GUIDE 2017/2018 93-98 POINTS	VINI BUONI D'ITALIA 2018 LE CORONE	GAMBERO ROSSO 2018 TRE BICCHIERI
98 Terlaner 1991 Rarity Cantina Terlano	Gewürztraminer Brenntal 2015 Cantina Cortaccia	Pinot Bianco Sanct Valentin 2015 Cantina San Michele, Appiano
96 Appius 2012 Cantina San Michele, Appiano	Gewürztraminer Lunare 2015 Cantina Terlano	Pinot Bianco Sirmian 2016 Cantina Nalles Magrè
95 Terlaner Sauvignon Quarz 2015 Cantina Terlano	Gewürztraminer Nussbaumer 2015 Cantina Termeno	Pinot Grigio Riserva Giatl 2015 Peter Zemmer, Cortina ssdv
95 Gewürztraminer Nussbaumer 2015 Cantina Termeno	Schiava Gschleier Vecchie Vigne 2015 Cantina Cornaiano, Appiano	Chardonnay Laföa 2015 Cantina Colterenzio, Appiano
95 Pinot Nero Riserva Vigna Ganger 2014 Cantina Cornaiano, Appiano	Kalterersee Classico Superiore Plantaditsch 2016 Tenuta Klosterhof, Caldaro	Terlaner Sauvignon Quarz 2015 Cantina Terlano
94 Lieben Aich Sauvignon 2015 Tenuta Manincor, Caldaro	Santa Maddalena Moar 2015 Cantina Bolzano	Müller Thurgau Feldmarschall von Fenner 2015 Tiefenbrunner, Cortaccia
94 Terlaner Riserva Nova Domus 2014 Cantina Terlano	Santa Maddalena Classico Rondell 2016 Glöggelhof – Gojer Franz, Bolzano	Gewürztraminer Auratus Crescendo 2016 Ritterhof, Caldaro
94 Sauvignon Blanc Riserva Rachtl 2014 Tiefenbrunner, Cortaccia	Lagrein Mirell 2014 Ansitz Waldgries – Christian Plattner, Bolzano	Gewürztraminer Riserva Brenntal 2015 Cantina Cortaccia
94 Gewürztraminer Vend. Tardiva Terminum 2014 Cantina Termeno	Lagrein Riserva Abtei Muri 2014 Cantina Muri-Gries, Bolzano	Gewürztraminer Nussbaumer 2015 Cantina Termeno
93 Chardonnay Riserva Vigna AU 2014 Tiefenbrunner, Cortaccia	Lagrein Riserva Grafenleiten 2015 Obermoser – Thomas Rottensteiner, Bolzano	Kalterersee Classico Superiore Pfarrhof 2016 Cantina Caldaro
93 Terlaner Pinot Bianco Vorberg 2014 Cantina Terlano	Lagrein Riserva Sond 2015 Thomas Pichler, Caldaro	Santa Maddalena Classico Antheos 2016 Ansitz Waldgries – Christian Plattner, Bolzano
93 Sauvignon Blanc Oberberg 2015 Tenuta Kornell, Terlano	Moscato Giallo Passito Salvadori 2014 Cantina Nalles Magrè	Santa Maddalena Classico Rondell 2016 Glöggelhof – Franz Gojer, Bolzano
93 Sauvignon Mantele 2016 Cantina Nalles Magrè	Gewürztraminer Vendemia Tardiva Terminum 2014 Cantina Termeno	Pinot Nero Schweizer 2013 Franz Haas, Montagna
93 Sauvignon Sanct Valentin 2016 Cantina San Michele, Appiano		Pinot Nero Riserva Trattmann Mazon 2014 Cantina Cornaiano, Appiano
93 Sauvignon Tannenbergl 2015 Tenuta Manincor, Caldaro		Lagrein Riserva Abtei Muri 2014 Cantina Muri-Gries, Bolzano
		Lagrein Riserva Staves 2014 Tenuta Kornell, Terlano
		Lagrein Riserva Taber 2015 Cantina Bolzano
		Riserva Extra Brut 1919 2011 Kettmeir, Caldaro

GOURMET GUIDE

RESTAURANT	Locality	+39	MICHELIN GUIDA ROSSA 2017	GAULT MILLAU ÖSTERREICH 2017	GAMBERO ROSSO 2017	GUIDA DELL'ESPRESSO 2017	OSTERIE D'ITALIA 2017
Bistro Arôme	Bolzano	0471 313030		13/20 ▲			
Bistro Humus	Bolzano	0471 971961		12,5/20			
Forsterbräu	Bolzano	0471 977243	🍴				
Gasthaus Haselburg	Bolzano	0471 402130		13/20			mentioned
Gasthof Kohlern	Bolzano	0471 329978	🍴	13/20			mentioned
Restaurant Laurin	Bolzano	0471 311000	🍴	15/20	80/100		mentioned
Ristorante Löwengrube	Bolzano	0471 970032	🍴	14/20	79/100		mentioned
Ristorante Lunas	Bolzano	0471 975642	🍴	12,5/20			
Wirtshaus Vögele	Bolzano	0471 973938	🍴		mentioned		mentioned
Gasthaus Weißes Rössl	Bolzano	0471 973267			🍴		mentioned
Ristorante Zur Kaiserkrone	Bolzano	0471 303233		15/20	mentioned ▲		mentioned
Gasthof Tiefthalerhof	San Genesio	348 0333391					mentioned
Gasthof Lanzenschuster	San Genesio	0471 340012					mentioned
Gasthof Patauner	Terlano	0471 918502	🍴	12,5/20			
Ristorante Schwarzer Adler	Andriano	0471 510288					mentioned
Landgasthof Bad Turmbach	Appiano	0471 662339	🍴				
Ristorante Zur Rose	Appiano	0471 662249	🍴	17/20	88/100	🍴	
Ristorante Ansitz Pillhof	Appiano	0471 633100				mentioned	
Ristorante L'Arena, Weinegg	Appiano	0471 662511	🍴	14/20			
Ristorante Ritterhof	Caldaro	0471 963330		14/20	mentioned		mentioned
Ristorante Siegi's	Caldaro	0471 665721					mentioned
Taberna Romani	Termeno	0471 860010		14/20	🍴		
Gasthaus Schwarz Adler	Cortaccia	0471 880224	🍴	13/20			mentioned
Gasthof Dorfnerhof	Montagna	0471 819798	🍴				mentioned
Ristorante Johnson & Dipoli	Egna	0471 820323	🍴				mentioned
Gasthof Fichtenhof	Salorno	0471 889028					mentioned
Fischerwirt	Val Sarentino	0471 625523		13/20 ▲			
Ristorante Terra	Val Sarentino	0471 623055	🍴	17/20		🍴	
Ristorante Braunwirt	Val Sarentino	0471 620165		15/20		mentioned	
Gasthof Ansitz Kematen	Renon	0471 356356	🍴				
Gasthaus Patscheiderhof	Renon	0471 365267	🍴	13/20	🍴		mentioned
Bistro im Parkhotel Holzner	Renon	0471 345231		14/20			
Ristorante 1908, Parkhotel Holzner	Renon	0471 345232		15/20			
Gasthaus Signaterhof	Renon	0471 365353		13/20			🍴
Ristorante Zirmerhof Stube 1600	Redagno	0471 887215	🍴	13/20			
Ristorante Krone	Aldino	0471 886825	🍴	14/20	77/100 ▲		mentioned
Ristorante Ploner	Aldino	0471 886556	🍴				mentioned
Gasthaus Kürbishof	Anterivo	0471 882140	🍴	13/20	🍴		🍴

365 days | Dolomites

Hiking, climbing, biking, skiing or simple amazement: The Dolomites, UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2009, and according to Reinhold Messner 'the most beautiful mountains in the world', offer wonderful nature experiences between high-alpine pastures, twisty pass roads, rough peaks and marking rock formations, during all seasons.

www.suedtirol.info



365 days | South Tyrolean cycling track

7 cities, 5 stages, 2 wheels: The South Tyrolean cycling track connects the various cities of South Tyrol with an adventurous cycling tour. The mix of Alpine and Mediterranean landscape guarantees a variety on each and every kilometre. As a guest you will be impressed by the cultural variety and the vibrant life in the historic main towns of the region.

www.suedtirol-radweg.it

March – November | Trauttmansdorff Castle

Plants from all over the world bloom and grow in more than 80 garden landscapes. No matter whether young or old, botanic expert or amateur, the Gardens of Trauttmansdorff Castle in Merano provide a unique mix of botanic gardens and leisure time attraction. The castle hosts the Touriseum, which covers 200 years of tourism history in Tyrol and Merano. www.trauttmansdorff.it

April – June | South Tyrol Balance

Stimulate your inner balance between Mediterranean landscapes and some impressive Alpine scenery. With the special BALANCE-offers from April to June, you will experience a well-balanced interaction between motivating exercises, recreational relaxation and healthy food-pleasures. Find your inner balance in the unique nature landscape of South Tyrol.

www.suedtirol.info/balance

Easter – November | Messner Mountain Museum

Six locations, six exhibitions, six adventures: The Messner Mountain Museum is a meeting point for mountains, humans and also each individual. Each visit is like a mountain tour, especially in nice weather, and an MMM round tour (with the MMM tour ticket) provides a unique experience!

www.messner-mountain-museum.it

362 Days | Ötzi, the Iceman

About 5,300 years ago, a man crossed the Tisen pass in Val Senales in South Tyrol. He was murdered there and his body was preserved by the ice. Today, the Iceman Ötzi can be visited in one of the most renowned museums in the world – the South Tyrolean Museum of Archaeology in Bolzano. The exhibition includes valuable objects that were discovered together with the Iceman. www.iceman.it

October | International Mountain Summit

For the past 10 years, the International Mountain Summit has attracted many visitors to Bressanone. Fans of the mountains and alpinism have a unique chance to meet the best and most popular mountaineers, climbers, mountain scientists, and philosophers, as well as other extraordinary people. Attendees can get to know their life stories in a wonderful setting surrounded by the summits of the Dolomites.

www.ims.bz

November | Merano WineFestival

At the beginning of November, the stylish ambience of the Kurhaus in Merano plays venue to one of the most important wine fares in Europe, the Merano WineFestival. The best wines and delicacies from all over the world can be tasted during the three days of the Festival. Tasted and rated are also different beers and spirits from the best breweries and distilleries in Europe. www.meranowinefestival.com

30th November – 6th January 2018 | Christmas Markets

The five original South Tyrolean Christmas Markets are as essential during the Christmas period in South Tyrol as the Silent Night song on Christmas Eve. Look forward to magical moments at the meeting point of cultures in the capital of Bolzano, the spa town of Merano, the former Bishops' town of Bressanone, the lively city of Brunico, and the merchants' town of Vipiteno. www.suedtirol.info

365 days | Mobility in South Tyrol

The Mobilcard gives you unlimited access to all public means of transport in South Tyrol, while the museumobil Card adds the entry to more than 90 museums and collections in South Tyrol. Tip: Many accommodations automatically hand out the guestcards (RittenCard, Winepass PLUS or Bolzano Card Plus) based on the museumobil Card with many more interesting additional services.

www.bolzanosurroundings.info

SOUTH TYROL top 10

timeless

visit cities, meet Ötzi, admire gardens
discover the Dolomites, climb mountains
healthy pleasure and sustainable mobility