



SCIJ Summer Meeting Argentina 2006 Travel report #3



La Angostura to Bariloche: The stunning views

Rain drops kept falling ...

By Uros Sostaric, Slovenija

Sabe quien sabe. Who knows, knows. Really, the organizers are doing the great job. Not only great but fantastic. Victoria, Cecilia and SCIJ's adopted son Reto, somehow managed to organize even the rain, specially it was really necessary on the trip through places having more than 200 rainy days in the year. In Villa de la Angostura we were surrounded by water, inspite of that swimming pool in Corazón de la Bahía was sot easing ... And the visit to the Parque Nacional de los Arrayanes was fantastic too. We noticed that the steps on the path through the red woods would be safe even for our friend from San Martin de Los Andes – Michel. Rain was good at least for one thing – our ship became a big bed room. Till Bariloche we were admiring heavy



rain drops, hoping that weather forecast will be wrong again. It was true, with a great help of the Panamericano Hotel management who told us that all the personal was blowing the whole night into the clouds. Next morning was more than surprising, and we could only wonder how magical would be the voyage through the seven lakes road. To finish with another miracle: I heard that Victoria is thinking to organize a big winter meeting at the beginning of the Argentinean Winter –

in Llao Llao of course! (editor adds: this is pure gossip...)

P.s.: Josko Pirnar, the honorary president of SCIJ is sending warm regards to all the participants of his meeting- He was really looking forward to fly to

Argentina, to be for the first time in his life (he turned 80 this March) on the southern hemisphere.

Unfortunately, the results after a surgery procedure were not allowing him to come. But be sure: in thoughts he is with us. P. s. 2: This morning on the road to Catedral Alta Patagonia we heard on the radio that Argentina has lost against Spain for one point in basketball in Japan. While receiving congratulations for a victory Montse said: Why? 'soy Catalana!'



Panamericano

By Tertu Levenon, Finland

The staff of Hotel Panamericano Bariloche sure know how to please their guests. The bedraggled, wet and tired SCIJ-brothers and sisters after a long day's journey were cordially welcomed with a glass of wine in the lobby. In my fantastic room I found my suitcase, presents and five star comfort and space – and gorgeous views over the lake. Thursday started with a royal breakfast. Being early and alone I was served by seven waiters – and felt like a princess! Worst of all: you might get used to the Panamericano-luxury- and want to stay here for good! Well, all wonderful things come to an end – but before that we still have the dinner to look



forward to. It will certainly combine the great Patagonian tastes and ELEGANCE!

Tequila, un lugar y una noche para recordar
Por Natalia Farre, España



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Los dos conceptos que aparecen en la mente de un español al oír la palabra Bariloche son: naturaleza espectacular y gente guapa. La llegada en barco a Puerto Pañuelo permitió constatar que el entorno del lugar es de una belleza

impresionante y el ambiente de Tequila confirmó que la ciudad se mueve con glamur. El restaurante, hermano pequeño de la más que famosa discoteca homónima de Buenos Aires, no decepcionó. Música *house*, deliciosas tapas de diseño, un servicio excelente y una decoración cálida y acogedora. En un marco tan exquisito fue inevitable que Cupido y Baco hicieran acto de presencia. El primero disparó sus flechas hacia el corazón de más de uno que se quedó prendado por la belleza de las camareras. Y el dios del vino embriagó la mente de unos cuantos que entre copa y copa inventamos noticias increíbles, hicimos fotos imposibles y fijamos en la memoria momentos inolvidables. La velada fue larga y el recuerdo será, sin duda, para siempre.

**Cerro
Catedral,
Cathedral for
skiers
By Petr
Kubka, Czech
Republic**

Every Moslem should visit Mecca, so every skier must visit Bariloche once in his life. If Islamic fundamentalism were not a very hot issue, I'd like to use the headline : Cerro Catedral – Mecca for skiers. But: Cerro Catedral – Cathedral for skiers – is better.

When I was landing at Bariloche airport on Sunday afternoon I immediately recognised the slopes of



Cerro Catedral. The white plateau and two white sleeves cutting the forest were a big challenge. But I had to wait till Thursday...



On the first look from the base Cerro Catedral is nothing special. Seems like many others top ski resorts in the Alpes. Ski rentals, black,

red, blue and yellow more or less difficult ski slopes with well groomed surfaces, even some lifts are the some- Leitner's bench for six people is really a fast means of transport for skiers. But once you meet Argentines you'll feel a difference...

At the ski rental with its quantity of brand-new material, one could choose his ski from beginner level to expert – even Vlado from Slovenia was satisfied testing the sharpness of the edges. But what really got me was the perfect service of the boys in charge of the ski boots. Not only they give you almost always the right size of the boots, but they help to put them on and fix the right way... Even Peter from the Netherlands did not need to

bend his back.

On the slopes, sunshine changed the morning icy snow into springfirn, but can't change the fact that in Cerro Catedral, during the whole day I didn't meet any stone on the slope. So you can fully enjoy the luck of freeride.



The most important difference you'll see while you stop on the slope for recovering the breath is: an incredible nature all around you. I'm a journalist and not a poet to describe all this beauty, but I'm sure it's nature who creates from Cerro Cathedral the Cathedral of skiers !

**Jewel of Patagonia: Llao, Llao... Chaud, chaud
Green heaven...**

By Emmanuelle Jowa, Belgium

In the outdoor pool, in the middle of the green, green grass of the Llao, Llao resort, two guests from New York are enjoying a Winter golden Patagonian sunset. In the meantime, a bunch of skiers - looking elegantly casual but still groggy after a long sport day, lightened by the spark of a "nueve" as icy as a wedding cake -, in the meantime then, this highly cosmopolitan bunch of Scij journalists were invading the perfectly shaved green facing the Llao Llao hotel. Facing the green



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blue lake Nahuel Huapi, surrounded by the white topped mountains, the Lao Llo resort - which was, to name but a few, visited by Bill Clinton, Fidel Castro and Eminem - appears like a fairy tale location, with an atmosphere somewhere between the best of Victorian England, a combination of some extraordinary Swiss chalets, or la "crème de la crème" made in Normandy... Heavenly green and blue, clear and true vision.

Located in the Lake District, the place offers both a purely ecological and highly luxurious atmosphere. The hotel was created in 1934 and reopened in 1993 after a 15 years black out. Initially created by artist architect Alejandro Bustillo, using cypress wood, a very dense, colourful material, quite typical of the region, it



was destroyed by a fire in the late 30 s and rebuilt in 1940.

It is in one of its majestuos

conference rooms that a presentation was held on what is considered like the two main assets of Bariloche : the Lao Llo, that goes without saying, and the Invap : a local science and technology research company with international projects, partly supported by the Argentinian government, it raised considerable funds for the area and also raised some tricky questions by the journalists about the use of nuclear energy... A whole debate. On the way back, the Scij team took a long glance at the hotel shops offering unique leather garments,

silver horse riding accessories and Indian inspired jewelry.

In the spacious lobby, a saxophonist was playing by the open fire, enhancing the soft feeling of the raising evening.

7th Heaven + Competition = Ecstasy

By Fred Wallace, Canada

I cannot think of a more beautiful setting for a race. In fact in my twelve meeting that I participated in (10 winter, 2 summer) this has to be one of the most distincting settings in the world. The contrast today varied greatly as a year earlier the music



from mountainside chalets was my only instrument of navigation as Santa Rosa settled in for a few days – this is simply heavenly.

Under the Patagonian sun, SCIJ friends and

Argentinian colleagues

participated in a well orchestrated dual slalom race bringing skiers of all ability in a truly fun race that truly reflects the spirit of SCIJ. So the wait was sometime a little long at the start and finish line but where else can you claim to have a little sparkling wine outside at 2'000 metres!

Congratulations to our overall team led by Simon Mathey Doret, Vlado Krejac, Antonio Marín, Nicolás Calegari. And a big thank you to Cerro Catedral Alta Patagonia, the Patagonian organizers & the Secretario de Turismo for receiving us like royalty!

May we meet once again in the future under the Patagonian sun!



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