

Hospes Berne 1954

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1954)**

Heft 1228

PDF erstellt am: **09.08.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-689938>

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HOSPES BERNE 1954.

A unique exhibition is to be held in Berne, the beautiful and historic capital of the Swiss Confederation, from May 14th to June 21st 1954 under the patronage of Federal President Rubattel. Its full title is the "Swiss Tourism and International Cookery Exhibition", but it is already better known by the name of HOSPES. This is a striking tribute to the spirit animating it, for HOSPES is quite simply the Latin word for "guest", and hospitality in its widest sense is the key-note of this extraordinarily interesting exhibition with its many ramifications.

First of all let us take a look at the actual Tourist Trade Exhibition at the HOSPES in Berne. The Swiss Railways — how could it be otherwise? — have put all their enthusiasm and experience into making a success of the show. Besides issuing visitors with "single for return" tickets for the journey to Berne while the exhibition is in progress, they are themselves illustrating the theme "The Comfort of Modern Railway Travel" by erecting at the HOSPES a full-scale station of the most modern design including a ticket-hall, inquiry-bureau and station-office together with the latest signal-box equipment, signalling apparatus and railway tracks. In addition they are running an ingeniously fitted-out express buffet car and also a restaurant car. All the latest achievements of railway engineering, from locomotives to observation cars, will likewise be on show at HOSPES for general inspection and admiration.

Not to be outdone by the railways, the Federal Post Office and Telegraph Services are demonstrating the valuable facilities they offer the tourist by displaying exhibits ranging from the most comfortable alpine motor-coaches — the latest types can be seen by the public for the first time at the HOSPES — to the teleprinter.

The hotel trade is having a model hotel built complete with everything the visitor could wish to find, such as a hotel hall, public rooms, well laid-out grounds, hotel kitchen and laundry, all of which can be seen in actual use. Moreover, another section entitled 'Guests and their Entertainment' will show what a modern hotel can do in the way of games, entertainments and relaxation to cater for the comfort of its patrons.

The numerous restaurants with their richly varied specialities in food and drink will be special centres of attraction. Apart from the International Restaurant, an International Bar and numerous grill-rooms, the visitor to the HOSPES can, according to his fancy and the length of his purse, take his choice between a real country inn, a "Rôtisserie bourguignonne" run by a world-famous restaurateur from Dijon, a characteristically Italian "Trattoria Toscana", a sophisticated supper-club, temperance and vegetarian restaurants, coffee parlours, buffets, milk-bars, cider parlours or the beer pavilion in which dishes from a Swiss army cook-house will be served.

But the claims of the private house have not been overlooked at the HOSPES. Everything needed in a well-run home, such as household appliances, labour-saving devices for the kitchen, domestic equipment and other innovations from this country and abroad will

be on show here, and visitors will be able to compare their points and even purchase them on the spot.

The show-piece of the HOSPES, however, is the International Cookery Exhibition, which has already been referred to in the foreign press as the "Olympiad of Gastronomy". In the great Cookery Pavilion the most famous chefs in the world will vie for the championship of the nations. The use of superlatives is truly warranted, for national cooking teams from twenty countries have entered for this international competition. At the greatest event of this kind held hitherto the number of nations participating was no greater than ten. An additional feature of the HOSPES in Berne will be the International Cocktail Tournament in which the best mixers in the world will be competing. Another "must" for the visitor to the HOSPES is the "Table Service" section, where he can admire priceless pieces of silver, china and crystal glass.

Apart from these many and interesting attractions the "Modern Nutrition and Diet" section will organize a cookery exhibition under the title "Healthy Food — Dietary Cooking" in conjunction with which a restaurant serving modern dishes as well as a model stores selling the latest products of the foodstuffs industry will be an attraction to all visitors at the HOSPES.

The "Essential and Non-essential Foodstuffs and Beverages" section will be organized on a grand scale and will include not only gratis samples for visitors to try themselves but also prizes for the best essential and non-essential foodstuffs. It is not surprising that there has been an unexpectedly large number of entries from exhibitors in Switzerland and abroad.

To complete the picture, the Literary and Historical section provides a most unusual and enthralling show; for the HOSPES aims not only at being a festival for gourmets but also at displaying all the beautiful things that have helped man in the past to enhance the pleasures of the table. Rare cookery books dating back as far as Babylon, a magnificent dinner-table that belonged to Napoleon, a rare collection of Daumier pictures of scenes from the world of gastronomy and many other exhibits will be an inexhaustible delight to all those interested in the history of culture.

Then there are many features devised to amuse and entertain visitors to the HOSPES: the chair railway operating between the Bear Pit and the Exhibition and offering incomparable views of the old town and the Alps, the fascinating miniature railway, the Sphere of Light in which rays produce such remarkable effects that the spectator can scarcely believe his eyes, the aquatic games and finally the miniature submarines in which everybody can be his own U-boat commander.

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