

N° 06

---

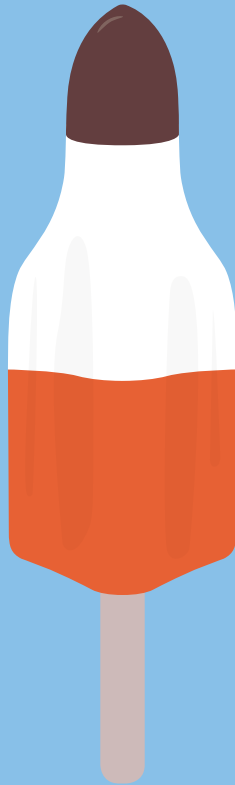
THE

---

# VISITOR

---

ZURICH MAGAZINE



## SPACE

- » Just Dance! » Art in Public Space
- » From Zurich to the Moon » Urban Jungle
- » Living Utopia » Ring of Fire



Text: Michèle Fröblich  
Photography: Stephan Rappo

## AN ADVENTURE AWAY

Land on the Chäserrugg mountain, surrounded by great architecture and enticing nature.



Winter on Chäserrugg mountain  
The alpine world meets innovative architecture by Herzog & de Meuron on the first and easternmost mountain of the Churfirsten range.

**HOW TO GET THERE** Trains leave from Zurich every half hour, meaning you can be up on Chäserrugg in less than two hours. Whether you head to the mountain for winter pleasures or summer hiking, the train ride on the Voralpen-Express is an experience in its own right.

» [voralpen-express.ch](http://voralpen-express.ch)

### At the waterfalls

In summer, the waterfalls roar as the Thur river plunges into the deep. In winter, they transform into a silent ice palace adorned with huge, glittering icicles. However, it is not just the water being frozen that turns this place silent in winter; it is also the fact that few venture out here in the cold.

**Hike:** From Unterwasser Post, head towards Wildhaus. A signpost for the Thur waterfalls can be found at Hotel Sternen, approx. 15 min.

### A skiing experience

Whether you're a newbie or a seasoned pro – skiing is the way to get around

in Chäserrugg. Visitors have the option of booking a personal training session for a few hours. In any case, we recommend keeping those skis on until you've experienced the legendary eastern descent. After a sporty start on the summit, skiers can savor a five kilometer ski route leading through snowy alpine meadows and forests, all the way to Stöfeli ski station.

**Skiing:** Tickets from CHF 48; personal training sessions from CHF 100.

### Panoramic views

The wind can pick up on Chäserrugg, which is a good thing as it whips up fine ice crystals and waves of snow. These natural works of art can be witnessed on the circular route on the Rosenboden plateau. An added bonus is the splendid view of 500 peaks in six countries. If not obscured by a sea of clouds, even the gaudy blue waters of Lake Walenstadt appear close enough to touch.

**Hiking:** Circular route from Chäserrugg to Rosenboden: between 45 min and 2 hrs, depending on the route.



To the peak >>



Lodge design by Herzog & de Meuron >>>>>>

#### TOURIST INFORMATION

New: day trip by bus from Zurich through the year. Option for first ski experience with Skischool Chäserrugg in winter. » [chaeserrugg.ch](http://chaeserrugg.ch)

**VORALPEN-EXPRESS**

**DISCOVER THE ALPINE FOOTHILLS  
BY RAIL: VORALPEN-EXPRESS**

The Voralpen-Express, which operates an hourly service between Lucerne and St.Gallen, is the most convenient and beautiful rail link connecting central and eastern Switzerland. After a glance back at Lake Lucerne and Mount Pilatus, the train travels past the peaks of the Schwyzer Mythen towards St.Gallen.

[voralpen-express.ch/en](http://voralpen-express.ch/en)

More about our partner: » p.139

**🕒 Lunch at the summit**  
Back in the toasty mountain lodge, designed by the Swiss architects Herzog & deMeuron, guests can warm their frozen fingers by the fire. The modern architecture, which combines tradition and innovation without resorting to alpine chic, creates an inviting and relaxing ambiance. The perfect accompaniment: a delicious menu offering fresh regional alpine cuisine.  
**Food:** Gipfelrestaurant Chäserrugg, from daily specials to three-course menus.

**🕒 Off to the lake!**  
From Stöfeli, a sled will whisk you to the Gade Lodge restaurant below the Espel ski station. Time to take a break from the adrenaline rush, pull the sled at a gentle pace and take a stroll to the dreamy Schwendisee lake. By the time you've rounded the lake and taken a few deep breaths, you'll be completely enchanted by the landscape.  
**Sledding and strolling:** From Stöfeli to Gade Lodge by sled, and then to the Schwendisee lakes on foot, approx. 1 ½ hr.

**🕒 A bite to eat at the barn**  
Visitors to the Gade Lodge restaurant will be greeted by its two cheerful hosts with a tasty aperitif. You'd be a fool to miss out on a cordon bleu, rösti, or filet steak before making your final sled descent to Unterwasser – let's be honest: the aromas coming from the kitchen of this converted barn are too appetizing to ignore.  
**Food:** Served at the Gade Lodge restaurant. Continue on the sled to the valley station at Unterwasser. » [gadelodge.ch](http://gadelodge.ch)

**Summer tip**  
Hikers are accompanied by various sounds on the six-kilometer sound trail (Klangweg) from Alp Sellamatt to Oberdorf. This large outdoor arena, with the Churfirten mountain range as its audience, is home to 27 sound installations, including one in which the wind induces spherical stones to roll and flutes to whistle.  
**Discover:** Sound trail from Alp Sellamatt to Iltios, or further on to Oberdorf; approx. 1 to 4 hrs, open Jun–Oct.  
» [klangwelt.swiss](http://klangwelt.swiss)



**DON'T MISS IN 2019** Jun–Oct **Sunrise Breakfast:** at Chäserrugg / Aug 2 & 9 **Nights with the stars:** with astronomers from ETH Zurich / Sep **Irish Openair Toggenburg:** live music and pubs » [irish-openair.ch](http://irish-openair.ch) / May–Apr **Full Moon Dinner:** at Chäserrugg » [chaeserrugg.ch](http://chaeserrugg.ch)