

Newsletter no. 1

General Information

Located in the south-western part of the country, Valais is one of the 26 cantons making up Switzerland. Sharing long borders with Italy and France, its geographic location gives it an international flavour. For a long time, this mountainous canton was marked by emigration to neighbouring France, Germany, and Italy as well as to distant lands such as South America.



Then, in the early twentieth century, the English were seized with a passion for mountains in general and the Alps in particular. Of course they discovered Valais, and in so doing, the high Crans-Montana plateau (elevation 1500 metres).



To other areas the English brought skiing, but to Crans-Montana they brought both skiing and golf. Crans-Montana's story is also that of these two sports, which have helped it develop into what today is one of the premier tourist centres in the Alps.



In bygone days, visitors would arrive on the backs of mules. But times have changed and now trains, cars, and planes link Crans-Montana to the rest of the world. So participants in the 15th World University Golf Championship will easily reach their destination by road from neighbouring countries, or by air from elsewhere to the Geneva airport, then by bus to their lodgings in Crans-Montana. Visitors will stay in two magnificently situated hotels, Le Grand Hôtel du Golf et Palace, next to the Severiano Ballesteros golf course; and the Belmont, next to the Jack Nicklaus course. It is only a few minutes' walk to the club house.

The Severiano Ballesteros course has been chosen to host the 15th World University Golf Championship in 2014. The Omega European Masters, one of the major events on the European circuit, is held there each year. A major renovation of the course was undertaken in 2012 and 2013 to make it even more competitive and attractive than before.



The Valais canton and the Crans-Montana region are rich in tradition and history; over the years they have also become known for their cultural and educational opportunities. Sierre, a short distance from Crans-Montana, is home to HES-SO Valais, a branch of HES-SO University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, the official university of the World Championship. Students from this school will be working as volunteers to help make the event a success.

Important Notices

1. The www.wucgolf2014.com website

The www.wucgolf2014.com website is up and running and the organisation committee will be posting useful information there as needed. WUC Golf 2014 participants should be sure to visit it before filling out the registration forms.

2. Visas

A Swiss entry visa is required for some countries that will be participating in WUC Golf 2014. Complete information can be found at http://www.bfm.admin.ch/content/bfm/en/home/dokumentation/rechtsgrundlagen/weisungen_und_kreisschreiben/visa/liste1_staatsangehoerigkeit.html.

3. Insurance

The organisation committee provides emergency care for all WUC Golf 2014 participants. However, participants should be insured against any illness, accident, and hospitalisation that may occur while they are away from their home country. If a participant is not properly covered, the organisation committee has arranged to make temporary insurance available to him/her from *Européenne assurance* (<http://www.erv.ch/main.php?chapter=1211>). Please note that the committee accepts no liability other than that which may arise under applicable FISU (International University Sports Federation) regulations.

Crans-Montana, July 2, 2013

Guy Praplan, Secretary-General