

## Winter news

### **New snowshoe trail in the Maggia Valley**

The Rovana Valley is a tributary of the Maggia Valley full of well-maintained churches, chapels and manor houses. And, starting in winter 2020/2021, this stunning cultural landscape will have a new snowshoe trail for visitors to discover. The trail will lead through snowy valley landscapes from the village of Campo Vallemaggia located at an altitude of 1,290 m a.s.l. through Cavà, the Corte Nuovo and back to the start. The walk lasts approximately two hours and is ideal for recharging your batteries in unspoiled winter nature just a stone's throw from the palm-filled shores of Lake Maggiore.

[Ticino.ch/schneeschuhwanderungen](https://www.ticino.ch/schneeschuhwanderungen)

Vincenzo Pedrazzini, born in Campo Vallemaggia and owner of the Locanda Fior di Campo

Martino Pedrazzini, Vice President of the Patriziato Campo Vallemaggia

### **Reopening of the Capanna Piansecco**

The Bedretto Valley, located at the foot of the Gotthard Pass, is one of the areas with the highest snowfall in the whole of Switzerland in winter, and beloved destination for hikers in summer. After 21 months of construction, the Swiss Alpine Club has reopened the Piansecco Hut with a stylish new interior. The hut is popular with families as the trek up from the valley only takes about an hour. In winter, it's a great place for the adventurous to set off on skiing tours, and in the summer it's the start of the Vier-Quellen-Weg, the "Four Springs" mountain trail.

The nearby 'climbing garden' is also suitable for children.

<https://capannapiansecco.ch/>

Moreno Moreni, President of the Bellinzona Swiss Alpine Club

### **Under the stars of Gorda**

The Capanna Gorda lies on a plateau at an altitude of 1,800 m a.s.l. and has stunning views over the Blenio Valley and imposing Adula peak. It's also known to enjoy the perfect conditions for stargazing. Since the summer, GAIA has been located just a few steps from the hut. GAIA is a very special construction with large windows offering views over the starlit sky from your bed and is even available over winter thanks to its excellent heating. The new Gorda Express, a snowmobile-pulled sled, brings guests up to the hut from where they can either sled or hike down through winter landscapes.

<https://www.capannagorda-sanda.ch/gaia/>

[ticino.ch/millionstarhotels](https://www.ticino.ch/millionstarhotels)

**Hut wardens: Nadia and Alan Ochsner**

## **Ceneri Base Tunnel opens**

With the opening of the Ceneri Base Tunnel on 13 December 2020, the travel time between Zürich and Lugano will be reduced to under two hours. This is a historical moment for Ticino. The event will also have a considerable influence on regional travel in Ticino: by creating a direct connection between Lugano and Locarno, the time taken to travel between the two towns in the future will be just 30 minutes. Thanks to the tunnel, public transport will improve all over the region as the tourism season prepares to open up once more from April 2021.

[Ticino.ch/neat](https://www.ticino.ch/neat)

## **Watch artisans at work from over their shoulders**

Handicrafts reflect the traditions of the region and include pieces perfect as a decoration or even as a small souvenir from your holidays. Ticino has a very strong handicraft tradition, so why not visit a local artist and watch them work over their shoulders? Recently, the Aticrea (Associazione Ticinese Artigiani Artisti) put together a list of craftspeople who are happy to receive visitors while they are at work. This includes painters, jewellery designers, guitar makers, sculptors, glass-blowers, textile designers and shoemakers.

[ticino.ch/handicraft](https://www.ticino.ch/handicraft)

**Matthias Bachofen, wood craftsman**

**Barbara Jaccard, ceramicist**

**Anne de Haas, textile artist**

## **Cross-country poles born in the Blenio Valley**

Many well-known cross-country skiers use poles manufactured in the small Ticino village of Dongio, including Olympic champion Dario Cologna. Russian cross-country skier Tauf Khamitov came to Campra over 20 years ago to participate in an international competition, but fell in love with the region and a young lady from Ticino. And love is sometimes the basis for a real success story: Khamitov stayed in the Blenio Valley and founded the company KVplus in 1998. The manufacturer specialises in cross-country poles and is now known as one of the leading companies in the sector.

[www.kvplus.ch](https://www.kvplus.ch)

**Tauf Khamitov, sportsman and founder of KV+**